

The Publications of the Federation of British Columbia Naturalists
"To Know Nature, and to keep it Worth Knowing"

BC Naturalist



Naturalists and Mentors

<http://www.naturalists.bc.ca>

WINTER 2003

VOL. 41 NO. 1

ISSN 0228-8824



FBCN

Our theme for the issue is

Naturalists and Mentors

Contents:

- Natural History Programs and Mentors 3
- Irresistible Naturalists 4
- Horace Greeley Was Right 6
- Slugs as a Clue to the Natural World 7
- What Lives Here? 8
- Islands of Green 9
- Wintering Seabirds in the Georgia Basin 10
- A Taxonomy of BC's Land Trust Community 12
- Diverse Groups Discover Common Ground in ATV Issue 14

Departments

- President's Message 16 * Conservation Report 17 * Foundation Report 18 * Federation Working for You 19 * Club Chat 26* AGM info 28

BC Naturalist is published quarterly by the Federation of BC Naturalists.

Bulk Mail Reg. Number 40043545

Agreement #530743

Circulation: 6,000

Printed by Benwell & Atkins, Vancouver

Federation of BC Naturalists

#307 - 1367 West Broadway

Vancouver, BC V6H 4A9

Tel: 604-737-3057 Fax: 604-738-7175

www.naturalists.bc.ca

fbcn@telus.net

Office Manager: Maria Hamann
Communications Coordinator: Moni Habib

Editorial features are the sole responsibility of their authors and opinions expressed therein are not necessarily those of the FBCN



Dr. Ian McTaggart-Cowan: Honorary President
FBCN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2002

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Jeremy McCall: | President |
| Rosemary Fox: | Vice President |
| Anne Murray: | Past President |
| Donald McLellan: | Treasurer |
| Joan Best: | Recording Secretary |
| Bev Ramey: | Conservation Chair |
| Greg Ross: | Education Chair |
| Brenda Balaam: | Kootenay Regional Coordinator |
| George Bangham: | Lower Mainland Regional Coordinator |
| Sandra Kinsey: | Northern B.C. Regional Coordinator |
| Ron Speller: | Vancouver Island Regional Coordinator |
| Ed McDonald: | Thompson Okanagan Regional Coordinator |

Consultants to the FBCN

- | | |
|--|--|
| Ross C. McCutcheon – partner Maitland and Company Barristers and Solicitors 700 - 625 Howe St. Vancouver, BC V6C 2T6 | Joe Wan C.M.A. 203- 223 West Broadway Vancouver, BC V5Y 1P5 |
|--|--|

All photo, article and advertising submissions for the Spring BC Naturalist due by March 1, 2003. Please direct submissions or questions to the FBCN office.



BC Naturalist is published with the financial assistance of the FBCN Foundation

BC NATURALIST STAFF

Features Editor: Terry McIntosh
Advertising Editor: Linda Halls

Departments Editor: Gibril Koroma

Layout/Production Editor: Moni Habib

Editor's Note:

In the Fall issue of the BC Naturalist in "An Interview With Bert Brink" references to Billy Gray were made. Dr. Brink has informed us that Billy Gray's death did not occur in the Garibaldi area, rather, in about 1915, he drowned while attempting to ford a fast moving stream in the **Kootenays**. Sometimes errors can occur in the editing process, so if you have any questions or find any factual errors in any Naturalist articles, we want to hear from you.

Introducing our latest guest Editor

Terry McIntosh



They say that life is full of challenges; you just have to recognize them. So...this is my first attempt to be a magazine editor. I hope that you enjoy the articles! The BC Naturalist is always looking for interesting themes for future issues. If you have an idea and would like to share it, please email the office and we will have a look.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 604-876-3313 Fax: 604-876-3313 | jmccall@helix.net |
| 250-847-5150 Fax: 250-847-5150 | foxikrj@bulkley.net |
| 604-943-4460 Fax: 604-943-0273 | amurray@axionet.com |
| 604-526-6521 Fax: 604-252-3175 | |
| 250-376-4814 | jbost@mail.ocis.net |
| 604-224-7689 Fax: 604-224-7622 | |
| 250-489-2566 Fax: 250-489-2566 | gross@cyberlink.bc.ca |
| 250-368-9677 Fax: 250-368-9676 | |
| 604-731-7669 | gbangham@hotmail.com |
| 250-963-8381 Fax: 250-963-8381 | ac457@pgfn.bc.ca |
| 250-752-8339 | beron@shaw.ca |
| 250-835-8802 | mcdonald@jetstream.net |

FBCN Foundation Directors

- | | |
|--|--|
| Frances Vyse, Chair 250 372-8607 | Ken Waldon, Vice-Chair 250 542-3461 |
| Audrey Hoeg, Treasurer 250 791-6747 | Bob Thomas, Secretary 604 824-0203 |
| Joe Loncarich, Director 604 931-4376 | Bob Dyer, Director 604 922-9798 |
| Jeremy McCall, ex-Officio 250 876-3313 | Donald McLellan, ex-Officio 604 526-6521 |



Natural History Programs and Mentors

Terry McIntosh

'Mentor', according to the dictionary is defined as: 'a wise and reliable advisor'. We have all had mentors during our explorations into and through the natural world, somewhere, sometime, either at university, or at a park, or from within the family. In most of our lives, a particular mentor sticks out as a person who turned our head towards the outside world, away from houses and televisions, towards that mysterious world of nature. Some of us study 'nature' professionally, as ecologists or taxonomists; most of us simply enjoy the mystery and brilliance of that 'outside world', yet at the same time thrive to learn as much as we can. In turn, many of us have become mentors, thrilled to accept the earnest excitement of others towards the natural world, and thrilled also to show them more and teach them what we know. There will always be mentors, officially sanctioned or not.

I have more mentors than I can credit here. Many of us have. My first mentor in 'serious botany' (as Jim Pojar would say) was Dr. Arnold Wellwood, botany professor at Waterloo Lutheran University (now Wilfrid Laurier University). As a lecturer, he was drier than a W. O. Mitchell prairie wind, but his love for vascular plants completely enveloped me. And there were others, including Menno Ediger and Karl Dick, two amazing Mennonite fellows who forced my hand and made me follow my youthful bragging into leading a small children's camp's nature program 30 years ago.

Unfortunately, according to the latest grapevine information, the only two places in North America without interpretive or 'naturalist' programs are the state of Missouri and, much to my embarrassment, British Columbia, as of April 1, 2002. Some may think that we don't need these programs given the internet, television programs on nature, and just being here in our own Mecca of nature. I beg to differ, along with some of our contributing authors, for without someone showing and teaching the uninitiated about the smell of dirt and plants, and the chirping of the squirrel and the birds; without those people

who could tell us what they are and how they magnify our own existence, well, there is a large gap. Nature provides us with ultimate relaxation and inspiration, and the mentors that have guided us that way are our lights.

This issue of the BC Naturalist is in part dedicated to mentors and their inspiration: what got us interested in that overwhelmingly complex world of nature; what drove us over the edge of 'just being' into a world of discovery.



Quality *of* Life



Herbal Arthritis Formula for treatment of arthritis.

The movement of the muscles, joints and limbs constitutes the active life of the body. Excellent results.

Available online at
www.healinghorizons.com

Irresistible Naturalists

BY BRIONY PENN

It would be not untruthful to say that I have a weakness for naturalists. There is something about exploring on hands and knees through soft hummocks of dew-drenched moss for silken salamanders, exquisitely-scented orchids, or wolf scat with sensitive men sporting woolly beards, rosy cheeks, and steaming sweaters that, frankly, is irresistible. I became a naturalist because I fell in love at an early age with the archetype. His name was Mr. Raven, though he was a botanist. He knew the line between camas-blue and shooting-star-magenta on Christmas Hill in Victoria where I grew up. He wore a corduroy jacket that was peat bog-brown. He spoke in a soft, gentle way that encouraged winter wrens, and he gave me the botanical description of the two Briony flowers that grew wild in the exotic landscape of Cornwall. He set a base line from which there was no descending in later life. And I eventually married a man who could draw the raised eyebrow of a raven with such precision and care that I knew he would be as steadfast in a rapidly-changing world.

Falling in love with nature is also about falling in love with people in nature, and many of the most pivotal moments of my youthful existence were observing naturalists in parks and realizing that the curiosity, joy, enthusiasm, humour, and love they exuded were qualities I wanted to emulate and find in my companions. Where else in the colourless urban landscapes do children find role models that have these qualities, and in places that have the potential of grand romance? In the mall, from bored shoppers? In the classroom, from overworked teachers? At home, from those models of mystery, one's weary parents?

Like many Victorians growing up in 50s and 60s, we all entered the expansive kingdom of natural history under the generous canopy of BC Parks naturalist Freeman ("Skip") King. I have very early memories of going to Goldstream on those stunning golden October afternoons, when the sweet smell of rotting flesh becomes synonymous with a grand pageant of scarlet

eggs, bobbing dippers, mewing gulls, thrashing fishtails, and gorging eagles; and there in the middle was Skip, one of the big bears of the forest, with large, calloused hands full of fir cones, salmon bones and eagle feathers, spinning stories about the place. Those were the times in which the solid little black camas seeds of ecological understanding were planted, later flowering into the more abstract adult concepts of connectedness of all things, the cyclical nature of life, a sense of place and spiritual awareness. Skip showed me life, death, competition, cooperation, and a whole chaos of beings and relationships. What else do you need to know about life?



drawing by Briony Penn



drawing by Briony Penn

Growing in size, I joined the family expeditions into the Rockies. Larger than glaciers, I remember those wardens, constructed out of wood smoke, canvas, rock and ice, whose faces had the same geography of the mountains we walked in. They had river systems etched around their eyes from years of squinting over the landscape in search of bighorns or mountain goats. Wardens like Floyd Smith would pull up a stump at a campsite and tell us stories of his days sweeping the alpine meadows and following game trails through the parks. I remember his eyes being such a surreal blue, that I thought I was looking at the sky.

Then when I reached teen years, young women naturalists, hair casually swept up in ponytails tied with lichen, backpacking in the parks or researching on remote bird sanctuaries, entered my radar. They were gorgeous, adventurous, emancipated — they led exciting lives in the wild and I wanted to be like them. They told me they rarely got lonely, bored, or depressed when they were out in the wild. It was the best advice I received.

Naturalists, rangers, wardens — they all welcomed and introduced me into this incredible community of plants, humans, and other animals that was British Columbia. They defined who I was and how I thought of the world. They were standards against which I judged greed, materialism, neurosis, joylessness, and narrow-mindedness.

My children, and the children of British Columbia, don't have the opportunity right now to discover these people for themselves. Skip would have said that the number of naturalists in society will always rise and fall, just like the populations of chum that enter Goldstream. Some years, there are too many predators or not enough food and the populations decline; other times conditions are right and they flourish. We have had a near collapse of naturalists after a long, slow decline and it is time to rebuild the population and bring irresistible energy back into our landscape.

Briony Penn is Penn is a writer, illustrator and sessional lecturer at U.Vic, with a Ph.D. in Geography from Edinburgh University. Founding director of Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society, The Land Conservancy of BC, and Save Saltspring Campaign, and now working as a broadcaster with a radical new Victoria television station, she still managed to write a BC bestseller, A Year on the Wild Side, Giving the Land a Voice and various other publications and articles. Born and raised in Victoria, Briony is mother of two boys and married to wildlife illustrator Donald Gunn.

Horace Greeley Was Right

BY JIM POJAR

I came to British Columbia in 1970, at age 22. My brother Jerry and I drove west in our shared car, a lemon yellow Plymouth Roadrunner. We were bumpkins abroad, so green we didn't even take a tent with us, simply slept underneath the car. Dumb luck: late August, no rain, no bugs. Until we got to Sequim, and drizzle, and no-see-ums.

We arrived in Vancouver and headed out to UBC for a shower at the pool, and so I could register for grad school in the Department of Botany. I knew no-one there, and hadn't corresponded with or lined up potential supervisors. I merely had applied for admission to a Ph.D. programme and had been accepted. At that time, I knew only that I wanted to go west to study, and UBC was supposed to have a pretty good botany department. There was also the matter of the Vietnam war, but that's another story.



I found the Botany office in the unprepossessing Biological Sciences Building, but the only person there told me "they were all in the coffee room". Of course, the people there (staff, grad students, a few faculty) didn't know who I was and seemed perplexed by my naïve questions. I thought I detected some smirks and funny looks. Being one of those individuals who willingly neither asks for directions nor engages in small talk, I retreated to the Herbarium to check on some plants we had collected on our trip. In the herbarium, Frank Lang (one of Tommy Taylor's former students) was kind enough, having witnessed my coffee room discomfiture, to enquire about my background and circumstances, and point me in the direction of a few suitable professors. One of them was Dr. Katherine Beamish. She sized me and my academic record up, and asked me what I was interested in. Answer: plants as whole organisms and in assemblages (communities), not in pieces; and I do not



photo of Ka Beamish by Jim Pojar

She responded, "Well, I'm a taxonomist, presently specializing in saxifrages. But would you like to go out in the field tomorrow? I can show you some botanically interesting places."

So the next day after supper we drove south, over some busy bridges and down a side road or two, and into Ladner Marsh. I had never seen an estuarine marsh before, and it was a revelation. Rein-orchids galore, a sturdy native dock, monster umbellifers, and tall grasses and sedges: lots of species and exuberant growth. It reminded me somewhat of the remnants of tall-grass prairie I had been fortunate enough to experience. The late summer evening was warm, the light was golden, the air redolent of flowers, the Fraser River, mud, and gross primary productivity. Ladner Marsh was unforgettable.

On the weekend, Dr. Beamish took me along with David, her saxifrageous grad student, on a foray up the Chilliwack Valley and Liumchen Ridge. As a flatlander, I was alarmed by the steepness and exposure of the logging road we slowly switchbacked up. It was rainy and gloomy, but we left the truck and crawled up a wet gully towards timberline. Another revelation. The gully was plastered with ferns and saxifrages and bronze-bells, and opened up above into splendid subalpine meadows chock-full of flowers. We did some serious botanizing.

I was stunned and amazed by these two fieldtrips, hooked on BC for life, swept away by the sea and the mountains. Gobsmacked, as Rosamund would say. I was also very lucky to have met Kay Beamish, an excellent taxonomist and field naturalist, who was willing to take me on as a student, even though I had my own ideas and didn't directly advance her research interests. She was tolerant of my headstrong and at times smart-alecky ways. We had some great fieldtrips and botanical dialogues together.

Wiry, red-haired, and feisty, Kay Beamish also reminded me of my grandmother, who had first awakened my interest in plants — in her garden and in the valleys of the limestone hill country of southeast Minnesota, where she led me to the wildflowerly coves of her farmgirl youth. We should all be such mentors.

Jim Pojar is a member of the Bulkley Valley Naturalists and a well-known forest research scientist who has written a number of books and articles on plants in BC.

Slugs as a Clue to the Natural World

BY ANDY MACKINNON

The key to natural history interpretation with kids is to work with slugs. Well, OK, not slugs necessarily. Snakes will do. Or snails. Even stinky plants will work, in a pinch. Even that mosquito getting bigger as it takes its nourishment from your arm, or that ant hill where you put the unlucky mosquitoes. Oh sure, there's the grandeur of nature. Biodiversity. Habitats. Threatened and endangered species. All that stuff. But when you're working with kids, abstract constructs don't cut it. You need something you can wrap your hands, or arms, around. And if it's something that grosses your parents out — well, so much the better!

Here's a picture of my son James (background) with his arms wrapped around my other son Angus (foreground). In Angus' right hand are four banana slugs. Angus LOVES banana slugs. He's holding these beauties so tightly that their little tentacles are extended from hydrostatic pressure.

It's a start. Perhaps the kids might be interested to know that banana slugs (*Ariolimax columbianus*) are so-called because they taste like bananas, as opposed to, say, licorice slugs, which taste like licorice. Don't believe me? Here, touch one to your tongue. You'll lose all feeling where your tongue touches the slug — though from slime or other chemicals I'm not sure. Whatever you do, just don't think about what slugs eat.

Older kids not interested? Did they know these slugs are hermaphrodites — each individual both male and female? That the ... male bits ... are longer than the slugs? And, well, I'd go on, but this is a family journal, and the conclusion can be particularly grisly. You get the idea.



Of course, plants are more interesting than animals, and fungi more interesting than plants. Birds? Yawn ... The key isn't to show kids slugs, necessarily. The slugs are a lure, a hook. The intent is to get kids out in the woods, out in the fields, out on the beach. Once they realize there are crabs under those rocks, your afternoon's booked. Every rock, a new find, or many new finds. Sea stars, starfish to some, slimy algae of all sorts of shapes and colours, seemingly thousands of small invertebrates all scurrying to hide or be eaten...so they think. And snails, again! All of those crackling sounds are from some former resident of the surf.

Who inspires children? Their parents, always. But for those kids lucky enough to visit a park or similar area with professional naturalists, there's a whole different experience. An experience that, with a bit of luck, will inspire a new generation of people to value the natural world. Many times I have watched my boys be amused and inspired by others interested in teaching and inspiring the 'younger set' in the wiles and mysteries of the outside world.

Kids will always have people to teach them math, physical education, and geography. Even a bit of classroom science. Our school system is based on a model designed to spit out students suitable for factory work or some such retirement-focused life. This may be enough for some in our New Era in British Columbia. People who appreciate nature may actually be speed-bumps on the New Era highway. And yet, and yet ... it's just not good enough. Learning about nature, in nature, has to be part of the curriculum. If not in our schools, we must provide this adventure, and encourage the society around us to do the same.

Naturalists are important.

Andy MacKinnon is President of the Habitat Acquisition Trust, southern Vancouver Island's land trust. Check out HAT's summer 2002 newsletter (available on their Website, www.hat.bc.ca <<http://www.hat.bc.ca>>) to read about a partnership between HAT and Arenaria Research and Interpretation that provides natural history interpretation programs in Goldstream Provincial Park.



Recently, I almost ran over a tarantula on the side of a country road. I was in California, heading for a little state park — named Pinnacles, for its strange and beautiful rock formations. The first thing I did when I got to the park was to find the visitor centre, what used to be called the “nature house”, to talk to an interpreter, what used to be called a naturalist. I learned that the tarantula was a male. At this time of year the males go out looking for suitable female companions. I also learned that the local conifers were digger pines, and that their heavy cones, falling, had been known to knock people out. Like most of the plants in this dry landscape they were fire-adapted. I picked up a bird list and set off happily on my explorations.

The first thing I like to do when I get to a new place is find out what makes it “tick”. What kind of trees live here, what birds? Until I know these things I feel disoriented, as if I am in a new city without a roadmap. It is deep habit, the kind that is laid down early.

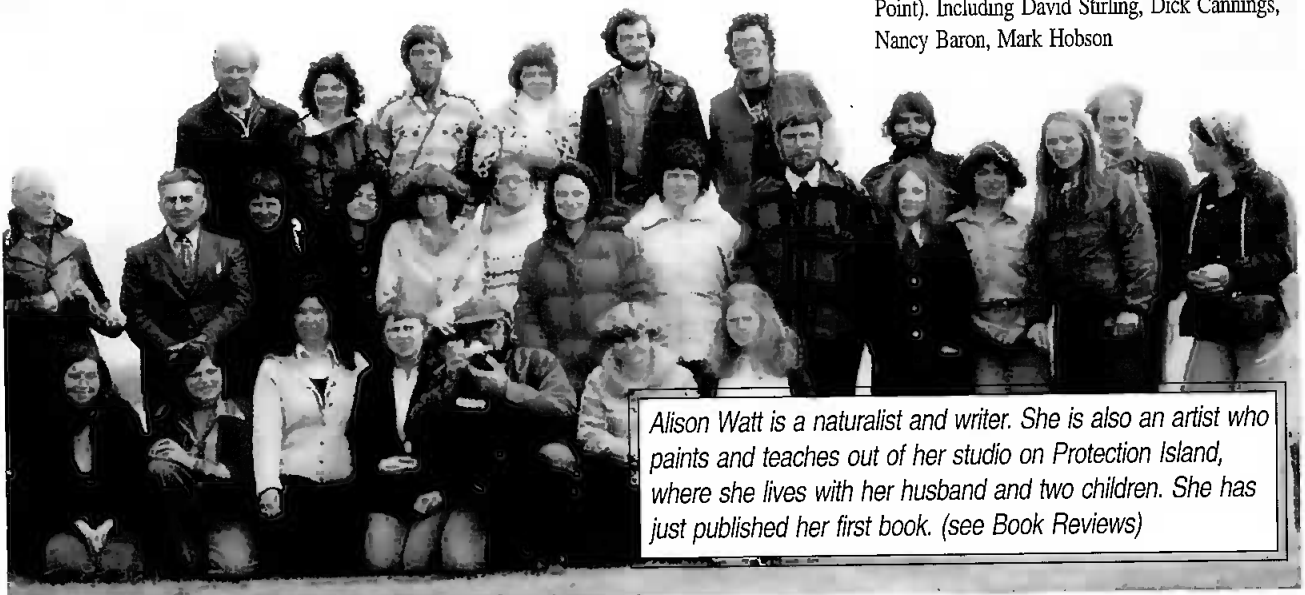
In 1976 when I was nineteen I was lucky enough to be hired by the BC Provincial Parks Branch as a naturalist. To this day I am not sure why, as I had no more than a vague knowledge of natural history, but I assume I had a kind of unfocussed enthusiasm which was promising. That summer changed my life. I switched my major from arts to biology.

Every year I set off for a different park: Manning, Mt. Robson, the Sunshine Coast, Garibaldi, Mt. Seymour, Mitlenatch Island. I learned a lot about this diverse province and I found myself part of an extraordinary community of naturalists. I also took thousands of people on walks, gave hundreds of evening talks, showed kids how sea stars eat, how animals adapt to winter in the mountains above Vancouver.

I am a writer and painter now, but I still work from time to time as a naturalist. This fall I sailed into the verdant fjords of the Great Bear Rainforest on the historic schooner *Maple Leaf*, to witness the annual phenomenon of the salmon run — the great fall feast which fattens bears, wolves, ravens and gulls, and feeds the very forest itself. As soon as I returned I was off to Goldstream, north of Victoria, where I was part of a group art show at the nature house, a lovely building overlooking the estuary. The occasion of showing with these friends, most of whom first met as naturalists, was not as joyful as it usually is. With the Liberals' recent total elimination of the BC's interpretive programs, this centre lost its funding. The art show was a fundraiser.

Gazing out the windows of the nature house, I thought about the 20,000 school children who make the short drive from the city each year. In the years to come children will not have that opportunity. They will not miss it — being children they will be preoccupied with other things. The fish, struggling in the shallow spawning beds will be watched by people who come to walk under the golden-leaved maples. Some will remember coming here as children and learning about the salmon life cycle, from egg to fry to sea and incredibly, all the way back to their home stream. A few may understand that the salmon was the most important resource on this coast for thousands of years, allowing people to build sedentary cultures rich in art and story. Many others will not know what they are looking at. And it strikes me that living in a landscape without knowing anything about its intimate cycles, its inhabitants, whether they be spiders or fish, we become collectively oblivious — crashing a sumptuous party, never bothering to meet the other guests.

Naturalist Training School, spring, 1977 (Yellow Point). Including David Stirling, Dick Cannings, Nancy Baron, Mark Hobson



Alison Watt is a naturalist and writer. She is also an artist who paints and teaches out of her studio on Protection Island, where she lives with her husband and two children. She has just published her first book. (see Book Reviews)



urban parks and their regional importance

BY ROSE KLINKENBERG

Parks have always had a special place in the hearts of those who use them, for often they are the place of our first encounter with wild creatures, with ingenious beavers, jewel-like hummingbirds, or the immensity of a moose. Parks can be big and wild, or they can be small and surrounded by urban sprawl, islands in a stream of development. Such is the case of the Richmond Nature Park, a tiny remnant of a raised Sphagnum bog in the heart of Richmond.

In the early 1970's, as a result of the lobbying of Will Paulik and other naturalists, the municipality of Richmond made an important decision and set aside a small part of the Greater Lulu Island Bog as a protected area, creating the Richmond Nature Park. This early wisdom has proven to be invaluable, as today the boglands that once covered more than one third of Lulu Island, the main island in the City of Richmond, have all but disappeared, leaving the nature park to function as a tiny island of natural area in a sea of urban and agricultural development.

The Richmond Nature Park draws tens of thousands of visitors every year, and supports a school group programme for junior grades that serves not only Richmond, but the adjacent municipalities. It is clear that this little urban park plays a key role in outdoor education. Many of the parents and teachers who bring their children to the park today were the children of the seventies whose first exposure to nature came through Will Paulik's nature park. They come back, and they try to instil in their children and their students that first thrill they experienced at bouncing on the bog, seeing a wild owl, or handling a slimy banana slug. There is no doubt that the park has reached out and touched the hearts of many regional residents, and created an awareness of, and a soft spot for, natural areas.

The interpretive programme at the Richmond Nature Park is the responsibility of the Richmond Nature Park Society (RNPS), a "friends" group that was formed by Will Paulik when the park was founded. The Society has a very specific set of goals aimed at promoting natural history interpretation in the park and elsewhere in Richmond, and carries this out through a partnership agreement with the City of Richmond. Under this partnership, the RNPS is responsible for the interpretive programming in the park, while the City, in addition to providing the land base, provides staff to operate the park and facilities on a day-to-day basis, and to help facilitate Society programmes.

Nechako Retreat



Denis & June Wood
Box 293
Vanderhoof, B.C.
VOJ-3A0

Dial Operator • Radio phone: H492657
Vanderhoof JS or Nechako YR Channel



Experience Nature on the Upper Nechako



- Canoeing • Interpretive Nature Hiking
- Bird Watching • Botantzing
- Wildlife Viewing / Photography

Explore the dry Grande Canyon of the Nechako River and the beautiful area around Cheslatta Falls.

Experience winter in the heart of B.C.:

- * Snowshoeing and tracking
- * Cross-country skiing
- * Watch Trumpeter Swans on their winter feeding grounds from the warmth of our upper cabin located right on the river.

All meals and accomodation included.
Write or call for more details or brochure.

*A percentage of our profits will go to the Federation of B.C. Naturalists



Wintering Seabirds in the Georgia Basin and the Coastal Waterbird Survey

Pigeon guillemots



BY KYLE ELLIOTT

While for many Canadian naturalists, wintertime is a time for flying to tropical destinations or looking at tracks in the snow, for birders in British Columbia it is time to head to the coast. More than ten million seabirds and seaducks winter in southern BC, including the densest concentrations of Barrow's goldeneye and harlequin duck in the world, and internationally significant numbers of dozens other species. Many of these birds are attracted to the rich waters of the Salish Sea (Strait of Georgia and Puget Sound), where nutrients from the interior are brought down the Fraser River and mix with the cold waters of the Pacific.

The vast number of seabirds in BC may make it seem unlikely that they could be in danger of disappearing. But this is not so. Of the fifteen species of birds that breed in BC, six include red-listed populations (endangered) and four include blue-listed populations (threatened). In some ways, their gregarious nature is similar to that of the passenger pigeon, which went from the most numerous species on earth to extinction in a few decades. The disappearance of seabirds may not only mean a less enjoyable future for birders, but may also foretell a bleak future for the entire marine ecosystem. Like the albatross around the Ancient Mariner's neck, seabirds are reminders of the crimes we commit against our oceans. Due to their large size, colonial nesting and primarily surface-feeding habits, they are ideally suited as indicators for the health of our marine environment. The Christmas Bird Count is the longest-running bird population census in the world, and has been used to conclusively show that seaducks, such as surf scoters and western grebes, are declining in the Salish Sea. However, most seabirds live too far from shore to be included in the mostly shore-based circles. In addition, the counts are not standardized, so that, for example, seabirds may be counted from a boat one year and from shore the next. With this in mind, I looked at the count data for two species that can be reliably censused by shore counts, marbled murrelets and pigeon guillemots.

Although the populations of both species clearly fluctuate greatly from one year to the next, as flocks move in and out of count circles depending on weather, food supply, and other factors best known to seabirds, both species have declined since 1983. This trend is most apparent for the marbled murrelet. Throughout the south-coast, murrelets are declining due to the removal and fragmentation of old-growth forest, gill-net bycatch, urban development, declining fish stocks and oil spills. Pigeon guillemot numbers were more stable, although they too seem to be declining, especially in the most urban count circles.

Marine pollution, such as oil spills and marine debris, may be partly responsible for these trends. In 1988, the Nestucca oil spill off the Washington coast killed an estimated 56,000 seabirds along the Washington and Vancouver Island coastline. Smaller spills continue to affect the coastline. Furthermore, it is estimated that between 100,000 and 500,000 pieces of marine debris float in our coastal waters. Recently, the Coastal Cleanup Campaign found that some beaches of the southern mainland and Vancouver Island had more than 1,000 pieces of debris per kilometre and that 77% of the debris was plastic or styrofoam. Other factors, such as overfishing, gillnet bycatch, and climatic variation are also likely playing a role in seabird population trends.

THE ULTIMATE EXPERIENCE!
**Specialty Tours in the Blackfish
 and Broughton Archipelagos
 Northern Vancouver Island**

Ornithology Tours

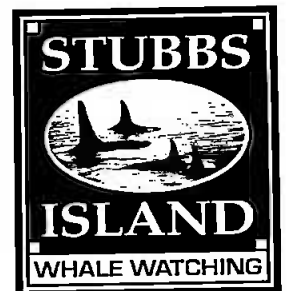
September 14-20, 2002
 September 19-25, 2003

Field Photography Trip

September 20-26, 2002
 September 19-25, 2003

**The Magnificent Seven
 Marine Mammal Tour**

October 4-10, 2002
 October 10-16, 2003
 October 16-22, 2003



Since 1980

For Reservations and details
 Contact Us!

1-800-665-3066

Stubbs Island Whale Watching

Box 2-2, Telegraph Cove, BC V0N 3J0

Email: stubbs@island.net

Website: www.stubbs-island.com

While the Christmas Bird Counts can indicate trends in certain seabird populations, they are limited to a few locations around the province and have a short time period. Consequently, they miss the majority of seabird species that only visit our waters for a short period or in remote or scattered locations.

In order to establish a population census covering the entire winter, a group of concerned birders, headed by Fred Cooke, began waterbird surveys of the Boundary Bay shoreline. After five years, they were able to make some definite statements about the importance of the bay to some waterbirds, such as the thousands of grebes that moult in the bay. In addition, they documented the dramatic decline of ruddy ducks in Semiahmoo Bay between 1994 and 1999. Without this census, this decline would almost assuredly have gone unnoticed — or at least there would have been no quantitative evidence.

The next step is to determine the cause of this decline. Some species move around considerably, consuming the food available at one location and then moving on to the next. Perhaps the ruddy duck is an example of such a species. Or perhaps humans altered the habitat in some way. In order to find out, it would be necessary to expand the survey into a larger scale.

With this in mind, Bird Studies Canada sponsored the BC Coastal Waterbird Survey. This survey is an expansion of the White Rock surveys: birders around the province are asked to cover one- or two-kilometre stretches of the coastline at least once a month. The results of the BC Coastal Waterbird Survey will, for example, permit wildlife managers to see if ruddy ducks are decreasing all over the province or if, while they are decreasing in Semiahmoo Bay, there is a corresponding increase in, say, Point Roberts. In this way, biologists can monitor waterbird populations across the province and make more confident decisions on how to manage wild bird populations.

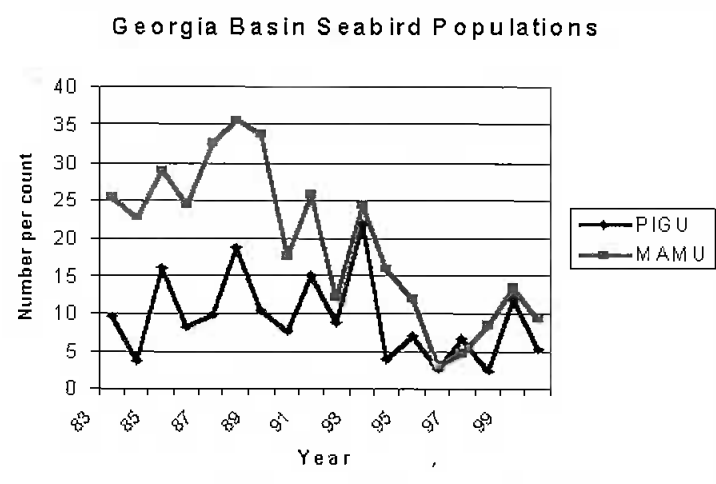


In addition to covering more of BC and more months of the year, future Coastal Waterbird Survey forms will include data on sex, age, and plumage. This type of information is useful since it will help biologists track whether there are few young moving into a population, or if female numbers are dangerously low. For example, in White Rock, male red-breasted mergansers were found in the shallow water and females in the deep water. This information may be extremely valuable if there is ever a spill in the bay.

If you are interested in participating in a Coastal Waterbird Survey, contact Jeanne Roy at 604-940-4700 or Jeanne.Roy@ec.gc.ca. You can access our website at <http://www.bsc-eoc.org/regional/bccws99-00.html>.

Average number of pigeon guillemots (PIGU) and marbled murrelets (MAMU) per count circle at 13 Christmas Bird Counts inside the Basin that were held fairly consistently from 1983 to 2000 (Pender Island, Sooke, Sunshine Coast, Squamish, Nanaimo, Victoria, Comox, Duncan, Vancouver, Ladner, White Rock, Deep Bay and Campbell River). Years refer to the previous summer since young produced in the previous summer (i.e. 1998 means winter of 98-99). There was no attempt to standardize these counts to the number of participants because shoreline areas tend to be well-covered regardless of the number of participants.

Kyle Elliott started birding at the age of six, and spent much of his teen years volunteering and working at seabird colonies along the BC coast.





A Taxonomy of BC's Land Trust Community



BY JOHN SCULL

Naturalist organizations are closely connected to the land trust and conservancy community. Many community land trusts, such as Victoria's Habitat Acquisition Trust, were created by local natural history organizations; others, such as the Cowichan Community Land



Trust, were founded by members of naturalist groups. Most land trusts depend on their local naturalist organization for expertise, local ecological knowledge, and support. Land trusts and conservancies support naturalists by helping with public education and working to preserve native plant and wildlife habitat. The phrase 'land trust' occasionally refers to a number of different forms of collective land ownership. Arrangements similar to housing co-ops, co-housing, or eco-villages can sometimes be referred to as land trusts.

In BC, though, most land trusts are focused on habitat or heritage preservation, so, in this case, the words 'land trust' and 'conservancy' are synonymous. Land trusts and conservancies are non-profit charities committed to protecting the ecological and heritage, or historical, values of land for future generations. They usually work on lands that are privately held, as opposed to advocating on larger crown land issues and policies.

The most visible activity of land trusts is the purchase of land for protection, such as The Land Conservancy's purchase of land in the Sooke Hills near Victoria. Outright purchase, however, is the most expensive way to save land, so land trusts often use other tools. A land owner may willingly work with a land trust to have a conservation covenant registered on title to their land. This will be transferred to future owners, and may protect all or part of the land. The covenant allows the continued use of the land for human purposes, but it provides perpetual legal protection for some of the ecological or heritage features on the land. An example is the Wilkinson property at Wildwood, now owned by The Land Conservancy.

Land trusts in BC work together in an atmosphere of mutual support and cooperation and most projects are joint ventures of two or more organizations. The Garry Oak Preserve near Duncan, for example, was a joint project of the Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Cowichan Community Land Trust.

The various land trusts and conservancies are mostly distinguished from each other in terms of the geographical region in which they operate.

- The Nature Conservancy of Canada and Ducks Unlimited are federally-chartered organizations which acquire ecologically-significant lands across Canada, including BC.

- The Nature Trust (TNT) and The Land Conservancy (TLC) of British Columbia are province-wide, TLC protecting both natural and cultural heritage properties.

About 35 local community or regional land trusts/conservancies protect land within particular geographical regions. For example, the Habitat Acquisition Trust is concerned with greater Victoria, the Salt Spring Island Conservancy is concerned with Salt Spring Island, and so on. The Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia is a confederation of virtually all BC's land trusts and conservancies. It is not itself a land trust. Instead, the Land Trust Alliance provides BC's land trusts with services such as training, publications, and technical support and promotes their work to all levels of government and the general public. Much of BC's critical native plant and wildlife habitat is on private property so the work of land trusts is vital in protecting our natural heritage.

Every local natural history organization can become familiar with the work of their local land trust so that when an ecologically important property comes on the market or is threatened with development, there are community groups ready to take action. For communities without land trusts, the Land Trust Alliance can provide an informative program about the land trust movement and assistance in creating a local conservancy.

The best single source of information about the work of land trusts and protected private lands in BC is the Land Trust Alliance resource centre at 250-538-0112, sheila@landtrustalliance.bc.ca, or the Land Trust Alliance website at <http://landtrustalliance.bc.ca>. They also have an on-line Registry of Protected Lands at www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca/registry.

The Land Conservancy of British Columbia has acquired Black Creek Ranch, an 800-acre property on the Horsefly River which includes important fish, wildlife, and grassland habitat. As a result of land trust activity, this land will be protected in perpetuity. (photo on previous page)

John Scull is a director of the Cowichan Valley Naturalists' Society, a director of the Cowichan Community Land Trust, and secretary of the Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia.

Additional information on the other groups discussed in this article can be found at these websites:

- Nature Conservancy of Canada: <http://www.natureconservancy.ca/files/index.asp>
- Ducks Unlimited: <http://www.ducks.ca/>
- The Nature Trust: <http://www.naturetrust.bc.ca/>
- The Land Conservancy: <http://www.conservancy.bc.ca/>
- Habitat Acquisition Trust: <http://www.hat.bc.ca/>
- Cowichan Community Land Trust: <http://www.island.net/~cclt>
- Nanaimo Area Land Trust: <http://www.nalt.bc.ca/>
- Salt Spring Island Conservancy: <http://saltspring.gulfislands.com/conservancy>

KONNI LAKE RESORT

WWW.KONNILAKERESORT.COM

Located in the Nemaiah Valley adjacent to Tsylos Provincial Park. Discover flora and fauna of the dry side of the Coast Range. Explore ancient Indian and packer trails from the floor to the peaks of Tsylos Park.



Use our comfortable cabin as base camp. Lakeshore log cabins \$65/day, \$390/wk (inc. canoe) Season - May 15 - Oct. 15

For brochures, maps, and trail guides phone/fax: (250) 468-9948

Marcy & Stan Blood
2790 Lana Rd. Nanoose Bay, BC V9P 9B2

Check out these great tours!



Willow Ptarmigan - Richard Knapton

Dominican Republic/Puerto Rico:

March 21 - 31 with Colin Jones & Elado Fernandez

This tour will focus on seeing as many endemics as possible and includes two days in the Pedernales area. Featured birds include Broad-billed Tody, Hispaniolan Trogon, Palm Chat, Bay-breasted Cuckoo, Yellow-shouldered Blackbird, Elfin Woods Warbler.

Pt. Pelee & the Kirtland's Warbler:

May 10 - 21 with Colin Jones & Peter Burke

Not only do we visit Point Pelee, Rondeau and Long Point but also the Boreal forests of Algonquin Park for such specialties as Spruce Grouse & Black-backed Woodpecker; and central Michigan for the endangered Kirtland's Warbler. This popular tour is led by two native Ontarians, both expert birders and highly-regarded tour leaders.

Churchill & Southern Manitoba:

June 2 - 14 with Richard Knapton

Our expanded tour begins by exploring the Prairie grasslands, potholes and marshes west of Winnipeg and includes an overnight train ride from Thompson to Churchill. Featured birds include Ross's Gull, Northern Hawk Owl, Willow Ptarmigan, Smith's Longspur, Connecticut Warbler, Baird's Sparrow, Hoary Redpoll, Sprague's Pipit and Black-backed Woodpecker.

Okanagan Weekend:

June 5 - 8 with Bryan Gates

On this tour we focus on the "Okanagan specialties" such as Sage Thrasher, Chukar, White-throated Swift, Canyon Wren, Gray Flycatcher and Pygmy Nuthatch. Expect 125 to 150 species. Bryan Gates is well known within the Victoria and Vancouver birding communities for his ornithological expertise and as a very competent and fun-to-be-with tour leader.

The High Arctic:

July 2 - 13 with Richard Knapton

This special tour covers three different areas: the Aspen Parkland of central Alberta, the Boreal forests and lakes of Yellowknife, and the Exquisite high Arctic tundra, above the Arctic Circle. This tour not only offers great close-up viewing and photography opportunities of breeding birds and wonderful flora but also a unique Inuit (Eskimo) cultural experience.



Well-organized, quality tours with exceptional leaders and great itineraries.

604-948-9177 or 1-800-373-5678

P.O. Box 94672, Richmond, BC V6Y 4A4

www.eagle-eye.com E-mail: birdtours@eagle-eye.com

Diverse Groups Discover Common Ground in ATV Issue

BY TAYLOR ZEEG

A diverse range of organizations is collaborating to initiate the development of a licencing and registration system for all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) in BC.

The Grasslands Conservation Council of British Columbia (GCC), the Quad Riders Association of British Columbia (ATV/BC), Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, the FBCN, and the provincial government have joined forces to reach a common goal. Also showing an interest is the B.C. Cattlemen's Association.

"We're trying to form a partnership to get something that will be mutually beneficial to everyone and the main reason is to catch the irresponsible rider, to make him accountable for his actions. I don't have a problem with that because they are the ones that tarnish our reputation," said Bev Felske, president of the Quad Riders Association of BC.

It's those few bad apples that have brought the all-terrain vehicle issue to the forefront of conservationists' and recreationists' agendas. Riders who leave the designated trails degrade public and private lands by damaging grasslands, wetlands, riparian areas and rangelands. By collaborating and presenting a strong coalition to government, groups historically at odds over the licencing and registration issue are now seeing the mutual benefit of focussing on common ground.

For Bev Ramey, FBCN conservation chair, "most all-terrain vehicle riders are not the problem, it's just a few yahoos as I refer to them. We need visible licencing, so that the public can easily read it and report." Ramey also thinks the problem is not just licencing but that there needs to be a system of ticketing and enforcement. This is another area where groups agree.

"The key issue for us and many groups is that all-terrain vehicles and motorbikes do not require registration or a licence for operation, so conservation officers, the general public and all-terrain vehicle groups have no effective means to address inappropriate use of all-terrain vehicles on crown or private land," said Bruno Delesalle, executive director of the Grasslands Conservation Council of BC.

"Grasslands are one of the most endangered ecosystems in Canada and it is imperative that we establish common ground with industry and other groups to achieve conservation and stewardship," added Delesalle.

In 2001, the Grasslands Conservation Council (GCC) collaborated with various government and non-government organizations to produce the ATV Background Document: The need for a provincial licencing system and improved management of ATV use. Collaborating with the GCC on this issue is Canadian Parks and

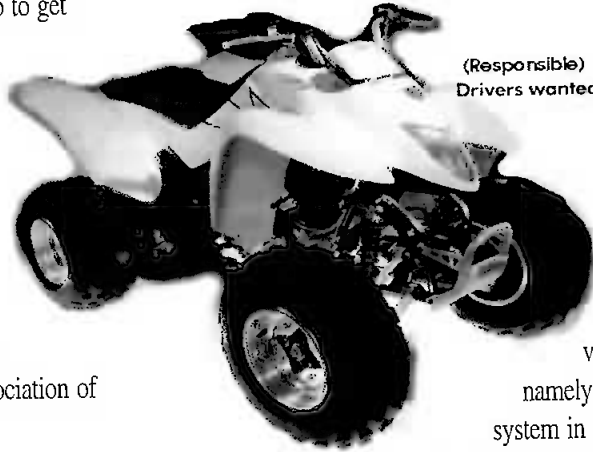
Wilderness Society, who, in partnership with West Coast Environmental Law, commissioned an inter-jurisdictional analysis and developed the document Alternatives for Regulation of All-terrain Vehicles in BC.

ATV/BC supports a licencing and registration initiative on the condition that a portion of the fees charged to all-terrain vehicle users is returned to the provincial body, namely ATV/BC. "Then we will be able to put a trail system in place, have signage and have enforcement; we'll be able to deal with safety problems; we'll be able to deal with environmental problems because we'll probably have some funding to do that."

According to Bev Felske, a trail system would mean continued use of already existing de-activated forestry and mining roads, so all-terrain vehicle riders have a designated place to ride.

This would satisfy the concerns of Ramey and the FBCN, who "are not keen when we hear new trails being built because we feel there are already quite a few trails, especially when you look at deactivated logging roads. We'd rather see better facilities for existing trails." An improved trail system could include signage on where to go, washrooms at the trailhead, improved creek crossings and basic upgrading of deactivated roads. "Cutting new routes is not on our agenda, but we certainly support some of the [licencing and registration] funding going back to the all-terrain vehicle users," Ramey said.

The Grasslands Conservation Council and Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society also support a return of funds to the provincial association, provided an appropriate portion of that money is spent on education, habitat restoration and enforcement.



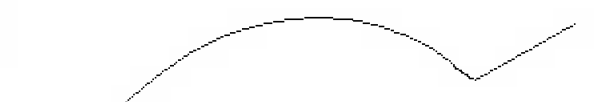
The FBCN's support for a return of funds to the Quad Riders Association stems from naturalists' wish to reach those few irresponsible riders who damage vegetation and, consequently, cause soil erosion, siltation in streams and the spread of noxious weeds.

"I think the problem element in all-terrain vehicle users is the ones who don't belong to a club, and that the all-terrain vehicle association would have some ideas on how best to reach them," said Ramey. The FBCN began this process over 30 years ago by presenting a document to the BC government entitled Some suggestions for regulations to govern the operation of off-highway vehicles. The Federation has been steadfast and determined in pursuing this issue and, along with the Grasslands Conservation Council and Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, are pleased to see the Quad Riders Association of BC and the provincial government joining the effort, along with interest from the BC Cattlemen's Association.

"I think the process has to be getting the different interests together, reaching consensus, going together to government and having the government staff involved as you are working toward consensus because that keeps you on the right track: going together to government with a win-win package," said Ramey.

In the spirit of strong partnerships and collaboration, representatives from the GCC and ATV/BC are co-chairing the ATV Committee now in place and all partners are working proactively to achieve better management of all-terrain vehicles in BC.

Taylor Zeeg is the communications and extension co-ordinator for the Grasslands Conservation Council of British Columbia, a strategic alliance of organizations and individuals dedicated to the conservation and stewardship of BC's grasslands. You can learn more about the GCC by visiting its website at www.bcgrasslands.org, or by contacting Taylor at (250) 374-5787 or taylor.zeeg@bcgrasslands.org.



professional travel consultants
quotes by email or telephone
proud supporters of the FBCN
special airfares, tours and cruises

CAMOSUN@TELUS.NET
phone: 250-595-5455
fax : 250-595-5707

really good airfares and insurance
camosun travel

Natural History Tours



Cuba with naturalist Syd Cannings

Join birder and naturalist Syd Cannings to explore many of the island's wilderness regions: Zapata Peninsula National Park, Valle de Vinales in the province of Pinar del Rio, Sierra del Rosario Biosphere Reserve, La Guira National Park, Baconao, and the high ridge of La Gran Piedra. You'll see a Cuba seldom seen!

February 16 – March 3, 2003

Costa Rica with ecologist and biogeographer Keith Wade

Our trip is designed to encompass a wide range of biotic zones and habitats, from the cloud forests of Poas and Irazu Volcanoes to the palm swamp forests of Tortuguero, and the drier forests of the west and northwest coasts.

May 6 – 20, 2003

Newfoundland with naturalist Dick Cannings

This tour includes visits to huge seabird colonies at Witless Bay and Cape St. Mary's, frequented by large whales such as humpbacks, fin and minke. A circuit tour of Avalon Peninsula crosses territory of a large herd of caribou. We also visit Terra Nova and Gros Morne National Parks, and then travel north to L'Anse aux Meadows.

June 14 – 27, 2003

The Yucatan Peninsula with archaeologist and anthropologist Sharon Tokar

Visit key Mayan sites of the Mexican Yucatan with natural history field trips to Punta Laguna Spider Monkey Sanctuary, the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve, and the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve for birding and botany.

November 15 – 27, 2003

In partnership with Capilano College
Continuing Education



Great Expeditions Inc.

940 West King Edward Ave, Vancouver, B.C., V5Z 2E2

Tel: 604.257.2040

Toll-Free: 1.800.663.3364

Web: www.greatexpeditions.com



President's Message



Past President Anne Murray and her successor Jeremy McCall with Dr. Bert Brink, at a reception held in his honour at Government House in May.

Whistler already seems a long time ago but in fact it has only been two months. On behalf of all those who journeyed there for the Fall Conference I would like to express our great appreciation to President Bob Brett and the Whistler Naturalists' Society for organizing an outstanding series of field trips and other events. The FBCN Executive has been particularly impressed with the way the Whistler club involves the community in many of its activities, including some events during the Conference. Perhaps that is an idea which could benefit other clubs.

As *BC Naturalist* goes to press we await the final recommendations which the Recreation Stewardship Panel made to Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection Joyce Murray at the end of November. We submitted the FBCN's detailed response to the Panel's Draft Recommendations in mid-October. We are hopeful that the final recommendations will be guided by the Panel's Working Principle No. 1, which stated that the development and management of recreation opportunities will be guided by the Province's fundamental obligation to conserve and protect wildlife, fish and their habitats, together with the parks. Nevertheless we shall be reviewing the final recommendations carefully and we will ensure that appropriate comments are made to the Minister. We have also written to Minister Murray to express the FBCN's concern with those actions taken by her Ministry in recent months which we believe to be inconsistent with the Ministry's published vision statement. We also said that we did not consider the economic case had been made by the Ministry for making radical changes to the funding and management of BC's parks, fish and wildlife.

By the time you read this you will have received the annual fundraising appeal from the FBCN. I want to stress that this letter is sent to all FBCN members and supporters regardless of their individual circumstances. Just like other requests you may

receive from registered charities, of which the FBCN is one, there is no obligation and we certainly do not expect those with limited means to do more than pay the club dues appropriate to their situation. However I must also emphasize that our annual appeal is an integral part of the FBCN's annual financial management. The very generous donations we receive from many members are vitally important for the FBCN's ability to fund its activities and projects.

On behalf of the Executive Committee I will close by wishing you all our hopes for a peaceful holiday and best wishes for 2003.

Jeremy McCall



The Vancouver Ecological Explorer

A Walker's Guide to the Ecosystems

Available in book, nature, and outdoors stores in Greater Vancouver and Whistler

www.ecoexplorer.ca

The Perfect Stocking Stuffer

VANCOUVER TELESCOPE CENTRE



suppliers
of fine
optical instruments

since 1978

birding & nature study binoculars and spotting scopes by bushnell and baush & lomb



VANCOUVER TELESCOPE CENTRE
2565 YEW STREET, VANCOUVER, BC, V6K 4T7
TEL/FAX: 604-738-5716
WWW.VANCOUVERTELESCOPE.COM

Conservation Report

SOUTH CHILCOTIN MOUNTAINS (SPRUCE LAKE)

PROVINCIAL PARK

- Bev Ramey

On several occasions I've asked FBCN members to send letters in to government, first to establish this park and most recently to keep the boundaries as established in April 2001, and to also designate the 13 other protected areas proposed in the Lillooet Land and Resource Management Plan. I wish I could let you know that government has made a positive decision on its review of the boundary for this 71,000 hectare Spruce Lake (South Chilcotin) Provincial Park established in April 2001. But not yet - only more delays.

Government said they would make their decision known in spring 2002, then their decision was delayed until September 2002, and most recently we were told by mid November they would make their decision. Government has said they delayed their decision in the spring to get better informed on First Nations views. We also understand that this boundary decision is divisive within government itself. This delay offers us an opportunity to inform MLAs of the very significant conservation, recreation and tourism values of the Park., because they are well informed on mining's interests. Conservation and recreational values aside, the economic value of tourism in South Chilcotin Mountains Park overwhelms the mining and timber values, and fully supports Park status on that one measure alone.

The recent good news is that the Council of Tourism Associations of B.C., which is the umbrella body for tourism operators throughout BC, and major provincial tourism interests are firmly supporting the 71,000 hectare Spruce Lake Park. The Mayor and Council of Whistler have also come out in support of the 71,000 hectare boundary. The opposition to the park boundary is coming from the Mining Association of BC, and it just may be possible that government is delaying its decision in the hopes that tourism and mining can reach an agreement.

If there is to be a negative decision there is also speculation that government is delaying such a decision until after the International Olympic Committee delegates make their site visit to Vancouver and Whistler, scheduled for March. This would clearly not be acceptable. As the November 6th article in the Sun newspaper by John Fraser states,

Located so close to Vancouver, and with BC in the Olympic spotlight, this issue has the potential to act as a lightning rod for intense global criticism and market actions. . . .

The confrontational stance of the Mining Association to de-park South Chilcotin could lead BC back 15 years to a land-use war that no one needs — not the mining industry, the tourism industry, the business community of Whistler or Vancouver, nor Victoria.”

The public's voice is very important, particularly in this instance where we need to inform MLAs of the facts, and to convince them to support South Chilcotin Mountains Park.. Dust off a copy of your old letters and spruce them up! Mail them to Premier Campbell at PO Box 9041, Stn.Prov.Govt., Victoria, V8W 9E1 (and copy Honourable Hagen and Honourable Murray) and send a copy to your local MLA. Then phone your local MLA's office and either speak to your MLA or make an appointment and visit in person. IN PERSON communication is extremely important at this time. Contact the FBCN office if you would like a copy of our most recent letter on the South Chilcotin and Lillooet LRMP. (In the event that as you read this and a positive decision has been made, just send in a thank you note!)

OTHER CONSERVATION ITEMS

Kyoto Accord: Support Prime Minister Chretien and his stand that Canada sign onto the Kyoto Accord. You can view a copy of the Overview and Draft Plan on Climate Change and email in your comments at: www.climatechange.gc.ca Or phone free to 1-800-622-6232 and request your free copy of the Federal Government's "Draft Plan for Meeting Canada's Climate Change", together with a comment form.

ATV Committee: The Grasslands Conservation Council has struck a Committee with representatives from ATVers, Cattlemen Associations, Conservation groups and government staff. The goal is to prepare a united position calling for mandatory licensing and present this to government. Joan Best represents FBCN on the Committee.

National Park in South Okanagan: FBCN has sent a letter to Prime Minister Chretien supporting a National Park in the South Okanagan, following support from Thompson-Okanagan Shuswap Regional Directors and resolution from our 1999 AGM

MORICE LRMP: Rosemary Fox will represent FBCN on the Conservation and Environment Caucus of the Morice Land and Resource Management Plan (this is the Forest District south of Bulkley and bordering on Lakes District).

Manning Park Panhandle: Even though Interfor formally withdrew from this study last summer, government is continuing the assessment of four identified logging road access routes (including one through the Park panhandle) to "better inform longer term resource planning in the area". Public comment time is scheduled for December 2002.

Resolutions for AGM: Deadline for Resolutions for Kamloops AGM (May 10, 2003) is March 15, 2003. Send into the FBCN office (attention Dick Stace-Smith and Bev Ramey).

Please submit your resolution, supported by your club or region, to "Dick Stace-Smith" <stasmith@axion.net> and "Bev Ramey" <wramey@interchange.ubc.ca>
Or you can fax or mail to the FBCN office.

The format for your resolution should use "Whereas" statements to provide the background information and rationale, and conclude with a "Be It Resolved That" where the action you want taken is clearly stated, including which level of government or organization to act.

Thinking of a Legacy for Nature?

When you plan your charitable giving, you can make an important difference in BC's natural world for years to come. Your charitable donation to the FBCN or the BC Naturalists' Foundation will support the FBCN, its clubs and naturalists across BC as they work hard to protect our natural heritage.

Donations to the FBCN President's Appeal are welcomed. Major gifts and bequests are received by the BC Naturalists' Foundation and can be either used immediately for FBCN programs or added to the BC Naturalists' Foundation's endowment funds.

For more information, please contact us and ask for our new Planned Giving brochure.



BC Naturalists' Foundation
307 - 1367 W. Broadway
Vancouver, BC V6H 4A9
tel (604) 737-3057 / fax (604) 738-7175
fbcn@telus.net / www.naturalists.bc.ca



Foundation Report

Federation of BC Naturalists' Foundation

We have a new identity! – BC Naturalists' Foundation rather than FBCN Foundation. We are still legally the Federation of BC Naturalists' Foundation, but needed to reduce the confusion that has been caused for many of the people and groups we work with – they often didn't look beyond the four letters, "FBCN". The new identity also better reflects what we really are – a foundation that raises and distributes money through the naturalists of British Columbia.

Congratulations to Clive Callaway and Sarah Kipp on receiving the Gold Award for the Clean Water category of the Canadian Environmental Awards, for all their work on the Living by Water Project. We are also extremely grateful to them for specifying the Federation of BC Naturalists Foundation as the recipient of the \$5000 cash that accompanied this award.

This \$5000 will go into the Federation of BC Naturalists Foundation Endowment Fund that is managed by the Vancouver Foundation. The earnings from this fund provide the money for the grant that we give to the FBCN every year. These funds are to be used for conservation and education projects of the FBCN and member clubs.

The BC Naturalists' Foundation appreciates all donations and bequests that are directed to the Endowment Fund. These funds are held in perpetuity and thus will be there forever, providing earnings to support naturalists all across the province.

We would also like to express our gratitude to Macdonald (aka Don) Burbidge, of the Vermilion Forks Naturalists, for his annual donation and would encourage other members to follow his example. Funds are always needed for promotion and fund-raising.

At the Fall meeting in 2001, it was decided to increase the number of directors of the BC Naturalists' Foundation to ten. In 2002 we welcomed two new members to the Board: Bob Thomas from Chilliwack and Bob Dyer from West Vancouver. However, two members have also stepped down, leaving us still with only six directors. We would like to have representation from all parts of the province and are looking for directors in the following regions – Vancouver Island, the Kootenays, and the North.

If you are interested in serving on the Board, or if you would like more information on our activities, please contact the Chairperson or any of our directors.

Please see page 2 for list of Foundation Directors

ATTENDED MEETINGS:

ATV Committee organized by Grasslands Conservation Council, and including representatives from ATVers, Cattlemen, and Conservation, with aim to develop united front for presentation to government in support of legislation for mandatory licensing.

Discussion workshop (CPAWS) on Recreation Stewardship Panel recommendations.

GVRD Parks Task Group of the Sustainable Region Initiative.

LETTERS WRITTEN:

Oct 15 - Submission to Recreation Stewardship Panel - posted on FBCN web site.

Oct 16 - Minister Murray of MWLAP to express our concern with the new long term, bundled, form of contract for park facility operators, and also that park interpretation should be reinstated.

Nov 1 - Prime Minister Chretien supporting National Park in South Okanagan.

Nov 12 - Cariboo Chilcotin Conservation Society to respond to their query on the Public Conservation Assistance Fund.

LETTERS RECEIVED:

Aug 23 - from federal Minister Anderson summarizing Bill C-5 Species at Risk which is now before Senate.

Sept 6 - from MWLAP regarding our request to restrict ATV access for hunting in areas with wildlife management concerns, especially in areas which are being rapidly roaded to log beetle killed trees.

Sept 13 - from Federal Fisheries and Oceans, explaining likely cuts to funding for federal and volunteer hatcheries through Salmonid Enhancement Program.

Sept 20 - from National Round Table on the Environment and Economy, in response to our Resolution #6 on Environment and Sustainable Development Indicators Initiative. More information on website, www.nrtee-trnee.ca/ indicators

Sept 24 - from Ministry of Forests regarding our letter on Blue Mountain.

Oct 10 - from Minister Hagen of SRM replying to our Resolution #7 on Land and Water BC and describing their philosophy of "adaptive management" rather than strict adherence to the "precautionary principle". All new applications are posted on website, www.lwbc.bc.ca

Oct 21 - from MWLAP to inform us study is still continuing on forest road access alternatives adjacent to Manning Park Panhandle.

SOUTH CHILCOTIN MOUNTAINS PARK

GUIDED HIKING RETREATS SOUTHWESTERN BC

Located on the lee side of the Coast Mountains, the South Chilcotin Mountains lie within a transition zone. This favoured position produces a "Rainshadow", and this means sunny skies and a dry climate. The area is renowned for it's bio-diversity, with an abundance of wildflowers that bloom May to September, and an outstanding variety of wildlife.

Like true explorers, you and your licensed guide(s) access the alpine by foot. Unlike the granite ranges to the south, our Chilcotin Mountains have rounded tops and broad U-shaped valleys. The glaciated shale terrain makes alpine hiking challenging yet achievable, and personal gear is transported to you.

Novice hikers are based out of our Ranch and hike daily into the alpine with our licensed guides. Seasoned hikers can choose between one camp, or a series of permanent alpine camps.

Chilcotin Holidays is a Licensed Outfitter with a 5,000 sq km operating territory encompassing the new South Chilcotin Mountains Park and surrounding ranges.

- * 4 and 7 day all inclusive packages
- * accommodation in our Ranch or alpine camp(s)
- * alpine camps are permanent and stocked
- * licensed wilderness guides and camp cook
- * delicious and hearty meals (vegetarian menus available) * stunning scenery * fossil-beds * wildlife



CHILCOTIN HOLIDAYS

Gun Creek Rd., Gold Bridge BC, VoK 1Po
Phone/Fax (250) 238 - 2274
www.chilcotinholidays.com

Living Green Calendars Coming to Communities

The Georgia Basin is experiencing dramatic increases in urban growth and people throughout the Basin want to find ways to reduce their environmental footprint. Others may want to help their neighbours see the connection between what goes down the drain and the water quality of local streams, rivers and lakes. But how to get started? Living Green has an answer. The Living Green program has produced an attractive calendar that environmental stewardship groups can use to educate the residents of their communities on how our day-to-day behaviour impacts the environment. The calendar's eye-opening graphics and handy monthly filing system are combined with a wealth of knowledge including simple steps that can be taken to reduce impact, and contact details for agencies where further information can be found. The Living Green program is available to all communities in BC and the Yukon, and is funded in part through the Sustainable Communities Action Plan of the Georgia Basin Ecosystem Initiative (GBEI). Other supporters of Living Green include the Habitat Conservation and Stewardship Program, the Real Estate Foundation of BC, and Fisheries Renewal BC. The overall goal of the Sustainable Communities Action Plan is that residents, communities and decision makers take action for healthy, productive and sustainable ecosystems. Creating education programs involves a lot of time and money. But the Living Green program is designed to be transferable so that any community can use the generic program and customize it to fit their needs. Three groups in the Lower mainland are delivering Living Green in their communities this winter. The Abbotsford Land Trust Society (ALTS) is co-ordinating a campaign in partnership with several other community groups to encourage 1000 of the residents of the Mill Lake watershed to live green. The Cheam Livable Communities Network (CLCN) in Agassiz will tie the delivery of Living Green to the protection and enhancement of local sloughs. In Maple Ridge, the Kanaka Education and Environmental Partnership Society (KEEPS) plans to deliver 1,000 calendars and hopes to have 300 people take the pledge. Their main goal is to reduce the impact of urban development on riparian areas and fish stocks in the lower part of the Kanaka Creek system. Living Green is based on the belief that the health of our natural environment is the responsibility of every individual in a community. This coming year Living Green's message will spread out like a ripple on a pond from community stewardship groups through tens of thousands of households in BC and the Yukon. For more information on delivering Living Green in your community or to take the Living Green watershed pledge online see: www.livinggreen.ca

Written by Geoff Gilliard

SIMILKAMEEN WILDLIFE

Anecdotes and tales of animals and

plants in the Similkameen Valley

THE SIMILKAMEEN HIKING GUIDE

38 hikes in the Princeton, Tulameen and Hedley area

Two books you'll need in exploring the
Similkameen Valley

Purchase directly at:

Tumbleweed Nature Store, Penticton, B.C.

Or order directly from the author at:

Ranamere Press, M. Burbidge, box 1395,

Princeton, B.C. VOX 1W0, or 250-295 6009

e-mail address—mburbidge@telus.net

**Each volume by post is \$17.00,
including shipping and handling**

First chapters available at website:

<http://www3.telus.net/ranamere>

GIFTS FOR EVERYONE ON YOUR

LIST

Shop online

wildbirdstore.com

Visit us at

The Wild Bird

Habitat Store

8810 Young Rd. &

Chilliwack Central

Chilliwack, BC

(604) 792-1239



VNHS NATURE TOURS 2003

Cowichan & Carmanah Valleys

You are invited to a naturalist's paradise!
May 11 to 18, 2003

The Botany and Marine Biology Sections of The Vancouver Natural History Society are hosting a week based at the Cowichan Lake Education Centre. Day trips include the Carmanah Pacific and Botanical Beach Provincial Parks; Cowichan River trans-Canada trail; Mt. Tzouhalem Ecological Reserve; a fresh water marsh and Eco-Centre; the Sutton River Wildflower Reserve; a forest research station; native cultural and forest museums. We will also explore nearby mountains and estuaries.

Leaders: Bob Holden and Wally Kiel

Cost per person: \$720 plus GST

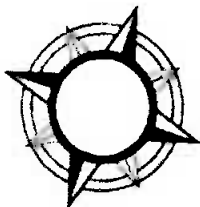
Includes seven nights' accommodation, all meals, transportation to and from the two West Coast venues, museum entrance fees and resource persons. Participants are responsible for getting to and from Cowichan Lake Education Centre and nearby field trips and venues with their own vehicle or by carpool. Participants must be members of the VNHS or other FBCN club.

For more information please contact:

Wally Kiel at 604-681-1969 or email: wmlkiel@vcn.bc.ca.

Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte Islands All Inclusive Naturalist Tour Packages May 2003.

Come and discover a truly unique and exotic land only a short flight from Vancouver. Northwest Recreation Services offers all-inclusive, fully guided tours of Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte Islands. These small group tours concentrate on exploring the natural, cultural and settlement history of the area. Land and ocean based tours are offered to areas throughout the Islands including the Argonaut Plain and Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve and Haida Heritage Site. For specific tour information please contact:



Andrew Merilees
Northwest Recreation Services
PO Box 798
Masset, BC V0T 1M0
(250) 626-3949
nwrec@mhtv.com

Coming in January, check us out at:

www.northwestrecreation.com

"Your guide to discovery on the Queen Charlotte Islands"

Tumbleweed Nature Store

67 FRONT STREET PENTICTON

FEATURING THE NEW PENTAX PF-80ED Spotting Scope



- ✿ 15x - 60x zoom
- ✿ Large-aperture 80mm objective lens
- ✿ Lightweight magnesium-alloy body with waterproof construction
- ✿ Protective rubber housing
- ✿ All-weather padded cover excellent for field use
- ✿ \$1,499.95

Here's what these top birders say about the new Pentax PF80-ED Spotting Scope:

"This is a spotting scope on steroids..."

-Michael Force

"Clear and crisp images, even at 60x magnification."

-Chris Charlesworth

"The new Pentax scope is unbeatable for brightness and clarity."

-Dick Cannings

SPECIALIZING IN:

- ✿ Binoculars and scopes by Pentax, Bushnell, and Bausch & Lomb
- ✿ Manfrotto tripods and heads

Tumbleweed Nature Store

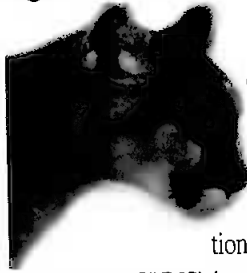
Phone: (250) 492-7742 Fax: (250) 492-7701
tumbleweed@img.net
Toll free: 1-866-848-7742

We are a sponsor of the Okanagan Rare Bird Alert Line.
If you see a rare one, please phone (250) 491-7738.

SAVE THE HABITAT OF MIGRATORY SONGBIRDS:
DRINK SONGBIRD SHADE-GROWN COFFEE!



Wolf and Cougar Kill on Vancouver Island



The Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection is proposing to kill predators (wolf and cougar) on Vancouver Island to try to protect dwindling deer populations. The Cowichan Valley Naturalists' Society (CVNS) has declared its opposition to this killing of

wolves and cougar. CNVS president David Aldcroft is quoted in the Cowichan Valley Pictorial Newspaper stating, "The Province realises there's an imbalance, and it's proposing a cull to bring it back into balance, which might have results in the short term, but it isn't going to solve the problem." Mr. Aldcroft believes finding ways to maintain old growth forest habitat is preferable, stating, "The biggest threat to the long term survival of deer is habitat. The nine-year study titled the Vancouver Island Deer Project already identifies intact forests as being integral to a full recovery." Mr. Aldcroft also notes that deer winter range is currently protected under the Forest Practices Code, but is up for review in late 2002/early 2003. Cabinet should be made aware of the importance of protecting deer winter range.

Percy Dewar of the Saltspring Trail and Nature Club is especially concerned with the proposed killing of cougars, since he studied this species from 1972 to 1978. His study used hounds to tree cougars, where the cougars were subsequently tranquilised and had electronic collars attached. They were then followed on the ground using receivers and earphones, either by truck on logging roads, by foot, or once a week by airplane. Families of cougar (male, female and kittens) were also equipped with collars in order to study their habits. Cougar reproduce every two years and have up to five in a litter, but usually only two or three survive as the male will sometimes kill the young. If there are other females nearby there will be a fight between the adults. The females normally stay in small areas and seldom give any trouble to the human population. The males will travel up to 20 miles a night.

From his work checking into cougar problems (human interactions), Mr. Dewar found that such problems are usually caused by orphaned kittens and young males.



He believes the orphaned kittens miss the training by their mothers on how to survive and they will subsequently kill whatever they can.

Based on his research, Mr. Dewar is against the cull of cougar. However, he warns that if such a programme were to be undertaken, then no adult female (two years and older) should be included in the cull, otherwise the cull will result in orphaned cougars which in term could cause problems to humans.

A preliminary plan on the proposed wolf and cougar cull is expected to be ready for Ministers Joyce Murray and Stan Hagen sometime in November, so it is timely to write them on this subject.

(information from David Aldcroft and Percy Dewar, compiled by Bev Ramey)

THE Perfect Stocking Stuffer
for the "Birder" on your List!

A CD-ROM that focuses on "OUR" birds in B.C.


OUR BIRDS
BRITISH COLUMBIA



\$44.99 + Shipping

The Victorian Bird House

687 St. Patrick Street
Victoria, BC
V8S 4X4



2493 Beacon Avenue
Sidney, BC
V8L 1X4

P: 250-370-2474
F: 250-370-2478

P: 250-656-5064
vbh@shaw.ca

FBCN 2002 Fall General Meeting Awards

The FBCN Awards presented at the FGM, in Whistler, September 21st, were four in all, three Club Service Awards and one Knowing Nature Award.

The Club Service Awards were presented to:

Vi Wilcox, of the West Kootenay Naturalists' Association for her outstanding contribution to her Club. Vi has held several Club positions but her primary work has been with birds, from Bluebirds to Owls. Vi has been active in setting up Bluebird trails, assisting with a local Owl research project and passing on her vast knowledge of birds while on field trips and other outings. As well, Vi is her Club's Archivist, is almost always a participant on work parties, helps organize events of all sorts and is, in short, an invaluable asset to her Club.

Don Burbidge, of the Vermilion Forks Field Naturalists also received a Club Service Award for his many years of dedication to his Club's activities. Don has held most of the Club's executive offices, has published the Newsletter, led countless field trips and has been active with trips for school children. He has published an excellent hiking guide to his area, The Similkameen Hiking Guide, thus contributing to the appreciation and enjoyment of the area for both his Club members and the community.

Rene Savenye, of the White Rock and Surrey Naturalists' Society, was honoured, posthumously, with a Club Service Award. Rene, before his tragic death, had contributed so much to his Club and his community that he will be sorely missed. Rene held most of the Society's executive positions, worked extensively in field trips, both in the area and farther afield, participated in all manner of work parties and projects, from bird counts to mushroom displays, worked with local schools and represented his Club on many City and other boards, panels, task forces and other groups. Rene produced natural history guide sheets for his area, worked to help create parks and was, at the time of his untimely death, again serving as President.

The Knowing Nature Award was presented to;

The Central Okanagan Naturalists Club for their work in planning, building and monitoring a new Nature Trail, the Mildred Wardlaw Nature Trail, in the Kelowna area. Named after a pioneer in the area, the trail is used for hiking in the summer and cross-country skiing in the winter. The Club constructed the trail, placed information signs about flora and fauna that may be encountered while on the trail, and does upkeep on it. Some funding for the project was secured from the TD Canada Trust Friends of the Environment Foundation, representatives being present at the inauguration of the trail in 1998. Positive feedback has been received from trail users, from the general public and local schools.

Once again, Dr. Margaret Horne, a member of the Kamloops Naturalist Club, donated the Awards. These are beautifully finished forms made from local woods, usually Pine, Juniper and Sagebrush. Thank you, Margaret.

The Annual General Meeting in May, 2003, will be the setting for the presentation of further Awards, these are:

The Elton Anderson, the FBCN's highest Award; the criteria is as follows; "the purpose of this award is to recognize the service of a member of the FBCN who has served the Federation and who has emulated, to a profound degree, the dedication, devotion and energy exhibited by former President, Elton Anderson, to further the Federation across the province." While it is true that not many FBCN members are in a position to wield influence "across the province", nevertheless there are those amongst us whose dedication to FBCN ideals is felt well beyond the bounds of his/her own Club or Region and whose energetic sense of purpose is an inspiration to many. The Awards Committee would love to consider nominations in this category!

The Regional Recognition Award, of which more than one may be presented; criteria for which is as follows; "as with the Elton Anderson Award, this Award is for a member of the FBCN who has served with dedication, devotion and energy to further the Federation across her or his Region. (This makes it a bit difficult as the Awards Committee is comprised of the FBCN Regional Coordinators!) As I well know, your RCs are reasonable and fair and will entertain nominations from within and without their ranks. The Regional Recognition Award is not, of course, reserved for Coordinators but for any FBCN member whose efforts have enlightened the public, helped raise the profile of the FBCN or otherwise made a difference, for the better, within a Region.

The Recognition Award of which, again, more than one may be presented; is quite different. This is "presented to a person or persons from outside the Federation or its affiliates who has made an outstanding contribution to the understanding and appreciation of the natural history of B.C. (e.g., authors, teachers, administrators, media persons, etc.)". Members of the FBCN do not have exclusive ownership of a zeal to care for the natural world and to do their utmost to help preserve and protect, conserve and educate to that end. Here is our chance to honour those non-members who richly deserve our support.

The Barbara Chapman Award; "made to a young naturalist under the age of 18 years who has shown an interest in and has made a contribution to the appreciation and understanding of the natural environment. This award was established in memory of a member of the Victoria Natural History Society who was killed by a bear while working in Glacier National park." This Award has not been presented since 2000. Surely, there is a worthy young naturalist, who may or may not be a member of a Young Naturalist Club (and it is hoped that a different Award will be created some day for members of the YNCs) whose interests and activities deserve recognition. More than ever before, our natural areas need all the help we can give, especially from young people who will become its stewards and custodians in their time.

So, FBCN members, send in those nominations and we will ask Dr. Horne to oil up her carving tools in preparation for more Awards to be presented next May! Please send written nominations, supporting your candidate, by February 15th, if possible. As regular mail may take as long as 2 weeks, sometimes 3, before receiving my attention, please allow for that if sending to:

J. Best,
143 - 2960 Tranquille Rd.,
Kamloops, B.C., V2B 8B6

Email (much faster) is: jb主@mail.ocis.net Thanks!



FBCN

Book Reviews

The Last Island by Alison Watt, 2002. Harbour Publishing Madeira Park, BC. 192 pages, 40 coloured illustrations. \$34.95 cloth cover.

One of the more graphic images in *The Last Island* is a watercolour painting of the hierarchy of nesting bird species on the cliffs of Triangle Island - from Pigeon Guillemots in the boulders by the shore, to Pelagic Cormorants and Common Murres on the cliff face, ascending to the burrows of Rhinoceros Auklet, Cassin's Auklet and Tufted Puffin on the cliff top. During the nesting season almost one fifth of BC's breeding seabirds inhabit the towering cliffs of this mile-long island, situated a few miles off the north west tip of Vancouver Island. It is home to the largest colony of Cassin's Auklets in the world - about 540,000 pairs - and the largest colony of Tufted Puffins south of Alaska. Triangle Island has particular attractions for these and other bird species and the reader will come to understand the significance of these.

In 1980 Alison Watt was one of two wildlife biologists who spent four months on Triangle researching the breeding physiology of Tufted Puffins. For those readers who may have been intrigued by the thought of spending many weeks studying birds in beautiful and remote places, Alison ably portrays the tough reality of this type of work and its associated lifestyle and she gently dispels any romantic ideas the reader may have. While doing so she weaves an extraordinary tapestry of biological information regarding the amazing variety of fish, terrestrial and bird species which inhabit Triangle Island, along with its history.

Alison also returned to Triangle in 1996 for a shorter visit in a year when the puffins were not enjoying such a successful nesting season. Recent research has shown there to be a link between the degree of success of the puffins' breeding season and the ambient sea water temperature. Any increase in the latter does not bode well for the puffins.

Lovers of the wild BC coast will glean much fascinating information about our seabird populations and they are likely to treasure this book, not only for the bitter-sweet tale so well told by the author, but also for her many colourful and instructive paintings.

Reviewed by Jeremy McCall

Similkameen Wildlife, by Macdonald Burbidge, Ranamere Press, Princeton, BC: [price?] all profits from the sale of this book donated to the Vermillion Forks Naturalists Club

Well, Don has done it again: a book packed full of information on the Princeton area written in a clear, easily absorbed, and jaunty style. He claims to be "no expert", but his aim "to present, to readers who are not experts, some stories and descriptions which might pique their interest in the natural creatures of this beautiful area" is most laudable given the current massive public ignorance about other inhabitants of the planet. With a few quibbles on details, chiefly words that disappeared somehow between typing and printing, I think he has fulfilled his aim admirably and with a charm known only to born storytellers.

Don's first book, *The Similkameen Hiking Guide*, contained plenty of natural history information and anecdotes. This one is strictly (well, almost!) about wild critters and plants chosen because he "has some personal acquaintance with them, and is fond of them".

From his opening chapter on bears, which he never hunted, "because it would be too much like slaughtering an old friend", to "Autumn along the Similkameen, 2001 AD", he covers a lot of ground: owls, Corvidae, raptors, coyotes, the tribe of Mustelidae, stinging and biting insects, beaver, orchids, "Aliens", "Oddballs", mushrooms, and more. There's plenty of solid details, but Don has no hesitation in admitting lack of knowledge of various animal behaviours; nor does he hesitate to speculate from his experience on possible explanations with which the reader is welcome to agree or not.

The book closes with two chapters that appear at first to depart from his theme: not so. "Birdsmanship", worthy of Steven Leacock, and "A Visitor to Ashnola", a quirky ecological parable, complete this engaging tour through "the curious ways of the denizens of this province", humans the most curious of all. Reviewed by Eva Durance, South Okanagan Naturalists Club

Notice!

Call the FBCN office for information about **On the Living Edge** (Your Handbook for Waterfront Living) by Sarah Kipp & Clive Callaway, with important and instructional material about living safe and environmentally conscious on waterfront property. Beautifully drawn for \$14.95

YOUNG NATURALIST CLUB

of British Columbia

Report to FBCN Clubs and members

Membership: as of November 2002 there are approximately 460 families (representing +/- 1000 children) and 40 school classrooms/libraries so that in total YNC reaches at least 1500 children somewhere in the province. By the time you read this the numbers will have shifted as we add new members and complete the current renewal blitz.

Community YNCs: The most important item of news is that we now have ELEVEN Community YNCs providing local family field trips and other programs to their members. Their names and contact numbers are provided below and I hope that those of you have young family members or know of other young people who would enjoy YNC activities, will pass on to them the contact information for their nearest group.

Outside these areas, please direct your enquiries to me: there is interest in starting a YNC in other areas and I can forward your interest.

YNC BC Co-ordinator
Daphne Solecki
604 736 9471
Email: daphsol@telus.net

YNC Kelowna
Alice Hargreaves
250 769 5812
Email: harg@telus.ca

YNC Chilliwack
Judy Mueller
604 795 7296
Email: judymueller@shaw.ca

YNC Home Learners (Lower
Mainland)
Lisa Phare-Millard
604 777 1414
Email: pharemi@sfu.ca

YNC Cowichan Valley
John Scull
250 746 6141
Email: jscull@island.net

YNC Nanaimo
Alison Bakker
250 390 3935
Email: abakker@island.net

YNC Elk Valley (East Kootenay)
Lee-Anne Walker
250 423 4306
Email: walkabt@elkvalley.net

YNC New Westminster
Carrie Ross
604 540 7275
Email: imcross@telus.net

YNC Fraser Valley West
(Surrey/White Rock/ Langley)
Anthea Farr
604 576 7731
Email: bunnellf@interch.ubc.ca

YNC Oceanside (Parksville/
Qualicum)
Elthea Dale
250 752 4285
Email: edale@shaw.ca

YNC Victoria
Susanna Solecki
250 598 8722
Email: sannasolecki@hotmail.com

PROVINCE-WIDE COALITION FORMED TO PROTECT B.C. PARKS AT FRIENDS OF STRATHCONA GATHERING

At the Annual Friends of Strathcona Park Gathering at Buttle Lake over the weekend of September 7th and 8th, people from many areas of B.C., including representatives from the Valhalla Wilderness Society in the interior, united to deal with the B.C. Government's plans to privatize, commercialize and utilize B.C. park lands for profitable purposes. The new coalition, called "The Friends of B.C. Parks", has developed a web site <http://www.friendsofbcparcs.ca/> and established a program of public education, responses to government, legal challenges, fundraising and coalition building initiatives.

The coalition's mandate is "to build a coalition to protect the integrity of B.C. Parks." The government wants the park lands to be profitable and are looking at ways to sell this resource, while many people feel that these last remaining wilderness areas need to be protected from development and maintain their natural integrity.

The final report of the B.C. Government's Parks Legacy Project detailed in 1999, with province-wide meetings and recommendations, stated that "Parks are an inalienable public good to be protected under the Park Act in perpetuity. These areas must not be sold, commercialized or privatized." Many people and organizations were reassured by these principles, which were developed out of extensive public input. Fifty-five organizations province-wide have already signed a "Declaration on Principles of Parks" which has been disseminated via the media and is available through the new web site of the coalition. Those present at the Friends of Strathcona Park gathering took on tasks to outreach and educate the public regarding the government proposals and to build the coalition.

A circle was formed of people from all parts of BC, in the heart of Vancouver Island, surrounded by mountains and Buttle Lake. Old members and new were happy to come together, and united in their determination to take action to prevent further incursions and destruction of our wilderness areas. Mining trucks roared past on the periphery, while blasting of logging roads and chainsaws could be heard in the distance. The lake was low and deeply affected by the dam, which provides power to Campbell River and the pulp mill there. Its shores were muddied and barren. The waters are clear but the fish are not healthy due to mine tailings draining into the lake at its head.

The Friends of B.C. Parks Coalition is growing, and with past experience of challenging harmful government decisions, we are once again prepared to do whatever is needed to prevent further destruction of our public lands, places we had been ensured would be protected and not opened up to development.

For More Information: Contact: Steve Smith at: 250-337-8220 Email: swi@island.net

Kel Kelly at: 250-337-8348 Email: kkpc@mars.ark.com



Arrowsmith Naturalist Newsletter reports that 21 club members volunteered their time to keep the Rathrevor Nature Hut open. 10,274 people visited the facility, and an average of twenty children took part in Jerry's Rangers, a daily one-hour afternoon education program, consisting of games and crafts relating to the nature topic of the day. Thanks to the people who volunteered to help, Rathrevor Nature House was open seven days a week throughout July and August.

BEARS (Bear Education Awareness Response Society) reports a drop from at least 37 North Shore black bears killed in 1999 to zero killed in 2002. A senior conservation officer with Water Land and Air Protection gave the BEAR Network credit, telling founder Betty Carrington: "I can't recall when such a situation as this has happened. It may well be over twenty or thirty years." Rick Hahn was responding to a request in November for bear death statistics. He said, "Things are looking good for the bears. The string of cold nights we recently had should have sent all except the largest bears into their dens. The ideal weather, our [WLAP] change of direction and [BEAR Network's] good work has resulted in a unique occurrence." The society offers email updates or advice if you have black bears and a "people" problem.

Burke Mountain Naturalists distributed questionnaires on local environmental issues in the November municipal election to all candidates in Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam and Port Moody. The club has been doing this in every municipal election since 1993. Candidates' responses are made available to members and to the public prior to election day.

Central Okanagan Naturalist Club's newsletter states that CONC has sent a letter of support regarding Scott Alexander's (of Peregrine Consulting) proposal to set up the Okanagan Centre of Natural History in the unoccupied restaurant premises in City Park. Estimated startup costs are about \$350,00.00.

Delta Naturalists' report sighting Red-necked phalaropes, many varieties of sandpipers, Caspian terns, cedar waxwings, Hutton's vireo, and a nighthawk. The Rare Bird Alert reported a buff-breasted sandpiper at the foot of 72 Street.

Kamloops Naturalist Club members are grateful to the Kamloop's Indian Band and Ducks Unlimited Canada for their foresight in preserving the T'Kumlups Marsh. Because of the latter two groups' efforts, the first known BC breeding efforts of Black-necked Stilts has been recorded. The pair successfully raised a fine family of four young; all the birds departed the area by the end of July.

We are sorry to see two clubs disband: goodbye to **Columbia Valley Field Naturalists** and **Arrow Lakes Naturalist Club**, and we hope you are able to rebuild soon.

Langley Field Naturalists Society received a \$4,980 grant from the Shell Environmental Fund. Club members released another crop of the Purple Loosetrife-eating beetle, *Galerucella calmariensis*. They found evidence at the Brydon Lagoon site that the beetles had spread to plants beyond the traditional release site, indicating the insects have survived and are on the move.

New FBCN affiliate **Lillooet Naturalist Society** holds as its main priority the protection of habitat for endangered species (over 30 red- and blue-listed in the area), working with the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management on the Lillooet area plan. The group has held Christmas bird counts for the past two years and is working on a checklist and a publication about Lillooet area birds. Though so far they have only five members and directors, the Lillooet club has lots of local support and conducts breeding bird and loon surveys, holds regular hikes and regularly uses the local radio station to promote natural history and species of interest, especially birds, birds, birds. Director Vivian Birch-Jones is particularly interested in bats and does regular public education and information work.

Nanaimo Field Naturalists announce the first-ever Nanoose Bay Christmas Bird Count to be held on Saturday, December 21, 2002, covering the areas between the Parksville and Nanaimo count circles, inland to Boomerang Lake, and approximately 5 km offshore of the Ballenas Islands.

North Okanagan Naturalists Club contributed \$200.00 towards the BC Entomological Society Scholarship for a graduate student. The money comes out of the James Grant Memorial Fund.

Pender Harbour & District Wildlife Society set up a fund for an educational centre in memory of former FBCN director Iris Griffith, who died earlier this year, at the site of her last project, the Ruby Lake Wood Duck Sanctuary. Anyone who knew Iris may wish to donate to Iris Griffith Memorial Nature Fund, Sunshine Coast Credit Union, Box 28, Madeira Park, BC V0N 2H0.

September saw the safe acquisition of Ruby Lake Lagoon. Since the Wood Duck Festival in May, the **Ruby Lake Lagoon Nature Reserve Society** applied to numerous conservancy organisations to alert them to the lagoon's ecological potential. In less than 6 months a visiting benefactor from Toronto, alerted by the "Save our Lagoon" banner, answered the urgent appeal and together with the Cogrossi family, the lagoon property has now been successfully purchased.

Skeena Valley Naturalists held a successful BC Rivers Day, handing out lots of BC Naturalist copies. Director Judy Chrysler was later invited to give a bird walk/talk to Cubs, with the goal of no more dead baby birds on spikes. Other activities include "Consultations with the Confused", a bird seed talk at a garden store.

South Okanagan Naturalists' recently published new editions of their popular checklists: Birds of the Okanagan Valley, and Plants of the South Okanagan Basin. The checklists are one of the Club's fund raising and educational projects. Locals and visitors can obtain the lists from SONC, Box 23003, Penticton, BC V2A 8L7 for \$1.00 plus postage.

Squamish Estuary Conservation Society's outgoing President, Jim Wisnia, writes that SECS has become more of a naturalist club involved in research, education, stewardship, and celebration, and that other members of FBCN clubs are taking notice.

Vancouver Natural History Society: "A Vancouver edition of a magazine called the Environment Guide 2002 (which is quite interesting) appears to have been distributed to homes in many areas of Vancouver. Inside the front cover is the TD-FEF ad featuring the Young Naturalists of BC...". The same ad has appeared in Canadian Geographic and issues of McLean's. Nature Canada will carry a feature article about young naturalists, and the Federation of Alberta Naturalists is considering launching their own YNC. (Daphne Solecki, YNC Co-director/NHNS Sept/O2 Newsletter).

The Victoria Naturalist History Society reports on the success of the Wild Garden Party (VNHS was one of the contributors of donations to this colossal effort). Over a five day period, a 30' X 100' space was landscaped, "... to showcase: gardening for wildlife, the use of drought tolerant plants, avoidance of pesticides, growing your own food, collection of rainwater, micro-irrigation, composting and even recycling building materials".

Williams Lake Field Naturalists Club volunteers acted as hosts during the months of September and October at Scout Island Nature Centre. The club would like to hold a community celebration next spring to recognize that the Nature Centre has been serving the community for over 25 years.

West Kootenay Naturalists' Association's newsletter reports that feathers (pardon me) petals flew when an indignant member of the club sharply reprimanded a boorish lout who was picking bouquets of wildflowers on July 2th at Idaho Lookout. The vandal was not convinced that he was in the wrong until a picture was taken (at his request!) of him and his cringing group. It seems that some kind of a deal may have been struck because the fellow eventually apologized for his behavior, and his mug shot did not appear in the newsletter.

White Rock & Surrey Naturalist's newsletter reports that The Little Campbell Estuary Project is doing fairly well. Most of their plants are still there and growing, despite some vandalism. They have not weeded out the volunteer thistle and clover because they believe that they will add valuable nutrients to the depleted site. Club Chat

Compiled by Bonita K. Lingenfelter

Nature Explorations on Vancouver Island

at Pacific Rim Park and Yellow Point

Here's your chance to enjoy an enriching, restorative vacation while exploring the unparalleled beauty of our coast with an outstanding team of naturalists.

UVic's Continuing Studies offers two memorable experiences, coordinated by Anne Fraser.

For details or to register, call (250) 721-8458.

Autumn Explorations at Yellow Point Lodge

DATES: Mon., Oct. 7 to Fri., Oct. 11, 2002

FEE: \$740 (includes accommodation, meals, snacks, taxes, gratuities, and tuition*)

Register by September 6, 2002

*Note: Accommodation is based on double occupancy and transportation is NOT included.
The tuition portion is tax deductible.

Pacific Rim Park Explorations at Middle Beach Lodge

DATES: Mon., Mar. 24 to Thurs., Mar. 27, 2003

FEE: \$879.05 (includes accommodation, meals, taxes, gratuities, and tuition*)

Register by February 16, 2003

Division of Continuing Studies
UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA





The FEDERATION of BC NATURALISTS
2002-03 Annual General Meeting



Hosted by the
KAMLOOPS NATURALIST CLUB

FIRE & WATER:
Landscape Sculptors

*Natural forces, flora,
and fauna in the heart
of BC's Southern
Interior...*

**Register before
April 15, 2003
and save!**

Additional Registration Forms
Visit the FBCN Web site:
<http://www.naturalists.bc.ca>

General Info: Joan Best
Tel. (250) 376-4814
E-mail: jbest@mail.ocis.net

Registration: Pat Petley
Tel. (250) 828-0075
E-mail: ppetley@mail.ocis.net

Or **Margery Weninger**
Tel. (250) 374-6431
E-mail: margeryweninger@shaw.ca

Workshop & Field Trips:
Frances Vyse
Tel. (250) 372-8607
E-mail: vyse@telus.net

Accommodation: Ellie Hill
Tel. (250) 573-4438
E-mail: bluebirdhill2003@yahoo.ca

Discounted room rates will be offered at the following:

- Howard Johnson Panorama
(250) 374-1515 (S \$87, D \$71)
- Days Inn
(250) 374-5911 (S \$79, D \$89)
- Hospitality Inn
1-800-663-5733 (S \$52, D \$55)

Camping

- Knutsford Campground
(250) 372-5380
knutsfordcamp@hotmail.com

Kamloops Visitor Centre
1-800-662-1994
www.kamloopschamber.bc.ca

University College of the Cariboo, Kamloops, BC ♦ May 8-11, 2003

Registration Form

Name(s): _____ Club: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Evening Phone: (____) _____ E-mail Address: _____

OPTIONS (check all that apply):

| | # attending | Cost each | TOTAL |
|---|-------------|-----------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full registration before April 15 (includes Friday evening social, refreshment breaks, Saturday lunch & field trips) | _____ | \$ 55 | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full registration after April 15 | _____ | \$ 65 | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday only (FBCN members no charge) | _____ | \$ 30 | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friday only, before April 15 (bag lunch extra) | _____ | \$ 30 | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday only, before April 15 (lunch included) | _____ | \$ 30 | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Late registration fee - on or after April 15, 2003 | _____ | \$ 5 | \$ _____ |

MEALS (check all that apply):

| | | | |
|---|-------|-------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bag Lunch (Friday field trips) | _____ | \$ 7 | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Banquet (Saturday evening) – registrant rate | _____ | \$ 26 | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Banquet (Saturday evening) – non-registrant rate | _____ | \$ 30 | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian / special diet | _____ | | |
| Specify _____ | | | |
| TOTAL (Enclosed) \$ | | | _____ |

Cheques payable to: Kamloops Naturalist Club

Mail forms and payment to: KNC c/o Karen Willies, 679 Patricia Ave., Kamloops, BC, V2B 1Y7

No refunds after May 4, 2003.

FRIDAY FIELD TRIPS (See details on next page)

Check 1st and 2nd choices:

- ___ Greenstone Mountain (easy pace)
- ___ Lac du Bois (easy to moderate pace)
- ___ Mara Hill – Tranquille River (moderate to strenuous pace)
- ___ Campbell Creek – Barnhartvale (easy to moderate pace)

OTHER ACTIVITIES (See details on next page)

Check all that apply:

- Thursday workshop (FBCN members no charge)
- Friday evening social
- Saturday early morning birding
- Sunday field trips: indicate 1st and 2nd choices:
___ Trip A ___ Trip B ___ Trip C ___ Trip D

“TO KNOW NATURE, AND TO KEEP IT WORTH KNOWING”



May 8-11, 2003
Hosted by the
**KAMLOOPS
NATURALIST
CLUB**

The FEDERATION of BC NATURALISTS
2002-03 Annual General Meeting



Schedule of Events

| THURSDAY, MAY 8 | |
|---|---|
| 9:00 am – 5:00 pm | Dry Forests And Grasslands Ecosystems Symposium (**Details on next page) |
| FRIDAY, MAY 9 | |
| 9:00 am – 4:30 pm **Pre-registration needed. See the Registration Form. | FIRE & WATER: Landscape Sculptors <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Workshop and field trip themes: Fire: Lavas, batholiths and other hot igneous intrusions Fire: Forest fires: how they start, how they behave, what about lightning? Water: It's all in the rivers, not much on the grasslands Water: Frozen water: glaciation, melting ice; glacial lakes; gravels, silts</p> </div> <p>FIELD TRIPS: (Indicate your 1st. and 2nd. choices on the Registration Form.) Greenstone Mountain – In 1998 a forest fire burned over 3,000 hectares. Explore the effects of the fire and how things are recovering five years later. Ends at a sub-alpine area only kilometres from the hot, dry Thompson valley near Kamloops. Lac du Bois - Discover how plants and animals have adapted to the lack of water in this grasslands area rising through three grasslands zones into the dry Douglas-fir forest. Ponds and small lakes are home to many waterfowl and shorebirds and abundant wildflowers brighten the landscape. Mara Hill-Tranquille – Basalts, hoodoos, and canyons are some of the fantastic features found in this area as a result of millions of years of geological history. Tranquille River carved a spectacular canyon through the rocks. It is an important habitat for fish, and water supply for the former Tranquille Sanatorium. Campbell Creek.-Barnhartvale - Water the wonder mover created gigantic gravel piles, spectacular silt cliffs and deep canyons as it traveled from Merritt to Kamloops at the end of the ice age. Find out how lakes, gravels and silts ended up where they are; see some lesser-known areas near Kamloops.</p> |
| We'll spend a short time indoors learning from a team of experts about some of the sculptors of the Kamloops landscape, then head out on field trips with them to learn first hand how features developed and why they look like they do today. There will be time to bird and plant watch, and all the trips have fabulous views over our wonderful landscape. | |
| Private cars will be used – participants share cost of gas. | |
| 7:30 pm | OUTDOORS KAMLOOPS – hot, dry, and special! A slide show by photographers from our club will take you on a wonderful journey through the many Kamloops landscapes and show off our natural history. |
| Enjoy a social evening with desserts and non-alcoholic punch. Meet old friends and tour displays from Kamloops and other clubs. | |
| SATURDAY, MAY 10 | |
| 6:00 am Sign up at the Registration table | EARLY MORNING BIRDING: a) Albert McGowan Pond b) Secwepemc-Yellowhead Pond c) Goose Lake Road |
| 9:00 am – Noon 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm | FBCN DIRECTORS' MEETING FBCN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Please plan on attending these meetings and participate in the business of your Federation. |
| 6:00 pm | FBCN BANQUET and AWARDS “THE NATURE OF FROGS: Amphibians with Attitude” With Harry Parsons, Naturalist interpreter Harry is a herpetologist living in West Vancouver and an advocate for the conservation of reptile and amphibian habitats. He and his staff delivered interpretation services across Canada for 20 years, including 15 years in the Kamloops area for BC Parks. He is actively working towards restoring those programs throughout the province. His book "The Nature of Frogs" was published last year as part of the Douglas & McIntyre/Greystone Books Nature Series. |
| Enjoy a lively presentation by noted interpreter Harry Parsons of Bufo Incorporated. Bring a friend – or two! | |
| SUNDAY, MAY 11 | |
| 8:00 am. – 12 noon (or all day) **Pre-registration preferred. Indicate your 1 st . and 2 nd choices on Registration Form | FIELD TRIPS: A. Knutsford – Guichon – HWY 5A: South through the grasslands and chain of lakes towards Merritt. Peak of migration for waterfowl, hawks, warblers and lots of opportunities for birding. Easy walking. On the way home for Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island, South Okanagan. B. North side of the South Thompson to Wolf Ranch: See the South Thompson from a different perspective. Wolf Ranch has a variety of habitats. Birding, plants. Easy walking. On the way home for Okanagan, Shuswap, Kootenays. C. Lac du Bois - McQueen – Isobel: take a close-up look at the grasslands plants and birds on this tour north of the City. Easy walking, but can chose to be moderate. Leave before lunch, after lunch, or take all day. D. Tranquille: Peak of migration and easy observing at the pond and along Kamloops Lake. Easy walking. Leave before lunch, after lunch, or take all day. |



May 8-11, 2003
 Hosted by the
**KAMLOOPS
 NATURALIST
 CLUB**

In conjunction with
The FEDERATION of BC NATURALISTS
 2002-03 Annual General Meeting



Dry Forests and Grasslands Ecosystems Symposium

May 8, 2003

University College of the Cariboo, Kamloops, BC

| | |
|---|---|
| <p><i>This is a first draft of our proposed symposium, which is open to participants from other conservation groups. Come and learn about the hot issues surrounding our dry forest ecosystems, and discuss with the experts how they should be managed. A short field trip will demonstrate some of what we learn during the workshop.</i></p> | <p>AIMS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To help FBCN members understand the processes that influence the dry forest ecosystems of the southern interior of the province. ◆ To explore the issues that face managers of these forest ecosystems and to discuss management options ◆ To help FBCN develop part of their Forest policy document <p>BACKGROUND:</p> <p>How many times have you heard the words "Ecosystem integrity", "Ecosystem restoration", "Historical development", "Fire-maintained", "Fire-controlled", "Fire-influenced", "Ingrowth", "Encroachment", "Prescribed Fire", "loss of grasslands"? These are only some of the phrases people use when talking about the changes taking place in our dry interior forests and grasslands ecosystems.</p> <p>Naturalists are concerned that our forests and grasslands ecosystems are managed as well as possible so all species can thrive while maintaining a viable livestock industry. We would like to develop a well-thought out position paper on the options available for managing our dry forests and grasslands ecosystems to complement our Grasslands policy paper.</p> |
| <p>9:00 am 9:30 am – 10:30 am 11:00 am – 12:00 pm 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm 2:30 pm – 3:00 pm 3:15 pm – 5:00 pm</p> | <p>DRAFT WORKSHOP THEMES AND PROGRAM:</p> <p>Opening Speaker... Setting the scene Panel 1: Ecology of three NDT4 types Panel 2: Issues Lunch and Poster Session... No set speaking times Panel 3: Management Options Synthesis... Conclusions drawn from discussion Field Tour: Kenna Cartwright Park on Mount Dufferin... The largest municipal park in the province, encompassing a large area of grasslands and Douglas fir forest next to UCC.</p> <p>'Panels' would include a primary speaker who would describe the general picture for each topic, no sides, opinion. Four to six panelists would have 5 minutes each to state their case. Presentations based on scientific and technical information to be presented in a way that naturalists can understand.</p> <p>There will be lots of opportunities for questions and discussion during the panel sessions, and long coffee and lunch breaks for mingling, discussion, reading posters, and asking questions. The Poster Session will showcase some of the research being done in NDT4 forests.</p> |

**** There is no fee for FBCN members**

Please indicate your interest in attending on the Registration Form on the previous page.



FBCN CLUB DIRECTORY

LOWER MAINLAND

| | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Regional Coordinator | George Bangham | 1039 Scantlings Vancouver BC V6H 3N9 | tel: 604-731-7669 | gbangham@hotmail.com |
| Alouette Field Naturalists | Dir: Duanne Vandenberg | 14136 Marc Road Maple Ridge BC V4R 2G5 | tel/fax: 604-463-8743 | |
| B.E.A.R.S. | Dir: Bety Carrington | 1866 Berkley Road North Vancouver BC V7H 1Z3 | tel/fax: 604-924-9281 | bearinitiative@hotmail.com |
| Bowen Nature Club | Dir: D.G. Blair-Whithead | RR 1 D27 Bowen Island BC V0N 1G0 | tel: 604-947-0134 fax: 604-947-0141 | dgbw@attglobal.net |
| Burke Mountain Naturalists | Dir: Jude Grass | 103-7065 Stride Avenue Burnaby BC V3N 1T3 | tel: 604-219-2043 | jgrass1@telus.net |
| Central Valley Naturalists | Dir: Kathy Wilkinson | Box 612 Mainstation Abbotsford BC V2S 6R7 | tel: 604-854-3203 fax: 854-3204 | kwilkins2@shaw.ca |
| Chilliwack Field Naturalist | Dir: David Hutchings | Box 268 Chilliwack BC V2P 6J1 | tel: 604-858-2486 | dhutchings@telus.net |
| Delta Naturalists' Society | Dir: John Whittaker | 6062 16 th Avenue Delta BC V4L 1H6 | tel/fax: 604-584-6550 | |
| Pender Harbour & District Wildlife Society | Dir: Elaine Griffith | Box 220 Madeira Park BC V0N 2H0 | tel: 604-739-7985 | griffith@sunshine.net |
| Royal City Field Naturalists | Dir: Gareth Llewellyn | 1808 7 th Avenue New Westminster BC V3M 2L2 | tel: 604-609-0679 | gllw@nwpl.ca |
| Squamish Estuary Conservation Society | Dir: Nicola Kozakiewicz | Box 1274 Squamish BC V0N 3G0 | tel: 604-898-4860 fax: 604-898-7086 | nikki@mountain-inter.net |
| Sunshine Coast Natural History Society | Pres: T. Greenfield | Box 543 Secheh BC V0N 3A0 | tel: 604-885-5539 fax: 604-885-2904 | greenfieldtony@hotmail.com |
| Stoney Creek Environment Committee | Dir: Jennifer Atcheson | 2625 Noel Drive Burnaby BC V3J 1J2 | tel: 604-420-9132 fax: 604-420-9105 | atcheson@telus.net |
| Vancouver Natural History Society | Dir: George Bangham | Box 3021 Vancouver BC V6B 3X5 | tel: 604-731-7669 | gbangham@hotmail.com |
| Vancouver Natural History Society | Dir: Bev Ramey | | tel: 604-224-7689 fax: 604-224-7622 | |
| Vancouver Natural History Society | Dir: Bert Brink | | tel: 604-224-7078 fax: 604-224-7073 | |
| Vancouver Natural History Society | Dir: Joan Ford | | tel: 604-524-3445 | joanford@universe.com |
| Whistler Naturalists Society | Dir: Bob Brett | #74815 Glacier Lane Whistler BC V0N 1B4 | tel: 604-932-8900 | snowline@direct.ca |
| White Rock & Surrey Naturalists Society | Dir: Alvin Kimmel | Box 75044 White Rock BC V4B 5L3 | tel: 604-541-2452 | limmerak@telus.net |

VANCOUVER ISLAND

| | | | | |
|---|------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Regional Coordinator | Ron Speller | 375 Palm Drive Qualicum Beach BC V9K 2H3 | tel: 250-752-8339 | |
| Arrowsmith Naturalists | Dir: Will Lemon | Box 1542 Parksville BC V9P 2H4 | tel: 250-757-2387 | |
| Comox Valley Naturalists Society | Dir: Frank Hovenden | 1420 McPhee Avenue Courtenay BC V9N 5N4 | tel/fax: 250-338-9962 | fhovenden@shaw.ca |
| Cowichan Valley Naturalists Society | Dir: Loren Duncan | Box 361 Duncan BC V9L 3X5 | tel: 250-746-0240 | loren.duncan@telus.net |
| Mitlenatch Field Naturalists Society | Dir: Rolf Kellerhals | Box 105 Quathiaski Cove BC V0P 1N0 | tel: 250-285-3570 fax: 250-285-2981 | rkell@oberon.ark.com |
| Nanaimo Field Naturalists | Dir: Guy Monty | 633 Belyea Road Qualicum Beach BC V9K 1H3 | tel: 250-713-0072 | guymonty@hotmail.com |
| Pender Island Field Naturalists | Dir: Jan Kirby | 2610 Harpoon RR2 Pender Island BC V0N 2M2 | tel: 250-629-3381 fax: 250-629-9956 | jan Kirby@gulfislands.com |
| Rocky Point Bird Observatory | Pres: David Allinson | 3370 Passage Way Victoria BC V9C 4J6 | tel: 250-478-0493 | goshawk@telus.net |
| Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club | Dir: Nancy Braithwaite | Box 203 Ganges PO Salt Spring Island BC V8K 2V9 | tel: 250-537-9335 | |
| Victoria Natural History Society | Dir: Tom Gillespie | Box 5220 Stn B Victoria BC V8R 6N4 | tel/fax: 250-361-1694 | twg@horizonnet.ca |
| Victoria Natural History Society | Dir: Bob Chappell | 1153 Bewdley Ave Victoria BC V9A 5N2 | tel: 250-388-4696 fax: 250-382-8737 | rwchappell@shaw.ca |
| Victoria Natural History Society | Dir: Ross Archibald | | tel: 250-384-3063 | rossarch@islandnet.com |

THOMPSON-OKANAGAN

| | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Regional Coordinator | Ed McDonald | RR1, S1, C33 Tappen BC V0E 2X0 | tel: 250-835-8802 | mcdonald@jetstream.net |
| Central Okanagan Naturalist Club | Dir: Pat Westheuser | Box 396 Stn A Kelowna BC V1Y 7N8 | tel: 250-769-6605 fax: 769-6627 | hughwest@telus.net |
| Kamloops Naturalist Club | Dir: Susan Hammond | Box 625 Kamloops BC V2C 5L7 | tel: 250-573-3127 | shammond@cariboo.bc.ca |
| North Okanagan Naturalists' Club | Dir: Ken Waldon | Box 473 Vernon BC V1T 6M4 | tel: 250-542-3461 fax: 250-542-5440 | walsted-works@telus.net |
| North Okanagan Naturalists' Club | Dir: Peter Blokker | | tel: 250-545-8297 fax: 250-545-4530 | pfblocker@telus.net |
| North Shuswap Naturalist Club | Dir: Alfred Bawtree | Box 162 Celista BC V0E 1L0 | tel: 250-955-2155 fax: 250-955-2185 | |
| Oliver-Osoyoos Naturalists | Dir: Harold King | Box 1181 Osoyoos BC V0H 1T0 | tel/fax: 250-495-6907 | |
| Shuswap Naturalists Club | Dir: Ed McDonald | Box 1076 Salmon Arm BC V1E 4P2 | tel: 250-835-8802 | mcdonald@jetstream.net |
| Similkameen Naturalist Club | Dir: Lee McFadyen | RR#1 C5 S33 Cawston BC V0X 1C0 | tel: 250-499-5379 fax: 250-499-5379 | mariposaorgf@hotmail.com |
| South Okanagan Naturalist Club | Dir: Eva Durance | Site 33a Comp 3 RR1 Kaleden BC V0H 1K0 | tel: 250-497-6895 | edurance@vip.net |
| Vermillion Forks Field Naturalists | Dir: Madelon Schouten | Box 2074 Princeton BC V0X 1W0 | tel/fax: 250-295-7078 | |

NORTHERN BC

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Regional Coordinator | Sandra Kinsey | 9860 Alpine Drive Prince George BC V2N 5W7 | tel: 250-963-8381 | aa068@pgfn.bc.ca |
| Bulkley Valley Naturalists | Dir: Lorne McIntosh | Box 4209 Smithers BC V0J 2N0 | tel: 250-847-1725 | hoekjh@mail.bulkley.net |
| Mackenzie Nature Observatory | Dir: Vida Tattie | Box 1598 Mackenzie BC V0J 2C0 | tel: 250-997-6913 | vireo@perf.bc.ca |
| Prince George Naturalist Club | Dir: Nancy Muirhead | Box 1092 Stn A Prince George BC V2L 4V2 | tel: 250-564-8432 | |
| Quesnel Naturalists | Dir: Loma Schley | Box 4296 Quesnel BC V2J 3J3 | tel: 250-2343 fax: 250-992-7971 | mschley@quesnelbc.com |
| Skeena Valley Naturalists | Dir: Judy Chrysler | S13 C-A1 RR#4 Water Lily Bay Road Terrace BC V8G 4V2 | tel: 250-798-2535 | weena@telus.net |



| | | | | |
|--|--------------------|---|-------------------|------------------------|
| Timberline Trail & Nature Club | Dir: Ellen Schoen | 9049 Elwood Drive Dawson Creek BC V1G 3M8 | tel: 250-782-4485 | wschoen@pris.bc.ca |
| Williams Lake Field Naturalists Society | Dir: Fred McMechan | Box 4575 Williams Lake BC V2G 2V6 | tel: 250-392-7680 | fred_mcmecan@telus.net |

KOOTENAY

Regional Coordinator Brenda Balaam 940 Celia Crescent, Trail, BC. V1R 1B8 tel: 250-368-9677

| | | | | |
|---|------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Boundary Naturalists Association | Dir: Ruth Kuhl | Box 2191 Grand Forks BC V0H 1H0 | tel: 250-442-8859 | georgeb@sunshinecable.com |
| Nelson Naturalists | Dir: Jim Vincent | Box 893 Nelson BC V1L 6A5 | tel: 250-825-9386 | jayvincent@netidea.com |
| Rocky Mountain Naturalists | Dir: Ian Adams | Box 791 Cranbrook BC V1C 4J5 | tel: 250-426-0268 | ianadams@cintek.com |
| West Kootenay Naturalists' Association | Dir Joan Snyder | Box 3121 Castlegar BC V1N 3H4 | tel: 250-226-0012 | snowdance@telus.net |

AFFILIATE GROUPS

| | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Columbia Valley Field Naturalists | Dir: Tanya Begin | RR4 1557 10 th Street Invermere BC V0A 1K4 | tel: 250-342-9077 fax: 250-342-5095 | begin@rockies.net |
| Kitimat Valley Naturalists | Dir: Walter Thorne | 12 Farrow Street Kitimat BC V8C 1E2 | tel: 250-632-7632 fax: 250-632-2543 | swthorne@telus.net |
| Osoyoos Desert Society | Dir: Marlon Clapson | Box 500 Osoyoos BC V0H 1V0 | tel: 250-495-2470 fax: 250-495-6161 | mclapson@img.net |
| Malaspina Naturalist Club | Dir: Sherri Wretham | 4029 Lyton Avenue Powell River BC V8A 5A6 | tel: 604-485-2602 | sherrif8@shaw.ca |
| Southern Interior Bluebird Society | Pres: Sherry Linn | Box 494 Oliver BC V0H 1T0 | tel: 250-495-7891 | goldstrm@vip.net |
| Sunshine Coast Conservation Association | Dir: Marianne Larsen | Box 1969 Sechelt BC V0N 3A0 | tel: 604-885-6431 | mlarsen@sd46.bc.ca |
| Lillooet Naturalist Society | Pres: Vivian Birch-Jones | Box 1065 Lillooet BC V0K 1V0 | tel: 250-256-4062 | |
| Nanoose Naturalists | Pres: JC MacKenzie | 3265 Huntington Pl Nanoose Bay BC V9P 9H6 | tel: 250-468-7329 | johnmac@macn.bc.ca |

ASSOCIATE GROUPS

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Allan Brooks Nature Centre Soc. Vernon, BC t: 250-260-4227 | Alexander McKenzie Voyageur Route Assoc Kelowna, BC t: 250-860-4782 | BC Watershed Stewardship Alliance Vancouver, BC |
| Biology Coop. Education Coordinators Univ. of Victoria, BC | Boundary Bay Conservation Comm. Delta, BC t: 604-943-6406 | Burns Bog Conservation Soc. Delta, BC t: 604-572-0373 |
| Creston Valley Wildlife Mgt. Area Soc. Creston, BC t: 250-428-3260 | Charlie Lake Conservation Soc. Charlie Lake, BC | Comox Valley Project Watershed Courtenay, BC |
| Evergreen Foundation Vancouver BC t: 604-689-0766 | Federation of BC Mountain Clubs Vancouver BC t: 604-878-7007 | Francis Pt. Marine Park Soc. Madeira Park BC t: 604-883-2730 |
| Friends of Caren Madeira Park BC | Friends of Cortes Island Society Whaleton 250-935-0087 | Friends of Cypress Provincial Park Soc. West Vancouver, 604-922-7949 |
| Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society White Rock 604-536-2636 | Friends of the Stikine Gibsons, BC | Garry Oak Meadows Preservation Soc. Victoria BC |
| Grassy Plains School Burns Lake, BC | The Land Conservancy of BC conservancy.bc.ca Victoria t: 250-479-8053 Vancouver t: 604-733-2313 | Land Trust Alliance of BC Salt Spring Isl. BC t: 250-538-0112 |
| Macdonald Wood Park Society Comox BC t: 250-339-4370 | Marine Life Sanctuaries Soc. Vancouver, BC t: 604-684-6212 | Native Plant Society of BC Vancouver BC t: 604-255-5719 |
| Natural History Soc. of Nfld & Labrador St. Johns, Nfld | Nature Saskatchewan Regina Sask. t: 306-713-6698 | Nature Trust of BC North Vancouver 604-924-9771 |
| Okanagan Similkameen Parks Soc. Summerland BC t: 250-494-8996 | Riverview Horticultural Society Coquitlam, BC t: 604-290-9910 | Sargeant Bay Society Sechelt, BC |
| Save Our Parkland Assoc. Vancouver, BC t: 604-224-7027 | Soc. Promoting Environmental Conservation (SPEC) Vancouver, BC t: 604-736-7732 | Soil & Water Conservation Soc. Langley BC t: 604-888-7511 |
| Somenos Marsh Wildlife Soc. Duncan, BC | Stanley Park Ecology Assoc. Vancouver, BC t: 604-257-6908 | Students for Environmental Awareness Camosun College, Victoria t: 250-370-3139 |
| Swan Lake/Christmas Hill Nature Centre Victoria BC t: 250-479-0811 | Trails BC Vancouver, BC t: 604-737-3188 | West Vancouver Streamkeepers Vancouver, BC t: 604-984-9311 |
| Wild Bird Trust of BC Vancouver, BC t: 604-921-8253 | World Wildlife Fund 1-800-26PANDA | |

BC Naturalist is published four times per year by the Federation of BC Naturalists-# 307 1367 W. Broadway, Vancouver, BC V6H 4A9

Publication Agreement No.40043545