



**BC Nature (Federation of British Columbia Naturalists)
A Fifty-Year History, 1969-2019**

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Introduction

This book was written for the occasion of BC Nature's 50th Anniversary, beginning with its formation and registration as a society in 1969, under the name of the Federation of British Columbia Naturalists (FBCN). The bulk of the book covers the next five decades to 2019, the activities and efforts of the Federation to further natural history education and conservation, and the support provided to local natural history clubs throughout the province.

Writing this account has been a long process over the past decade. After retiring as president, Bev Ramey organized and catalogued the Federation's files for storage in the archives of the University of Victoria. That effort grew into the proposal for a book recounting the history of BC Nature. Together with Sheila Byers, an outline was refined and Sheila wrote the first chapter on formation, based on information in an early Federation publication. Over the next several years, Bev authored additional chapters, working closely with Sheila on edits. Where a chapter has been authored by another person(s), the name(s) has been noted at the beginning of that chapter, or in some cases author names are noted for sections of a chapter, such as the chapter describing Projects. All chapters of the book have benefitted from the collaborative efforts of others, as noted at the start of each chapter.

The appendices provide historical details, many as chronological lists. Some, such as Publications, also indicate whether the text of the publication is posted on BC Nature's website. With the wealth of details in the appendices, this history is meant to not only provide a glimpse of historical activities, but also a useful record for future direction, with information highlighting subjects such as conservation, projects and locations of field camps, AGMs and FGMs.

The final push to complete this history came in 2019, when the FGM was hosted by Burke Mountain Naturalists in Pitt Meadows. That meeting included an historical recognition of the past five decades during which time natural history clubs have worked cooperatively as a Federation, to "Know Nature and Keep it Worth Knowing". In addition, the Fall 2019 issue of *BCnature Magazine*, was devoted to history, including summaries of four of the chapters: Formation, Conservation, Outdoors with Field Trips and Camps, and Communications. The artwork of the cover for this book was repurposed from the cover for that magazine, with thanks to BC Nature's Office Manager, Betty Davison.

This **Fifty-Year BC Nature History** book, including the appendices, is available on the BC Nature website, bcnature.org/history/

Chapter One

Formation of the Federation of British Columbia Naturalists and the First Twenty Years

This first chapter, written by Sheila Byers, is based on Barbara Black's 1988 manuscript. Barbara was tasked with writing the history of FBCN in 1988 through an Employment and Immigration Commission grant that was coordinated by Valentin Schaefer, then of Douglas College. Her account of the FBCN history focused primarily on the evolution of the administrative organization with highlights including camps, education, programs and publications. Conservation initiatives and people's biographies were a small component of Black's manuscript. Bev Ramey provided assistance with this chapter.

To set the stage for the formation of the Federation of British Columbia Naturalists (FBCN) a half century ago, we need to travel further back, to the end of the nineteenth century, when naturalists, mountaineers and outdoor enthusiasts first began exploring and documenting the flora and fauna of British Columbia. Many of them had academic interests in fields such as geology, mycology, botany, ornithology or entomology, and their encounters with the natural world in British Columbia were driven by a constant quest for learning. For these pioneer naturalists, field work and expeditions into the wilderness were a means of reinforcing and expanding their knowledge.

In 1890, a group of forty gentlemen decided to form the Natural History Society of British Columbia. Primarily professionals, these ambitious individuals wanted to encourage "a more organized approach to the study of the natural features of the province and [to provide] ... an independent auxiliary to the Provincial Museum, Department of Agriculture, Department of Mines and the Library of the Legislative Assembly" (Dr. V.C. Brink, 1987). This first "federated" body of Naturalists functioned for some 20 years, primarily from the then culture-base of Victoria, until its dissolution at the time of the First World War. Local natural history societies were also forming around the province: the Vancouver Natural History Society (VanNHS) in 1918; the Victoria Natural History Society (VicNHS) in 1944; and the North Okanagan Naturalists' Club (NONC) in 1951.

The idea of forming a province-wide federation or council did not resurface again until 1957, when a meeting was held by Dr. Clifford Carl at the Provincial Museum in Victoria and the VicNHS established a Standing Committee of Federation. The value of 'citizen scientists' in assisting with species observation and collection throughout the province was readily recognized by the Provincial Museum and academics.

In the meantime, as the 1950s and 1960s brought new concepts on conservation, ecology and managing the environment, so did the realization that human activities such as industry, development, and use of agricultural pesticides were at odds with the natural environment, noticeably impacting and destroying wildlife habitats. Rocket science wasn't required to understand that wildlife and their habitat were in

need of protection, with parkland designation providing one potential solution. People of wide-ranging educational backgrounds were now being attracted to the natural history societies, searching for a means of voicing their disapproval of human consumptive uses of the environment. Not just in BC but also globally, complacency towards management of the environment was evolving towards an ecological awareness. Nature had become political.

Three additional meetings were held in Vancouver (1958) and Victoria (1958, 1960). In June 1962, a spokesperson from the Ontario Federation of Naturalists visited BC and encouraged members of the VicNHS, the VanNHS, and the three naturalists' clubs in the Okanagan to form a Council of Naturalists. This idea was further promoted by David Stirling and Yorke Edwards of the VicNHS. Meetings followed in Vancouver (1962) and the Victoria Provincial Museum (1963), with the decision to hold the inaugural meeting of the federation in Kelowna in May 1963. The founding member clubs of the BC Nature Council were the three Okanagan naturalists' clubs (Central, North, and South), Cowichan Valley Naturalists, Thetis Park Nature Sanctuary Association, the VanNHS, and the VicNHS. Estimated total membership was 1555 people. The board members were: Dr. T.M.C. Taylor, Vancouver (President), Mrs. Lamoureux, Kelowna (Secretary), Mr. Eric Garman, Victoria (Treasurer) and Mrs. Gladys Soulsby, Victoria (Newsletter Editor).

The aims and objectives of the BC Nature Council in 1963 were:

1. To provide naturalists of the province of British Columbia with a potent unified voice in conservation matters;
2. To help coordinate the naturalist activities of Natural History Societies and groups of similar interests;
3. To aid in the formulation of Natural History Societies in British Columbia;
4. To publish a periodical as an outlet for Natural History groups;
5. To promote other activities of interest to naturalists of British Columbia. Examples of these are, sponsorship of summer camps for leaders; participating in Resources Conferences

The time was ripe for the formation of a provincial natural history society. The BC Provincial Government had just formed a new Department of Recreation and Conservation to meet increasing demands for both commercial and recreational uses of public lands. There was a growing understanding amongst the general public of the impact of human activities on the natural environment. People of wide-ranging educational backgrounds—not just scientists—were now being attracted to the natural history clubs, seeing in them a way to voice their concern about human consumptive uses of the environment.

Yet many decision makers of the era persisted with the view that British Columbia's natural resources were inexhaustible. In 1964, the then Minister of Conservation and Recreation William K. Kiernan, declared that *No man who really knows BC could think, even in his wildest imagination, that BC will run out of wilderness for a century at least.* Naturalists, who were in the field and knew what was happening, did not agree. Over the next few years, the BC Nature Council and other affiliated

groups pushed hard for stricter protections for provincial parkland. The BC Nature Council drew up two resolutions to define policy on parks:

- 1) that the primary purpose of a provincial park is the long-term preservation of nature for the education and recreation of future generations, and
- (2) that immediate action be taken to do an inventory of the assets of the provincial parks.

In 1965, the BC Nature Council had the gratification of witnessing the enactment of a new Parks Act. But more importantly, it became a strong voice on conservation matters.

Parks were not the only concern of the new BC Nature Council. Names of its standing committees indicate the breadth of its activities:

- Summer Camp,
- Pacific Nest Record Scheme,
- Parks & Access & Protection,
- Land Management,
- Newsletter & Publicity,
- Threatened Species,
- Biocides & Pollution, and
- Club Affairs.

BC Nature Council to Federation of British Columbia Naturalists

Meetings of the BC Nature Council followed in 1964 in Penticton (Annual General Meeting or AGM) and Victoria (Fall General Meeting or FGM) with an announcement of a contest for a crest design for the Nature Council.



At the 1965 Kelowna AGM, the winning design was revealed: the raven, based on totems of the native peoples of BC, by Margaret Dean, a UBC third-year Zoology major. (Thirty years later when the federation adopted the new operating name of BC Nature, it agreed to change the logo. A new logo designed by a Prince George firm was approved in 2007 and this is the logo in use today.)



In 1966, Peter Legg of Vernon (North Okanagan Naturalists) was tasked with preparing the necessary legal steps for incorporation and Dick Stace-Smith (Vancouver) was elected president for two years (Duncan AGM; Penticton FGM). At

the Vernon AGM in 1967, Peter Legg reported that the Registrar of Societies had advised that incorporation could not be done under the name "Council", so the process moved slowly forward under the name "Federation of British Columbia Naturalists".

When the 1967 FGM was held in Victoria at Thomas Francis Park Nature House (Freeman King's 'kids' will appreciate the location of this meeting), the merits of incorporation were discussed. Vi Gibbard of Naramata reported on the Pacific Nest Record Scheme, and Dick Stace-Smith and Bert Brink reported on their meeting with the Minister of Recreation and Conservation where they "expressed concerns about the status of many parks and proposed parks in the province".

At the sixth AGM in Vancouver in 1968, the pros and cons of the values of incorporating as a federation were discussed yet again. Finally, at the FGM 1968 in Kelowna, motions were passed regarding membership within the Council for nonvoting associates and financial supporters, incorporation of the Council, and annual dues increases from 25 cents to 50 cents per member. At the seventh and final AGM held in Comox, incorporation as the Federation of British Columbia Naturalists was approved under the Societies Act. The draft constitution was accepted and registered on June 3, 1969, officially marking the end of the BC Nature Council and the beginning of the FBCN. The nine founding member clubs were:

- Central Okanagan Naturalists' Club,
- Comox-Strathcona Natural History Society,
- Cowichan Valley Natural History Society,
- North Okanagan Naturalists' Club,
- Prince George Naturalists Club,
- South Okanagan Naturalists' Club,
- Thetis Park Nature Sanctuary Association,
- Vancouver Natural History Society, and
- Victoria Natural History Society.

Elton Anderson

Elton Anderson served as FBCN President from 1971 to 1973; our foremost service award is named in his memory. Anderson's goals as President were to make FBCN "an effective force within the province...[to] work towards the creation of natural history clubs in all areas of the province...[to] devote considerably more time and money into producing a newsletter...[and to] employ a full-time executive secretary." He travelled the province in his 'Tin Tent' (camper truck) enlisting new members and encouraging the formation of new clubs. Elton was widely recognized for his dedication to a number of causes and his uncanny ability to foresee the major environmental issues at an early stage and to bring the facts to the attention of those in government and industry responsible for policy. At the time of his death in 1975, he was engaged in a campaign to keep plastic pop bottles out of Canada.

Many of Elton Anderson's goals are now a reality. There are 53 BC Nature Clubs throughout BC, 57 volumes of the BC Nature Magazine have been published (including the seven earlier years of the BC Nature Council), a full-time Office Manager with a part-time assistant employed in our office; and, perhaps a bit late but nonetheless a national endeavour to reduce use of plastics in our society is underway.

The Elton Anderson Award was established in 1977 to recognize the service of a member of the Federation (BC Nature) who has emulated, to a profound degree, the dedication, devotion and energy exhibited by former President, Elton Anderson, to further the Federation (BC Nature) across the province. (See Appendix 3 for award recipients). In 1983 a carved wolverine was introduced for the Elton Anderson award. This wolverine was carved by noted artist Arnold Mikelson (1922-1984) of White Rock.

Unifying a Provincial Voice through Regionalization

Convincing the local, disparate clubs to work together regionally was yet another challenge. To facilitate this, regional representatives were elected for the three primary concentrations of membership (Thompson-Okanagan, Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island) in 1971 and these representatives acted as coordinators for the clubs in their regions, stimulating regional activities and functioning as an intermediate structure between clubs and provincial directors. In 1974, the annual fall meetings for the Federation were replaced with regional meetings.

The point you had to get across to the members was that the Federation was our provincial voice and by having a unified voice we could have much greater effect on conservation problems.

(Audrey Casperson, Regional Coordinator, Thompson-Okanagan, 1975-1976)

In 1975, the Environment and Land Use Committee of the Provincial Government established seven integrated resource management regions where it would set up regional government offices, thereby decentralizing the existing Victoria-based headquarters. To maximize their awareness and involvement in provincial natural history issues, the Federation decided to adopt an administrative and functional framework similar to that of the Provincial Government. FBCN President Norman (Norm) Pursell decided to give regionalization a one-year trial with the Board of Directors including representatives or chairpersons of the seven regional councils, and the chairpersons being elected by the membership of the constituent clubs. A formal proposal for regionalization was presented by Frank Paul (1975) for review at the 1976 annual general meeting. The regions, clubs and coordinators at the time were:

Vancouver Island – 10 clubs, Neil Dawe
Lower Mainland – 7 clubs, Madelon Schouten
Thompson-Okanagan – 7 clubs, Audrey Casperson
Kootenay – 4 clubs, Bill Merilees

Cariboo – 1 club, Frances Vyse
Omineca-Peace - 4 clubs, Dietger Hollman
Skeena – 2 clubs, Cliff Weeks

Into the early 1980's, there was much 'to do' about the overall effectiveness of the regionalization model. Nonetheless, there was general agreement that the regionalization concept had a unifying effect by establishing a two-way flow between the FBCN Board and the regional coordinators. Regionalization enabled broader discussion of regional concerns and conservation matters with recommendations from the regional clubs being tabled at the annual meetings.

As written by Barbara Black in 1988, FBCN knows that: *Every effort must be made to facilitate communication in the Federation network, from individual members, to clubs, to regions, to the Federation executive.*

Camps

As Barbara Black (1988) aptly expressed: *Federation camp, first a rare (1960's), then an endangered species (1970's), has now established itself as an enduring event (1980's).*

In the mid 1960s, Freeman King (VicNHS) and Dr. Jim Bendell (BC Nature Council President) intelligently structured and administered educational programs for Junior and Senior Camps (respectively) to train participants as naturalists and conservationists and to provide professional academic instruction in many disciplines of natural history. The first sponsored BC Nature Council camp, dubbed the Junior Audubon Camp, was held at the UBC Geology Camp in Oliver in 1964. As successful as the junior camps were, and as good as Dr. Bendell's intentions were to train leaders in natural history, there was a distinct lack of interest on the part of adults with the result that in 1967 the entire camp utopia plunged into oblivion for another decade.

Then in 1977, Norm Purssell organized an exploratory backpacking trip to the Stein Valley high-country and in 1988, Bill Merilees organized a field camp at Waterton Lakes National Park, Alberta. These prompted a resurgence of field camps which continues to the present day.

Development of the summer camp process and structure continued to evolve under the direction of President Dick Stace-Smith. Leaving room for flexibility, he better defined the organizational roles and policies of the Federation relative to those of the member camps. With the assistance of Kay Beamish, the Camp Committee developed the camp guidelines for the benefit of sponsoring clubs, thereby establishing a cooperative effort and sense of continuity, regardless of changes to the Committee or the sponsoring clubs. Profits were split between the host club and the FBCN.

(For more information see *BC Nature History* Chapter 3. Outdoors with BC Nature Field Trips and Field Camps; and Appendix 2. Field Camps and Exploratory Camps).

Education

The FBCN's motto "To Know Nature and to Keep it Worth Knowing" encompasses two important functions of the FBCN: education (to know) and conservation (to keep it worth knowing). As such, where and how does the FBCN begin to educate its membership? In the 1970s, BC Nature Council was providing the basics: educational support materials necessary for the function of the Federation and its member club. At the time, public education was not at the forefront but rather a result of individual club efforts. Here is a list of its educational materials:

- central list of speakers, films, visual aids and other program materials for use as a reference,
- a taped slide-talk: "The Face of British Columbia" by Yorke Edwards (1966),
- a kit to assist in the guidance and formation of new clubs (in part by Jim Grant, 1966),
- a sample constitution,
- suggestions for natural history activities,
- a Naturalist's Guide to the Victoria Region, and
- the BC Nest Record Scheme.

In 1973, Dr. Milt McLaren struck the first formal Education Committee with province-wide representation; but in the days before computers, communication and achievements were few and far between. Although centralized in the Lower Mainland, the 'fixed time-frame' approach of Al Grass and his Educational Services Committee formed in 1978 successfully tackled short-term projects such as publications and workshops. Then in the 1980s the Committee morphed into the Education and Recreation Committee. The reality at the end of the day is that education is the driving force behind all naturalists; it is just a question of degree. But perhaps more importantly, a primary responsibility of the Federation is not just to educate its members about natural history, but also the public at large; otherwise, conserving our natural resources for the long term will be an impossible task.

As for community education, President Jude Grass in the mid 1980s expressed it clearly: *keeping the public aware of conservation issues that relate to natural history is clearly our role in society.*

The Education and Recreation Committee needed to focus on developing a policy or program for school education and community extension programs, particularly when funding was problematic. Part-in-parcel with this promotion was the necessity of dealing with the sensationalisms associated with publicity while being vigilant of not compromising FBCN's reputation or credibility. Dr. V.C. (Bert) Brink picked up the Education and Recreation Committee ball to examine the role of education in the Federation and identify a cause. All members of all clubs were involved in this

philosophical discussion process, but this was no small task. Compiling objectives was not a problem but prioritizing them would be critical if goals were to be achieved. Several large symposia and conference events were organized by the Committee and member clubs sponsored smaller events.

As aptly described by Bert Brink in 1980, It is in becoming more knowledgeable about the outdoors...that we as naturalists find our common pleasures... Our attempt to know and to understand the natural world is the federation's most important role—in a world which, I believe, ever needs greater understanding and appreciation of natural values. There must be in our society common men and women who understand and appreciate these values if we are to adapt to the rapid change technologists are effecting.

Several FBCN cornerstone activities involved a sizable proportion of the membership and included observations of nature, which in today's words would be described as 'citizen science'. The Nest Record Scheme and the Christmas Bird Count were two such important activities. (See full descriptions in Chapter 7. Projects).

The Education Committee recommended naturalist content in the school curriculum and acted as a consultant for government or other nature programs proposed for schools (e.g., Project Wild through the Fish and Wildlife Branch). Long-term goals of the Committee included the development of extension and community programs, and the increasingly popular 'short' one-day programs. The Serpentine Fen 'natural laboratory' and the Ecological Reserves Warden Program to monitor and maintain BC's ecological reserves are two examples in the 1970s and 1980s of FBCN public education and conservation programs. (For more information, see Appendix 9. Publications, and Appendix 11 which includes posters).

Symposia and Roundtables

The Federation and Education Committee sponsored large-scale events such as the symposia and roundtables. Symposia, often co-sponsored with other like-minded organizations or by related government departments, tackled broader subjects like threatened species and management of BC's natural resources. Roundtables usually focused on specific regional concerns and featured a 'pooling' of ideas rather than the development of a specific policy or plan. Symposia were advertised and open to the public, with admission charge as there were more up-front costs. Symposia publications including lectures and proceedings were produced and available as a further resource. These were a valued resource to naturalists and biologists but appear to have had limited public impact. Roundtables generally did not include the public, rather government officials and certain FBCN members. There were no publications, rather more immediate and direct action in the area of concern. Workshops held by FBCN were generally in conjunction with fall or annual general meetings. Examples of workshops included the need for wildlife sanctuaries in the Fraser River Estuary area, natural history leadership and sharing Nature with

Children at Rath Trevor Beach. (See Appendix 10. Roundtables, Conferences and Workshops).

Conservation: A Major Commitment

Black's 1988 history described the conservation efforts made by naturalists as a backbone of the FBCN since the time of its formation. Their contributions, of course, were to protect and preserve the environment and the management of its natural resources. Black chose to expound on one such effort—that of Wildlife Management.

The need to manage wildlife was not recognized formally until the 1970s when it became apparent that immediate action was required to inventory BC wildlife of all kinds, to assess the threats to their habitats and to assure some protection of these species from the increasing demands of the human population. Semantics immediately became problematic: What was 'wildlife'? The type of program initiated would depend on the definition. Historically the definition did not include the reptiles, amphibians and other undesirables of the animal kingdom (nor plants, for that matter). Wildlife was originally denoted (at least by government) to be huntable species or game—animals integral to human survival and sustenance. Fish and Wildlife Branch (within the Ministry of Recreation and Conservation) and formally the Game Branch, grew out of this tradition. Bill Munro described the Fish and Wildlife Branch as being "conceived as an enforcement agency, born as a game agency, and raised as a wildlife management agency." Naturalists at the time, however, did not feel that the Fish and Wildlife Branch had yet reached the third stage of management.

Naturalists considered that all species be recognized as being of equal 'value', each having a right to its own existence beyond the needs of humans. In 1976, the Ministry of Recreation and Conservation announced a review of fish and wildlife management to which FBCN responded, "... for a long time we have felt the Branch has been dominated by a philosophy of management of wildlife for consumptive use only." The FBCN identified that a wildlife management plan should give equal consideration to both harvestable and non-harvestable species; that consideration be "given to the population status of each species together with the necessary habitat required for their existence and continued survival." The FBCN urged that reptiles, amphibians, and small mammals be considered wildlife on a legal basis and be offered protection. Even the BC Wildlife Federation, an organization which approves of the consumptive use of wildlife, in 1977 described the Fish and Wildlife Branch "as labouring under a primitive set of rules in both law and government policy"; yet, followed on by saying that "Non-game species...demand less close attention by management agencies...the fact that certain game species are being hunted demands that a higher level of management is afforded them." This concept that animals exist only for use by people, and that those 'more in use' merit the greatest attention, was distasteful for some naturalists, quickly separating the naturalists from the not-entirely naturalists.

The proposed Wildlife Management Plan was released in 1979 that included a new philosophical concept, thanks primarily to naturalists: a non-consumptive activity that encouraged people to view wildlife in their natural habitat. Naturalists were thrilled with the idea but quickly saw the necessity to establish specific viewing guidelines. They also were quick to point out the potential benefits of viewing to tourism, edging out the old argument that hunting brings in the largest recreational dollars. The FBCN felt strongly that the value of wildlife goes far beyond the dollar sign when including the possibilities for education, culture, and science.

The new Wildlife Act materialized in 1982. Naturalists were pleased with most of the provisions. The definition of wildlife was not as broad as they would have liked, but some bat, reptile and amphibian species had been included. A non-game department was established, along with a Habitat Conservation Fund (1981) to acquire and enhance habitat for wildlife in BC. Funding still largely comes from surcharges on provincial hunting, fishing, trapping and guiding licenses and public donations.

With aims and objectives established, based on education and conservation, "To Know Nature and to Keep It Worth Knowing", impressive accomplishments achieved, and the foresight and enthusiasm of the early change-makers, leaders and founding clubs, there was no question that the Federation of BC Naturalists was already standing on a strong foundation from which to move forward.

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Chapter Two People of the Federation

Written by Bev Ramey, with assistance from Sheila Byers

Over our fifty-year history, it is the people of the Federation of BC Naturalists who shine through as our most important strength. The countless volunteers are the heart and life blood of our organization.

Outstanding individuals have contributed their skills, knowledge and time as presidents, but it is not only the presidents who have contributed substantially to our organization. The many members who have served on the board, as heads of committees, and club representatives also deserve our recognition and appreciation. Yet our strength lies much deeper, drawing on the hundreds of members who have contributed greatly over the past fifty years—members who have not served in a particular role on the federation, but who have supported and contributed a great deal of knowledge and enthusiasm for nature to their individual clubs. The federation is strong because of our member clubs, now totaling fifty-two (2020). Each club contributes with the knowledge and expertise of their local conservation and environmental issues through involvement in their community and then with willingness to share this more broadly with our provincial naturalist community. Member clubs give us strength by hosting and attending AGMs and FGMs, by organizing field trips, evening speakers and field camps, and generally by sharing their love and appreciation of nature.

Joining together, club members share their nature knowledge, support protection of natural areas, foster nature appreciation in local communities and in tandem strengthen our provincial organization.

It is therefore impossible to select specific individuals to specifically recognize in this chapter. With 6000 current members, and considering contributions over the past half century, it would be difficult to select a few out of the many individuals who have provided so much support to the Federation.

Instead, this chapter draws attention to the many contributions of our members that have been recognized and listed in the following five appendices of this history. The *BC Nature History* Appendices can be accessed on the BC Nature website under About/History and Appendices.

Appendix 3. Award Recipients: Listed by year, the individual citations for each of the award recipients can be accessed through the newsletters and magazines for the year of their award presentation. Newsletters and magazines are available online on the BC Nature website, through the log-in members only section.

Appendix 5. Naturalist Mentors: Distinguished Naturalist Mentors have been recognized in the magazine since 2016. Mentors awarded, along with their contributions, are included with each quarterly magazine. Listed by year, the

individual citations for each of the mentors can be accessed through the newsletters and magazines for the year of their award presentation.

Appendix 6. Presidents, Honourary Presidents: The names of presidents are listed along with the honorary presidents (the latter position existing for only a few years).

Appendix 7. Outstanding Volunteers: This appendix provides an alphabetical listing of names of people who have been recognized in the newsletters and magazines for their contributions. For each individual, the page number for their tribute in the BC Naturalist Newsletter or the BC Nature Magazine is provided. In many cases, as our organization is fifty years old, the tribute is a Memoriam to the individual. This compilation shows the depth of volunteer support, as there are close to seventy individuals who have been recognized in the newsletters and magazines.

Appendix 13. Interviews with Former Presidents 1989-1998: Interviews with five past presidents are provided.

Appendix 15. Recollections of Former Presidents 1998-2000: Recollections provided by five past presidents.

In conclusion, although this is the shortest chapter of the Federation's fifty-year history, the countless contributions made by our members is of overarching importance.

Chapter Three

Outdoors with BC Nature Field Trips and Field Camps

Written by Bev Ramey, with assistance from Susan Fisher, Jude Grass, Peter Ballin and Rick Gee. For more details, refer to historical postings about locations of General Meetings and Field Camps on the BC Nature website. Our organization's legal name as it was founded is the Federation of British Columbia Naturalists and this is shortened to FBCN in this article. BC Nature was adopted as our operating name in 2005.

You do not have to go alone into the wilderness to experience the joy of nature. Camps and field trips organized by BC's naturalists' clubs have enabled several generations of members to share and communicate their experiences of the natural world. This bonding has been amplified by the creation of the Federation of BC Naturalists. Through the FBCN, members not only gain a bigger voice on conservation issues, we also gain more territory to explore.

The general meetings provide the formal vehicle for club representatives to come together; yet perhaps it is the field trips offered by the host club that really draw us together. Speakers at the conference portion are well received and the topics are informative; but it is during the field trips that naturalists become friends and strengthen ties, while at the same time learning from the host club as they share their local natural treasures.

Early on, the FBCN adopted the practice of having member clubs host the general meetings, resulting in varied venues around the province. The local club takes great pride in showcasing their beloved natural areas and in sharing stories of how they helped protect the area; or contributed to land purchase. In some cases, the very land we explore was donated by a generous club member. The local naturalists' understanding of the seasonal features of the site and its history make for informative outings. The popularity of field trips shows through the large crowds that attend even the early morning birding, despite start times of 5:30 or 6:00 AM.

It is not just elected board members and club representatives who attend the conferences. Typically, over a hundred ordinary members attend as well. For example, the 1978 AGM in Williams Lake was attended by 130 people. The all-time attendance high was at the FBCN's 30th Anniversary, the 1999 Qualicum AGM, which was organized in conjunction with Nature Canada: 236 people registered. More recently, the Salt Spring Island AGM in 2015 attracted 206 paying registrants, quite the challenge for the host club to arrange, given the limited venues and accommodation on the island.

If conferences and field trips bring us together in friendship, then field camps are the heart of BC Nature. The camps are based in locations throughout the province where we can explore, learn, and strengthen friendships, all while housed each evening in a diverse array of accommodation arrangements, unique to each site. Typically, we gathered together for meals that were frequently organized by

volunteer caterers (e.g., members extraordinaire Pat Westheuser and Fiona Flook have provided tasty meals at seven field camps with much improvisation to fit the different venues).

Not only are the camps a great experience for us naturalists, but the camps (and AGMs and FGMs) often generate a surplus of funds which is split between the host club and BC Nature. This surplus arises even though registration fees are reasonably priced. Clubs put their funds towards good projects. BC Nature uses its portion to fund the travel expenses of Club Representatives and Board members. In some years when several camps are offered, the surplus enables BC Nature to make contributions to one of its internally restricted accounts, such as a project or scholarships.

The importance of camps has been noted during all membership surveys and has been incorporated into strategic plans as goal statements (1998, 2010 and 2015), e.g., "Expand on our high-quality camps and field activities on a regular annual basis as a means of both nature education and fund-raising" (The Next Five Years, BC Nature Strategic Plan 2010 – 2015, p. 9).

Camps began under the BC Nature Council in 1964, first held at the UBC Geology Field Camp at Oliver. The first camp included a 'Junior' component, led by Freeman 'Skipper' King of the Victoria Natural History Society. Field camps continued for four years, but then had a ten-year hiatus until 1978, when Bill Merilees led a field camp at Waterton Lakes National Park (139 registrants). Since then, field camps have continued most years, with registration numbers from 20 to 70 participants. Here is a sampling of locations and some organizer and host club names:

- Nanoose Bay with Bill Merilees,
- Elko near Kikomun Creek with Bert & Ruth Brink and Helen Akrigg,
- Goose Spit (Comox Bay),
- Shuswap Lake, Elsie Nykyfork and North Shuswap Naturalists,
- Balfour (Kootenay Lake),
- Smithers with Rosamund & Jim Pojar,
- Okanagan Lake with North Okanagan Naturalists,
- Victoria, based at UVic, with Victoria Natural History Society,
- Chilcotins Gaspard Creek with Williams Lake Field Naturalists,
- Gardom Lake (Shuswap), Salmon Arm Bay Nature Enhancement Society,
- Lac du Bois with Susan Hammond, Karen Willies and Kamloops Naturalists,
- Sunshine Coast with Pender Harbour & District Wildlife Society,
- South Okanagan with Laure Neish and South Okanagan Naturalists,
- Central Okanagan with Pat Westheuser,
- Comox Valley with Betty Lunam,
- Princeton with Madelon Schouten and Vermilion Forks Naturalists,
- Alaska-Cassiar Highway bus tour with Bill Merilees and others,
- Saturna Island with Anne Murray and Bev Ramey,
- Williams Lake (Gavin Lake), Fred McMechan, Williams Lake Field Naturalists,
- Okanagan (Kelowna) with Pat Westheuser and Central Okanagan Naturalists,
- Quadra Island with Rolf and Heather Kellerhals,

- Eastern Washington Birding with Anne Murray and Eva Durance,
- Boundary Bay Winter Birding with Anne Murray,
- Lillooet Field Camp with Vivian Birch-Jones and Lillooet Field Naturalists,
- Salt Spring Island with Nieke Visser and Salt Spring Trail & Nature Club,
- Fraser Canyon with Janne Perrin and Chilliwack Field Naturalists,
- Tofino with Anne Goose and others
- Harrison Lake with Janne Perrin and Chilliwack Field Naturalists, and
- Telegraph Cove Northern Vancouver Island with John & Heather Neville.

The Bamfield Marine Station has been a popular venue, with about twelve camps beginning in 1987. Over the years, coordinators for these camps included Norm Pursell, Bert Brink, Helen Akrigg, Anne Murray and Anne Gosse.

In 1977 the field camp offering was expanded to include Exploratory Backpacking. Organizers chose destinations that were being promoted as potential parks, and these camps increased awareness of each area's natural values. Participants were typically responsible for their own gear and food and sometimes contributed to transport to remote areas. Destinations included:

- Stein River Valley with Norman Pursell 1977 and 1978,
- Redfern Lake in the Northern Rockies 1991,
- Spatsizi with organizer Ted Stubbs 1992,
- Height of the Rockies with Bob Harris and Norm Pursell 1993,
- Ilgachuz Mountains (West Chilcotins) with Bob Harris and Ted Stubbs 1994,
- Atlin Lake (including rental of houseboats) 1995,
- Lorna Lake (Big Creek Provincial Park) 1996,
- Nonda Creek (Muncho Lake Provincial Park) with Ted Stubbs 1996,
- Jarvis Lakes (Kakwa Provincial Park) with Ted & Pat Stubbs 1998.

Exploratory Backpacking camps were revived in 2008, when Bev and Bill Ramey organized backpacking trips to collect data over a five-year period for the BC Breeding Bird Atlas to these areas:

- Snowy Protected Area (Okanagan Ranges),
- South Chilcotin Mountains Provincial Park,
- Big Creek Provincial Park,
- Kakwa Provincial Parks, and
- the Niut and Potato Range in the West Chilcotins.

For several years there was a Camp Coordinator, Committee and Registrar. For example, in 1993 Norman Pursell was Camp Committee Chair with members Helen Akrigg, Doreen Shaw, and Barbara Blow. In recent years, the Camp Committee has been chaired by Heather Neville; the present chair is Harry Crosby.

For the enjoyment and friendship of members and the enhancement of our knowledge of nature, BC Nature is committed to continuing field camps with the support of our member clubs, and to maintaining the excellent quality of its conferences (AGMs and FGMs) and field trips arranged by the host clubs.

Chapter Four Communication through Newsletters, Magazines, Website and Office

Written by Bev Ramey, with assistance from Susan Fisher, Jude Grass, Peter Ballin and Rick Gee. Volumes of the BC Nature magazine extending back to 1969 can be viewed on the BC Nature (bcnature.org) website, member log-in; then under Publications, click for the year(s) you wish to read. Similarly, scanned copies of the journal, Cordillera, are posted. The Federation of British Columbia Naturalists, abbreviated as FBCN in this account, remains our legal name. BC Nature was adopted as our operating name in 2005.

Since the beginning of FBCN the newsletter has been our steadfast educational publication. Over the past half-century, it has evolved from mimeographed sheets to a typeset newsprint format, to a magazine with a colour cover. For the past two decades we have also benefitted from website outreach, and for the past seven years, a monthly eNews circulation. These media options have provided members with FBCN news including reports on conservation and education activities and nature accounts. Office staff have facilitated these connections for the past 35 years.

Newsletters – the beginning years

In 1963, the BC Nature Council appointed Gladys Soulsby of the Victoria Natural History Society as editor of its newsletter. That early beginning explains why in 2019 our magazine reached Volume 57, while FBCN officially began only 50 years ago. Elton Anderson was editor from 1967 to 1975. Through the newsletter and his travels, he encouraged new members and formation of clubs around the province.

The Federation of British Columbia Naturalists newsletter had a masthead featuring logo, federation name, and mailing address. It was printed on 8.5" x 17" paper, folded in half to provide four pages and published quarterly. By 1975 it had expanded to eight pages and had secured an ISSN number (International Standard Serial Number unique code for identifying publications) by 1976.

By 1980 the masthead title became *B.C. Naturalist* and its length increased to 16 or 24 pages. (The periods of "B.C." were dropped in 1992 to yield *BC Naturalist*). The content of the newsletter resembled that of our present-day magazine with FBCN news, conservation issues, nature articles, reports on club activities and information on upcoming meetings. During that era government staff often provided articles.

In the early years, 'citizen science' observations conducted by our members for the BC Nest Record Scheme featured prominently in the *BC Naturalist*. Begun in 1955 as a UBC project, the Nest Record Scheme was transferred to the BC Nature Council in 1966. Results of the bird nest record cards were documented annually in the *BC Naturalist* for close to 30 years, often requiring two to four extra pages that

were supported by the provincial museum. Volunteer Violet Gibbard of Naramata compiled the information, with assistance from R. Wayne Campbell (*BC Naturalist*, Vol 24, No 2; see also tribute to Violet by Dick Cannings in *BC Nature*, Vol 45, No 1). These annual tallies of nesting birds included names of contributors who provided more than 20 card observations. The extent of this project was huge: between 1968 and 1987 about 170 people contributed over 52,000 cards. The data were of course compiled by hand, as personal home computers did not yet exist.

On Violet's retirement, Wayne Campbell noted that: *almost every article dealing with breeding birds in the Province has referred to the 50,000 or so cards Violet processed during her period as coordinator (BC Naturalist, Vol 24, No 2).* Documentation in the *BC Naturalist* continued for about a decade after Vi Gibbard's retirement and then moved to the Biodiversity Centre for Wildlife Studies, a non-profit organization based in Victoria.

Nature observations by members were also included in the newsletter during the 1980s to 1993 through the quarterly "Wildlife Atlases Progress Report," provided by the BC Provincial Museum (now Royal BC Museum). Other survey data were included, such as the annual Christmas Bird Counts, Bird Blitzes, Swan Counts, and the Interior Eagle Count.

BCnature magazine no longer reports regularly on citizen science but it does, from time to time, include invitations for volunteers to contribute to such efforts led by other organizations. For example, when the five years of data collection for the *BC Breeding Bird Atlas* took place (2008 to 2012), BC Nature partnered with other organizations, led by Bird Studies Canada. Most of the volunteers in the field were members of BC Nature. Similarly, naturalists continue to provide the 'boots on the ground' for the annual Christmas Bird Counts. *BCnature* magazine recently called on members to contribute to the BC Annual Bat Count. We also encourage members to post photos and accounts to eFlora, eFauna and to iNaturalist.

Newsletter to Magazine

Jude Grass recalls that in the late 1970s when she first helped with the *BC Naturalists Newsletter*, the text was pasted on large sheets of paper for printing. The 1980s and 1990s were the decades of newsprint. Jude became editor in 1982, a job she did for the next sixteen years. During that period, the newsletter increased from four to six issues a year. Jude recalls that volunteers no longer did the paste-up: the final text was sent to the printing company for typesetting and layout. Club news grew to one or two pages titled 'Club Chat' before lengthening to six pages in 2005 with short newsy paragraphs provided by clubs. Duanne van den Berg coordinated Club Chat for several years, and then this duty was taken on by the office manager. The newsletter included a directory of the Board and Club Directors. (This information is now on the website.) The newsletter also included registration forms for camps, news on upcoming AGMs, FGMs, and conferences, reports from the president and, occasionally, from regional coordinators.

During those decades, the newsletter included recurring columns, such as:

- “ptarmigan ptracks” by David Stirling on a wide range of natural history themes,
- “The Enlichenment” by Trevor Goward on lichens, with philosophy and humour,
- “Close-Up On Nature” and “Jerry’s Rangers” by Al Grass on nature observations,
- “The Gnat’s Whiskers” by Bunny Ramsdin, a page of drawings and info for kids,
- “Geotalk” by Jim Weston on geology,
- “Haycock’s Herptiles” by Russ Haycock on amphibians and reptiles,
- “Crossword” with nature theme by Betty Lunam, and
- “Perspectives” by Eric Damer with wild-ranging discussions of nature.

In 1998 an editorial board was established and reduced the publication again to quarterly. The newsletter focused on content themes for a few issues, organized by guest editors. In the year 2000 the newsletter transformed from newsprint to a white paper magazine. From 2003 to 2010, the magazine was headed by paid contractor, Dawn Hanna, who acted as editor and designer. In 2003 our motto, “To Know Nature and to Keep It Worth Knowing” was added to the masthead.

Through that decade the magazine included some standard features. “Your Federation is Working for You” covered letters written by the Conservation Committee and the responses it received; this feature also reported on meetings attended by FBCN representatives. Almost all issues included a president’s message, sometimes under headings such as “RavenTalk” or “President’s Perch.” The names of Board members and club representatives were included in the directory portion of the newsletters. The number of volunteers involved in the magazine over the past half century is truly impressive—far too many to name in this account. The list of our 20 past presidents is also too lengthy to mention here. (See Appendix 13. Interviews with Former Presidents 1989-1998; Appendix 15. Recollections from Former Presidents 1998-2020; all available on the BC Nature website under About/History, and Appendices).

In 2007 the new BC Nature logo was incorporated into the masthead design and the name for the magazine became *BC Nature*. In 2009 the space between the ‘BC’ and ‘nature’ was deleted to give *BCnature*. In 2010 the BC Nature office manager, Betty Davison, took on coordination and design, a job which she continues to do. Also, in 2010 our logo was shortened to the direct “Know Nature and Keep It Worth Knowing”. Colour burst forth on the cover in 2012. The current magazine of 32 to 36 pages includes about five pages of ads scattered throughout, similar in proportion to the ads included in the 24-page newsletter of the 1980s.

As I researched this article, I frequently found myself distracted by articles in the old newsletters and magazines. After years and even decades, the back issues of our publications remain entertaining and informative. May our publications continue to have this appeal for readers.

Cordillera

For five years, beginning in 1994, FBCN published a full-colour journal, *Cordillera*, with Frances Vyse as volunteer managing editor. Although the journal published articles with broad appeal, the FBCN lacked the funds and personnel to sustain such an ambitious publication. After full consideration of the options, the journal was terminated in 2000. (See Appendix 13. Interviews with Former Presidents 1989-1998, Syd Cannings; Frances Vyse).

Office and Staffing

Office staff have enabled consistent communication and contributed to the newsletters/magazines, communications with members, other organizations, and government agencies, in addition to supporting the Board and Club Directors. Elton Anderson recognized the need for a communication hub and spearheaded a "Drive for Office" in 1974. His promotion flyer from 1974 is copied below.

FEDERATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA NATURALISTS

OPERATION '74: A DRIVE TO OPEN A CENTRAL OFFICE FOR THE FEDERATION

With an all-volunteer organization and no central office the Federation is, frankly, finding that it can hardly keep up. It was the feeling of the 1973 Annual Meeting at Kamloops that we must open such an office somehow. But we are a long way yet from being able to do this in spite of our better position. So we are trying for one in '74.

Therefore, we are looking for money. From grants, from more clubs and from more non-club direct members, our main income source at present. That leaves the club members. We resisted a move to raise fees because we have hundreds of people on pension. But 95% of the club members do not hold direct membership in the Federation and we think many of these might be interested enough and affluent enough to help in making Operation '74 a success by taking direct membership as well. The coupon below is appended for your convenience, so think it over. If you receive the Newsletter by mail from your club you can avoid receiving a second by saying so below.

Please clip and send to: Federation of British Columbia Naturalists, Mr. J.A. Bailey, Treasurer, R.R. 6, Millstream Road, Victoria, B.C. PLEASE WRITE AS PLAINLY AS THIS.

()	Regular	\$ 5.00	Name _____
()	Sustaining	\$ 10.00	_____
()	Active	\$ 25.00	Address _____
()	Contributing	\$ 50.00	_____
()	Patron	\$100.00	Amount _____
()	Life	\$200.00	Enclosed _____

*You may find you got 2 copies if you belong to a club too.

It wasn't until 1983, however, that a part-time paid Office Secretary, Adeline Nicol, was hired. Adeline worked initially from her home in Langley and then from a small desk in the corner of the Outdoor Recreation Council office in Vancouver. Adeline's title soon became Executive Secretary, with full time hours by 1987. Adeline filled that position until her untimely death in July 1990. Frieda Davidson was hired to

the position. Then in 1994, the position was renamed Office Manager and Leslie Ann Drummond was hired in 1996. By this time the office had relocated to 1367 West Broadway, Vancouver, in space leased from Sport BC. Maria Hamann was hired in 2000 and provided good grounding for our activities for the next decade.

We offered free space in our office to the newly formed Young Naturalists Club of BC under the leadership of Daphne Solecki, beginning in 2004. The Young Naturalists Club is now known as NatureKids BC. We were forced to move when Sport BC relocated to Richmond in 2007. Our search for new office space fortunately landed us in a park. Now we are happily located at the base of Mount Seymour Provincial Park, North Vancouver, in the Parks Heritage Centre, through an arrangement with the Elders Council for Parks in British Columbia, and with support from BC Parks. We continue to provide shared office space to NatureKids BC.

Since Maria Hamann's retirement in December 2009, Betty Davison has ably facilitated communications from our office. Betty has also taken on the duties of magazine coordination and assists the Elders Council for Parks in British Columbia for one day a week. Although digital communication has facilitated correspondence and discussion, it has also expanded the demands of the job. The office receives anywhere from 50-100 emails a day! Given the increased workload, in 2019 BC Nature hired a part-time Office Assistant.

Website and eNews

FBCN's first website went live in 1998. It has gone through periodic updates and at least five makeovers in the ensuing years. For the past decade, the website has been coordinated through the office.

As the key portal to our organization, the website provides information on our conservation and education activities and projects, upcoming naturalist events such as AGMs, FGMs and camps, plus contact information for all clubs around the province. A volunteer from the Communications Committee now helps to keep all this information current.

The website includes a page on our partner organization, the BC Naturalists' Foundation, where it reports on activities. The BC Naturalists' Foundation, a separate yet closely-linked society to BC Nature through appointment of its Directors, receives donations and bequests from which the interest earned is dispersed annually to support BC Nature and its clubs' projects.

The website links to our project, *Nature Guide* (also known as Nature Knowledge or *Wildlife Viewing Guide*), began in 2011. *Nature Guide* describes natural attractions throughout the province, augmented with an interactive map. This material has been compiled through contractors with information provided by local naturalists. Another project link on our website connects to our joint project with Bird Studies Canada, as coordinators for the volunteer caretakers involved in the Important Bird

and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs). Both of these projects can be accessed through the BC Nature website under Know Nature/Nature Viewing.

Since 2012, another digital communication, the monthly BC Nature eNews, reaches all members who provide their email addresses. It includes current BC Nature news, relevant information provided by other organizations, often with a conservation focus, and website links for additional information and job postings. Members can suggest items to the office for posting.

Communication Through the Next Half Century

Digital communication definitely works well in connecting clubs throughout the great distances of our province, although many members feel overwhelmed by the volume of emails they receive. When that happens, as it does frequently for office staff, board and committee members, and club executives, it is time to plan for some outdoor time – the best antidote for digital overload.

Could any of the nine founding clubs and the Board members who signed the society papers in 1969 have imagined that we would grow together as an organization with such expansive communication capabilities? Can we today picture how our organization will change and evolve over the next half century? In the next fifty years, will our wildlife, conservation lands, and marine protected areas be able to withstand the pressures of population growth, pollutants, and climate change? How can we as a naturalist organization continue to improve our communications for the struggles and challenges of the next half century?

Chapter Five Conservation

Written by Bev Ramey, with editorial assistance from Susan Fisher, Jude Grass, Rick Gee; and Peter Ballin, who has chaired the Conservation Committee since 2016.

Throughout, the Federation of British Columbia Naturalists is shortened to FBCN or to the current operating name, BC Nature. All FBCN correspondence related to conservation can be viewed at the BC Nature website, bcnature.ca: log-in as a member, then click Archives. Originals are stored at the archives of the University of Victoria. (Refer also to Appendix 8. Archival Records).

Conservation has always been at the core of BC Nature. Education comes first with “Know Nature” followed by the conservation focus, “Keep it Worth Knowing”. That is our organization’s motto and focus. If we don’t know nature, we cannot act to conserve it. As Joni Mitchell described so well in her song, “you don’t know what you’ve got, ‘til it’s gone”.

Over half a century, many dedicated and knowledgeable naturalists have given their time to BC Nature’s education and conservation initiatives. The following account highlights a few achievements, grouped under eleven headings:

- Return It
- Resolutions
- Resource Management
- Conferences, Roundtables and Advisory Committees
- Brochures and Posters
- Projects
- Park Creation and Land Trusts
- The Dark Years
- Success at the Local Government Level
- A Lesson Learned – Eternal Vigilance is the Price of Conservation
- Energy, Climate Change and Entering the Courtrooms

Return It

An early and successful BC Nature campaign was for legislation to adopt “Returnable and Standardized Bottles and Cans”. In 1968, BC Nature representatives presented this recommendation to the government; they also engaged in public discussions and leaflet distributions. In response to the complaint from stores that they would have to sort many tall bottles, FBCN suggested standardized pop bottles similar to those of the returnable beer bottles. Success! The Litter Act, passed in 1970, required a two-cent deposit on every beer or soft drink container sold. This may seem a small accomplishment, but those who have recently travelled in the UK may have noticed the contrast: the UK has not yet required a return deposit on bottles and cans and many natural areas are littered

with beverage containers. All British Columbians can be grateful for this successful campaign by BC Nature, undertaken in its very early years.

Resolutions

Since the formation of the Federation of BC Naturalists, resolutions have played an important role in increasing awareness, developing policies, and presenting conservation issues to government. Approved resolutions were submitted to governments and follow-up replies were recorded and reported at the next AGM. Resolutions over the past 50 years provide a good historical record of the issues confronting nature and on which our organization has focused. (See Resolutions on the BC Nature website under Protect Nature/Resolutions: *FBCN Policy Manual 1988*, for the early resolutions, the *FBCN Resolution Manual 1988-1994*, and *Resolution Manual 1995 – to the present day*.)

In its first four decades, FBCN considered large numbers of resolutions: 19 in 1972, 23 in 1976, and the all-time high of 31 in 1993. Not surprisingly, the AGMs stretched over an entire day during those years. In the past decade, the number of resolutions has decreased to fewer than five and the AGMs have become manageable in a half day.

Resource Management

The last three decades of the 20th century saw good conservation advances in land and water management, with growing scientific, public and even government recognition of the importance of maintaining natural systems. These were successful years with good, open communication channels with government. Senior government staff often attended our annual and fall general meetings. Key topics included:

- Management for non-game wildlife species, including a halt to predator control, and specifically a ban on use of poison bait and the notorious Compound 1080 (successful in 1998).
- Forest management concerns saw briefs submitted in the 1960s and 1970s on Wilderness, Old Growth Forests, Reservoir Clearing before Flooding (Mica Reservoir), and Identified Wildlife (2004).
- Support for the Agricultural Land Reserve (1970s) and retention of farmland from industrial/urban development.
- Mining was at times a focus, including Uranium Mining. Our resolutions on uranium mining (1978-80) ultimately resulted in a seven-year moratorium and then a legislated ban (2008). FBCN called for regulations to prohibit strip mining and 'cat roads', as well as mandatory land reclamation following mining (1981).
- Poisoning of lakes in the mid-1970s was halted. Lakes were being poisoned to remove native 'trash' fish, so named at the time as they were regarded to have no value for angling.

- FBCN opposed ocean salmon farms and presented to the Panel on Sustainable Aquaculture.
- FBCN was instrumental in establishing the BC Endangered Species Coalition (1994-2000) and then promoting the Federal Species at Risk Act (2003). We are still urging enactment of a provincial Species at Risk Act.

Conferences, Roundtables and Advisory Committees

Conservation issues have been publicized through resolutions, briefs and letters, while conferences, workshops and roundtables have provided education about the issues. These discussions, sometimes in partnership with other environmental groups, brought naturalists and academics together with senior government staff.

In the 1960s and 1970s, FBCN championed the values of the Fraser River Estuary and Boundary Bay and raised public awareness about the importance of the Pacific Flyway. (This campaign continues today with opposition to the second terminal at Roberts Bank and reinforcing the value of the Fraser River Estuary Important Bird Area.)

In 1975, FBCN organized "The Need for Sanctuaries in the Fraser River Estuary", a conference led by some of our province's most influential naturalists: Barry Leach, Dick Stace-Smith, Bert Brink and Jude Grass. Afterwards, FBCN founded the Fraser River Coalition that organized subsequent conferences in 1977 and in 1987. FBCN presented a brief on "Protecting the Fraser River Delta" to governments in 2005 (prepared by Anne Murray). All these efforts have helped to secure designation of several provincial Wildlife Management Areas in the lower Fraser River.

We sponsored conferences, and workshops on other topics, including: Threatened and Endangered Species (1981 and 1984), Bits and Pieces Symposium on the natural diversity of our province (1987), Old Growth Forests (1990), and Land for Nature through which at least 16 workshops were held around the province in the 1990s. Most of these conferences and workshops resulted in publications that further made known the conservation concerns and recommendations. In addition, many of the AGMs and FGMs have featured a conservation theme, helping to spread awareness and call to action.

BC Nature representatives have further influenced conservation policy through participation in Advisory Committees organized by government, including:

- Forest Land Use Liaison Committee 1970s (Co-chair Dick Stace-Smith)
- Agriculture-Wildlife Advisory Committee 1990s (first named Problem Wildlife Committee) through to 2000
- Kemano-Nechako (long-time advocate June Wood), through the Rivers Defense Coalition (1987-1995) and then promoting environmentally responsible management of the Nechako through to the present

- Off-Road Vehicles (long-time volunteers Joan Best and Bev Ramey); first raised by FBCN in the 1960s, and with at least ten resolutions over the decades since. Legislation finally approved 2014 requiring licensing
- Wetlands Stewardship Partnership 1990s onwards
- Several regional committees on LRMPs (Land and Resource Management Plan) and PAS (Protected Areas Strategy) in the 1990s resulted in the establishment of provincial parks.

Brochures and Posters

FBCN provided nature education through brochures and posters, with the aim to conserve sensitive natural areas. Our brochures included: "Fraser River Estuary", "Wildlife Viewing in Regions of the Province", and "Sea-bird Survival". Two posters were produced on endangered plants and birds (1970s). In the 1980s we produced posters highlighting three types of fragile landscapes: Wetlands, the Alpine, and Grasslands. FBCN also published policy papers on Grasslands (2000) and Marine Protection (2001).

Projects

BC Nature undertook several conservation projects, supported by educational stewardship materials, through paid professional contractors that were hired with the help of outside funding. BC Nature oversaw these projects, which typically supported and extended the work of local naturalist clubs by providing outreach and hands-on activities. In several cases, the contractor provided the final 'professional packaging' for the naturalists' observations (citizen science field records). This 'professional packaging', nowadays often electronic, ensures observations made by naturalists are usable by government resource agencies. Major projects included:

- Wildlife Watch, late 1980s, with contractor April Mol
- Land for Nature, 1990 to 1998, beginning with contractor Nora Layard
- Living by Water, 1997 to about 2005, when it grew to the national level under Nature Canada, contractors Clive Callaway and Sarah Weaver (Kipp)
- BC Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs), 1996 to the present day (with Bird Studies Canada and Nature Canada). Volunteer Anne Murray has provided ongoing oversight; current contractor Krista Kaptein supports 50 volunteer caretakers overseeing most of BC's 82 IBAs, and
- Wildlife Tree Stewardship (WiTS), 2001 to 2010+ (volunteers Ron Speller, Jude Grass; contractors Kerri-Lynne Wilson, Ian Moul and Lisa Scott).

Park Creation and Land Trusts

The 1990s were the heyday of park creation, with extensive public involvement through government-sponsored land use and resource management planning

committees, with representatives from a range of public and industrial interests. Provincial parkland doubled in area from 5.7% of the province in 1990 to about 12% by 2001.

FBCN contributed directly to the establishment of at least 12 Provincial Parks. Our first office manager, Adeline Nicol, was a key figure in the effort to create the Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park. Another important park advocate was Bert Brink, whose efforts to establish the South Chilcotin Mountains Provincial Park dated back to 1937. Naturalists have been strong supporters of Ecological Reserves and the Friends of Ecological Reserves. Several BC Nature members serve as volunteer Ecological Reserve Wardens. Naturalists contributed to establishing three National Parks within BC and we continue efforts to establish the South Okanagan/Similkameen National Park Reserve and to expand National Marine Parks off the BC coast.

Many individual members and local clubs within the federation have supported Land Trusts in BC, locally and provincially, through contribution of private lands, donations and membership on Land Trust Boards.

Throughout the 1990s, there were many occasions for celebration. When each new park was established, there would be a media event with politicians announcing their good news and conservation groups, including FBCN, sharing in the celebration. Sadly, times have changed: in the present decade, we are more likely to meet up with conservation groups at public hearings or at legal challenges in court than at celebrations for new parks.

The Dark Years

The 1990s era of government enlightenment was unfortunately followed by cuts to budgets and staff, from the late 1990s through the first decade of this 21st century. Reduced staff in the 2000s and different political priorities saw deterioration in communication with government. Meetings with politicians became difficult to arrange and rarely occurred. Even our letters went unanswered or received only superficial replies. In recent years we have seen signs of gradual improvement, both provincially and federally.

In response to government budget cuts, BC Nature organized the "HELP MELP" campaign from 1998 to 2001 to restore funding to provincial environmental management, parks and forestry research. "MELP" was the then-named provincial Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks. A coalition of 52 conservation and nature organizations from "A to Z" (with the Z for the Zeballos Fish and Game Society" participated in this campaign. Although initially successful, it floundered with the changing provincial government in 2001. The early 2000s were the years at both the provincial and federal levels, where environmental legislation was weakened, monitoring reduced, and budgets for long-term scientific biological research slashed. Government staff who remained were not free to engage with the public and media.

In 2001, the provincial government cut all provincial park interpretation programs. BC Nature campaigned to reinstate park interpreters, without success. In response, from 2004 through 2010, BC Nature directly employed summer interpreters, hired through job creation programs and assisted with on-site support from the private Park Facility Operators. In 2008, at the peak of this BC Nature program, 37 summer Park Interpreters provided programs in 23 Provincial Parks, with an estimated 133,000 people attending. By 2010, government reduced support for this program. At the 2010 FGM the Club Directors voted to terminate our involvement unless government provided some support; that support did not materialize.

Success at the Local Government Level

By contrast, during the years that BC Nature's communications with senior governments deteriorated, many natural history clubs established good communication with their local and regional governments and were able to protect important natural areas.

During the 1990s, contract biologists employed through BC Nature's Land for Nature project worked with local clubs around the province to document key natural areas, then provided municipal and regional governments with this documentation and rationale to protect the sites. In addition, workshops enabled clubs to pursue constructive means for protecting these areas.

Naturalists familiar with their local landscapes have the experience and resources to advocate knowledgeably for the protection of environmentally sensitive natural areas, including many wetland and grassland sites. These were often smaller areas overlooked by the high-profile campaigns to protect large wilderness tracts. Many of these smaller parks protected through the Land for Nature campaign now serve as important corridors connecting larger protected areas, providing critical habitat for species at risk. Local naturalists' clubs have been successful in these endeavours because the value of well-documented local knowledge from community residents is powerful. Local clubs also offer important ongoing stewardship roles for these natural areas as volunteer wardens and caretakers, advisory committee members, or through hands-on restoration and enhancement activities. Ongoing vigilance and involvement of this kind has been essential for conservation.

An example of a successful local conservation initiative was led by the Thetis Park Nature Sanctuary Association, one of the nine founding clubs of the Federation of BC Naturalists in 1969. The club formed with the specific purpose of persuading government to dedicate a park surrounding Thetis Lake, just outside of Victoria. The club had arranged with local government to take on management of the area in 1958. But it would take until 1975 for the area to finally obtain park status, after which the club disbanded. The Capital Regional District Parks took over park management in 1993.

A Lesson Learned – Eternal Vigilance is the Price of Conservation

The conservation files of the past 50 years of BC Nature show, sadly, the same story over and over again: battles are won but then the underlying issues, which have never gone away, rear 'their ugly head' once again. For example, even in designated parks, issues such as boundary adjustments, inappropriate land uses (e.g., pipeline crossings), or proposals such as new 'fixed-roof accommodation' continue to arise. The lesson? If naturalists want an area protected in perpetuity, continued vigilance will be required!

Major industrial developments that naturalists' thought had been defeated have also resurfaced. We celebrated in the early 1980s when the Site C dam proposal was turned down by the Public Utilities Commission, only to have this proposal resurface with construction approved in 2014. Despite further review, construction of the dam began in 2018. A second example is the Manning/Skagit "donut hole". While naturalists were waiting for the Skagit Environmental Endowment Fund to negotiate purchase of the old mineral claim, the area was partially logged; now there is a new application for further mineral exploration.

Energy, Climate Change and the Courts

FBCN activism on energy issues dates back to 1976 when our organization presented a brief on the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline at the Berger Hearings. At the time, this was an anomaly: our primary focus was improving land and wildlife management and protecting natural areas. In recent years, however, BC Nature's Conservation Committee has taken a stronger stand on energy development proposals. Site C has been just one of several energy-related development proposals in the 21st century, that caused the Federation to broaden its conservation focus. In 2002, naturalists and other groups managed to defeat the proposed Sumas 2 Power Generating Plant proposal. We have also addressed several other energy development proposals: environmental impacts of coalbed methane extraction (including in the Princeton area); shale fracking to extract oil and natural gas and develop Liquefied Natural Gas for export; Independent Power Projects; wind farms; port expansion in the Lower Mainland; the Enbridge Northern Gateway and the Trans Mountain expansion pipelines.

The old strategies of letter-writing, meeting with government officials, and public mobilization have not been effective for these complex issues. So, in 2012, BC Nature took the major step of engaging in legal action to oppose the Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline to Prince Rupert; the proposed pipeline was finally turned down in 2016. This legal engagement was made possible through the extensive *pro bono* contributions of UVic's Environmental Law School and now CELL (Pacific Centre for Environmental Law and Litigation). BC Nature Presidents and Board have followed the legal process closely and decided to continue this work through similar actions with the Trans Mountain Pipeline.

Conclusion

Over the past half century, BC Nature has succeeded in increasing public and political awareness and in protecting important natural areas. This work has for the most part been enjoyable: sharing our knowledge of the natural environment and acting on our passion for protecting nature. Gathering data to support our recommendations, writing letters, briefs, and resolutions, organizing and speaking up at meetings and hearings have been satisfying and worthwhile activities. Of course, we have been disappointed with the outcome of some campaigns. We have learned that as soon as one conservation issue is resolved, another will pop up, while at the same time we must watch over areas seemingly protected. There is no end to this work.

But, as naturalists, we have learned to ease our disappointments and regain our energy with a walk in a forest or grassland or along a quiet shore. We have been able to re-energize ourselves for the struggle ahead by reflecting on the values of conserving biodiversity and by providing a voice for nature.

Chapter Six Education

Written by Bev Ramey with assistance from Marg Cuthbert and Sheila Byers.

Education is the core of BC Nature. Education is the “Know Nature” in our motto. If we do not know nature, then there is little hope that we will be able to “Keep it Worth Knowing”. Education is the first clause in BC Nature’s constitution, and two additional clauses cover the means of communication to foster education. The fourth and last clause of the constitution focuses on conservation (the “Keep it Worth Knowing” part of our motto). Here are the three clauses with a basis in education:

- *Foster an awareness, appreciation and understanding of our natural environment, that it may be wisely used and maintained for future generation,*
- *Encourage the formation and cooperation of natural history clubs throughout BC, and*
- *Provide a means of communication between naturalists in BC.*

Education to increase awareness, appreciation and understanding of nature relies on a variety of means of communication. Through the fifty-year history of BC Nature many styles of communication have remained the same; however, electronic means have entered the tool kit in the past twenty years.

Several of the chapters of the BC Nature History describe aspects of education, indicating how firmly rooted education is throughout our activities. This chapter highlights those educational components, including field camps, general meetings, symposium, conferences, projects, publications, office communication, support for youth, club projects and electronic communication.

An Education Committee was struck by the BC Nature Council in the early years under Milt McLaren (1973), followed by the Education Services Committee in 1978 under Al Grass. By the 1980s the Education and Recreation Committee was led by Bert Brink with a broadened purpose of not only educating its members, but also the public, land managers and politicians. Education efforts have continued through to the present day.

Fields Camps and General Meetings

Since 1977, BC Nature has offered field camps (getting out and about in nature) in most years. Even as far back as the 1960s, the BC Nature Council offered camps. The field camps, usually hosted or co-hosted by a local club, have provided amazing opportunities and outdoor venues to learn about nature in British Columbia with knowledgeable local naturalists leading explorations of the diversity of BC’s ecosystems. The one-on-one communication or small groups that take place outdoors in field camps is the most powerful form of nature education and has

remained a constant throughout our history. Province-wide field camps also foster camaraderie between fellow naturalists, thereby leading to further sharing of natural history knowledge. (See Appendix 2. Field Camps and Exploratory Camps for a listing of camp locations through the years, most with the host club named).

Annual General Meetings (AGMs) and Fall General Meetings (FGMs) at first naming do not seem an educational offering, but these general meetings usually include a conference portion with speakers and field trips, some including daylong field trips in advance of the general meeting. Similar to field camps, these conferences have provided great opportunities to learn about nature throughout BC. (See Appendix 1. AGM and FGM Locations, Host Clubs, Themes).

Symposia, Conferences, Publications and Meetings as a Means to Link Conservation and Education

The Education and Recreation Committee organized several large symposia, roundtables, conferences, and workshops through the 1980s and 1990s. A description of the approximately twenty such conferences that were organized during that era are provided, along with the additional sixteen workshops organized through the Land for Nature Program. Educational themes typically focused on a conservation topic such as Endangered Species, Natural Diversity, Provincial Land and Water Use Strategy, Grasslands and Marine Protected Areas. (See details in Appendix 10: Roundtables, Conferences and Workshops).

Many of the large conferences, or smaller symposia and workshops resulted in publication of the proceedings. An annotated twelve-page listing of these publications of the many Federation of British Columbia Naturalists (FBCN; now BC Nature) has been compiled (See Appendix 9. Publications). In addition, publication of books was supported, such as *Attracting Backyard Wildlife* (1990) by Bill Merilees.

Some of the workshops were held as part of an AGM conference, usually involving an extra day of speakers and field trips. These conferences, symposia and roundtables often included other nature-based organizations and were open to interested public. Government land managers attended, so these events were also a means to highlight and expand nature knowledge around conservation issues for land managers. Such theme-specific workshops, roundtables or conferences have not been independently organized since 2004, but fortunately the conference-themed portions of the AGMs and FGMs, arranged by local clubs, have continued to provide education on natural history topics through to the present day.

Further to highlighting the intrinsic link between education and conservation, the Education and Recreation Committee, together with the Conservation Committee, endeavored to schedule bi-annual meetings with elected officials. The aim of those meetings was to broaden the politician's awareness of nature and land management issues. The well-thought-out agendas generally covered about five key topic areas, often including the subjects of resolutions passed at the AGMs.

Senior staff attended together with the politician(s). There was a hiatus in such meetings during the 2010s as politicians became less willing to meet, but moving into the 2020s, BC Nature is again trying to arrange such meetings.

Posters

BC Nature produced educational posters to highlight Species at Risk. The first poster was produced in 1977, titled "LOOK...ENJOY...LET THEM BE". This poster showed endangered BC plants and was distributed free to all schools in BC and to other youth organizations (15,000 full colour copies were distributed). The poster was coordinated by the FBCN, the Alpine Garden Club and the Vancouver Natural History Society (VanNHS; now Nature Vancouver). The success of that poster soon led to a second poster, "LOOK...LISTEN...BE CONCERNED", which showed full colour photos of threatened birds. In 1980 a poster on the Vancouver Island Marmot was produced. This was followed by a series of three posters drawing attention to "Fragile Habitats". The first two fragile habitat posters were produced with the VanNHS and showed Alpine Flora (1984) and Endangered Wetlands (1987). This was followed in 1996 by the "Interior Grasslands: Limited and Unique".

Projects

The FBCN and its clubs have been involved since the 1970s with citizen science projects (although not then labelled as such) where members contributed to the BC Nest Record Scheme and to annual Christmas Bird Counts. The BC Nest Record Scheme, coordinated by BC Nature for over two decades, documented annual findings in our newsletters. (See Chapter 7. Projects).

Land for Nature was an important project during the 1990s and is also described in detail in Chapter 7. It had a large educational component, helping local clubs identify their key local natural areas with documentation appropriate to enable governments to designate these areas for protection. Sixteen publications arose from that project with educational titles such as: "Tools and Mechanisms for Preserving Green Space", "Incorporating Natural Areas in Community Planning in the East Kootenay", and "Understanding Municipal Environmental Planning, Squamish." (See list in Appendix 9. Publications).

The Project chapter describes the several educational projects organized and administered by the FBCN (BC Nature). Not all projects were directed specifically towards member naturalists. Some projects reached out beyond the naturalist community to increase public awareness of nature. For example, a component of the project "Living by Water", offered workshops to realtors to raise awareness that development of lake front properties was damaging the lakeshores. Another outcome of The Living by Water project was the production of pamphlets and an illustrated book; both were written for anyone living beside a lake or wetland to show 'how to live' in harmony with water. This project was so successful that it went national.

“Wildlife Tree Stewardship” is another example of a project that reached out to the broader public through signs posted on snags to advertise the value of the ‘snag’ as a wildlife tree for cavity nesters.

The following projects all had a major educational focus. (See Chapter 7. Projects).

- BC Nest Record Scheme and present-day BC Breeding Bird Atlas (with Bird Studies Canada and other partners)
- Land for Nature (initially named Land for Wildlife)
- Living by Water
- Wildlife Viewing
- Naturescape (with the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation)
- Conservation Action Marketing Program
- Ecological Reserve Wardens (gathering together with Friends of Ecological Reserves)
- BC Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) (with Bird Studies Canada and Nature Canada)
- Wildlife Tree Stewardship (WiTS)
- Park Naturalists in BC Parks
- BC Nature Guide (Harnessing Nature Knowledge), web-based

The above projects (and note that the IBA caretakers and the BC Nature Guide both still continue), had a broad range of educational components, including:

- improving observational skills through recording data over time,
- workshops and field trips,
- publications,
- dramatic presentations and skits,
- bringing interested naturalists together to share and learn from each other,
- increasing awareness about natural areas for the general public, and
- increasing knowledge and planting skills associated with building wildlife friendly gardens in the backyard and beyond.

Newsletter, Magazine and Office

Throughout the fifty-year history of BC Nature, educational materials have been shared through our *BCnature* magazine: originally printed as mimeographed sheets, followed by a typeset newsprint newsletter, then black and white magazine, and nowadays with a cover in full colour. (See Chapter 4. Communications through Newsletters, Magazines, Website and Office). The newsletters often included theme-focused education columns. Chapter 4 also describes the five years of production during the mid-1990s of the provincial natural history journal, *Cordillera*.

Another aspect of communication covered in Chapter 4 was the “Drive for Office” in 1974, to establish an office and eventually to staff it with a full-time office manager. Office staff have been essential to communication, sharing of educational

materials amongst members, facilitating arrangements for field camps and promoting conferences and general meetings.

Electronic Communication

New ways to communicate nature knowledge and connect with other naturalists have been enabled through electronic communication. BC Nature's first website went live in 1998. The website appearance has improved through several technological upgrades. Website modifications continue and the use of social media is expanding. Each club of BC Nature has its own subpage on the website, which provides highlights of the local club's activities, information on how to join with a link to the club's own website. A separate website is dedicated to the BC Nature Guide (Harnessing Nature Knowledge) that provides locational site maps, with the site's natural history information, on over 400 local natural areas throughout BC. The guide is supported by interactive maps and written for the general public or visiting naturalists. Access the BC Nature Guide through BC Nature website under Know Nature/Nature Viewing.

Electronic communication has enabled monthly eNews circulation to all interested members from about 2012 onwards. Many links are provided in the eNews for nature events, including those of member clubs, plus activities of other groups and agencies.

Connecting with Youth

Connecting with youth has been an ongoing interest, dating back to the time of the BC Nature Council which offered summer camps for "junior naturalists". Yet it wasn't until the 1990s that BC Nature encouraged the formation of the Young Naturalist Club (now NatureKids). BC Nature has provided office space to NatureKids since the mid-2000s. (See Chapter 8. Formation of NatureKids BC for further information).

BC Nature has provided financial support for youth since 1999 through contributing cash awards annually to the twelve Regional Science Fairs throughout BC, at both the junior and senior levels. Local clubs are encouraged to mentor students with their projects, help with judging and attend the Regional Science Fair awards ceremony. In 2019, all twelve regions in BC had a BC Nature club representative attending the Fairs to present the junior and senior awards. An article and photo description are included annually in the *BCnature* magazine.

In 2005, a scholarship was created in memory of Rene Savenye, and then in 2019 a second scholarship was established in memory of Bert Brink. BC Nature members who are students, or members who have student relatives, are eligible when enrolled in studies in the biological fields. The Savenye Scholarship is awarded annually to an undergraduate and the Brink Scholarship, to a graduate student. (See Appendix 4. Scholarship Recipients for a list of past recipients).

Supporting Club Projects

Hands-on projects are another means of supporting education in the outdoors, such as restoration activities, nature trail improvements and building nest boxes for birds and bats. BC Nature, in partnership with the BC Naturalists' Foundation, provides grants annually to support club projects, dating back to the early 1990s. The Foundation provides an annual grant to BC Nature to support these educational projects. Most of these projects include countless volunteer hours contributed by club members with hands-on activities outside in nature; or, through the production of educational materials for the public such as brochures on birds, butterflies or plants. To see a full listing of club projects supported over the years, refer to Appendix 12. BC Naturalists' Foundation, Grants Awarded since 1991; or, access the Foundation's subpage on the BC Nature website under About.

Present-day Education Committee

The Education Committee was revitalized in 2013, with a new terms-of-reference and annual work plan. The Committee connected with all the member clubs through an online survey to learn about their nature educational offerings and to better understand how BC Nature could support them. The Education Survey Report in 2014 showed that many of the clubs were producing brochures and field guides, offering walks, talks, school programs and scholarships, as well as participating in school science fairs.

The Education Committee initiated a recognition of naturalist mentors in 2016 through the *BCnature* magazine, where two naturalist mentors are highlighted in each of the quarterly *BCnature* magazines. Naturalist mentors are personally acknowledged at both the AGMs and FGMs with the presentation of a certificate of appreciation. The Committee has drafted a "Getting Outdoors Tips for Teachers" and a "Toolkit for Naturalist Mentors" that are posted on the BC Nature website under Know Nature/Nature Education.

The Education Committee has also promoted communication and participation of member clubs by requesting that each club appoint an education liaison to the committee. The purpose of the club liaison is to ensure that BC Nature is kept informed of the club's nature education efforts, promote sharing of ideas, needs and points of view. NatureKids BC now participates on the Education Committee to share those accomplishments of the youth clubs and to support their needs.

Education IS the core of BC Nature not only because it is embedded in the Society's constitution but because all our members thrive on the magnificent beauty and wonder of nature in all its glorious diversity. Natural 'nature-lovers', our members innately **want** to "Know Nature" and **strive** to "Keep it Worth Knowing".

Chapter Seven Projects

Written by Bev Ramey, with editorial assistance by Susan Fisher. Some of the major project descriptions have been authored by a lead person with that project; their name is noted at the start of that project description.

BC Nature has undertaken several special projects in order to serve our mission – to "Know Nature and Keep it Worth Knowing." Projects typically support and extend the work of local naturalist clubs by achieving measurable results on the ground, providing public education, involving members in hands-on activities, and promoting greater awareness of nature. Often projects provide the final "professional" packaging for citizen science, ensuring that the data provided by naturalists will be taken seriously by governments and land agencies.

Projects are funded through grants received from outside agencies, foundations, and donors. Contractors are hired to complete the tasks. Projects are overseen by the volunteer BC Nature Board or a sub-committee. The number and type of projects depend on the time and capability of the volunteers to administer them, and on the availability of grants. Some projects are administered jointly with other non-profit organizations, thus strengthening our networks of working relationships. Some projects are specific to a geographic region, while others cover the entire province. Some have a short duration; others have extended over many years.

This chapter surveys the major projects that BC Nature has coordinated over the past five decades. BC Nature has contributed to smaller projects, some which have become large projects, led by another organization or agency, for example:

- BC Wildlife Watch,
- publication of Wildlife Viewing Brochures for several regions of the province (2013 through 2015 and which have been refocused into the current website-based *BC Nature Guide*),
- Ecological Reserve Wardens Gathering held in 2003 in Kamloops and organized with Friends of Ecological Reserves,
- the three-poster series to increase awareness of fragile landscapes (Alpine, Wetlands, and Grasslands), together with Nature Vancouver, and
- the Naturescape program in the late 1990s, which aimed to train naturalists as ambassadors in their communities for wildlife-friendly gardens, with lead Sylvia Pincott from FBCN, who worked together with the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation to publish 'how-to' guides and promote gardening for wildlife through our province.

The longest-running project with other partners has been the Christmas Bird Counts. Since 1954, BC naturalists' clubs have been involved in the counts that take place across North America. In Canada, the counts are currently coordinated and tallied by Bird Studies Canada. In 1968, eight naturalist clubs in BC participated. By 2015, about 35 clubs participated in the Christmas Bird Counts, and club participation continues to grow.

Major projects, listed below, are further described in more detail. These are:

- BC Nest Record Scheme and present-day BC Breeding Bird Atlas (with Bird Studies Canada and other partners)
- Land for Nature (initially named Land for Wildlife)
- Living by Water
- Conservation Action Marketing Program
- BC Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) (with Bird Studies Canada and Nature Canada)
- Wildlife Tree Stewardship (WiTS)
- Interpretation in BC Parks
- BC Nature Guide (Harnessing Nature Knowledge)

BC Nest Record Scheme

The Nest Record Scheme, or “Pacific Nest Record Scheme” as it was first known, began in 1955 as a UBC student project under Drs. M.D.F Udvardy and M.T. Myres. It was designed as an ongoing process to gather data for ornithologists, government personnel, academic researchers, and naturalists. Initially it included eleven American states, as well as BC and the Yukon. In 1966, Dr Jim Bendell, then President of the BC Nature Council, transferred the program from UBC to the Council.

Violet (Vi) Gibbard, of Naramata, volunteered to organize and coordinate the nesting data. Within two years, the unwieldy geographic range was reconfigured to create regional nest record schemes in each of the eleven ‘Pacific’ states; the BC operation was named the BC Nest Record Scheme.

Volunteer naturalists recorded on standard index cards their observations of bird species, number of eggs or young in the nest, success of fledglings, description of nest and surroundings. Vi Gibbard coordinated the program for two decades, during which time her dedication never faltered. Each year in early spring, she would mail out blank cards to participants and then gather completed cards at the end of the summer. As Dick Cannings noted in a tribute to her in 2007, *Violet was an ideal role model for the scheme, contributing more than 100 cards each year herself, filled in with incredible detail.* The results of the nest record cards were documented annually in the *BC Naturalist* from 1966 to 1986, with the information often two pages in length, compiled by Vi, with assistance from R. Wayne Campbell. (See *BC Naturalist*, Vol 24, No 2 and *BCnature*, Vol 45, No 1).

The scope of the scheme was extensive. Between 1968 and 1987 over 52,000 cards were contributed with about 170 annual contributors. All this data was compiled by hand, for personal home computers did not yet exist. In 1973 the operation centre for the Nest Record Scheme moved from UBC’s Cowan Vertebrate Museum to the Provincial Museum of BC (now known as the Royal British Columbia Museum or RBCM), with staff member R. Wayne Campbell coordinating it there in his capacity as Curator of Ornithology until 1997. When he retired from the BC Government’s

Wildlife Branch, he continued to coordinate the BC Nest Record Scheme and brought the card records to a newly formed non-profit organization, the Biodiversity Centre for Wildlife Studies.

Vi Gibbard continued her volunteer secretarial position until 1986. Her role was filled first by Margaret Preston and later Margaret Harris. Nest data contributors continued to increase. For example, in 2006, there were 10,800 cards contributed by 259 naturalists (*BCnature*, Vol 45, No 4).

The data collected through the BC Nest Record Scheme cards contributed greatly to the understanding of the breeding birds of our province, with respect to changes in breeding status, potential environmental impacts and species management plans. They provided the basis for many research papers and several major publications. As Wayne Campbell commented in FBCN's 1988 history, *the many naturalists, especially those who have been faithful card fillers for almost twenty years, are contributing to the understanding, conservation and protection of birds and their habitats*. On Violet's retirement, he acknowledged her significant contribution: *In fact, almost every article dealing with breeding birds in the Province has referred to the 50,000 or so cards Violet processed during her period as coordinator (BC Naturalist, Vol 24, No 2)*.

The Nest Record Scheme cards contributed most of the information and mapping component on breeding for the four-volume set *The Birds of British Columbia*. Bird Studies Canada summarized that work as follows:

The four-volume series was conceived in 1972 by Wayne Campbell and Ian McTaggart-Cowan, and originally planned to be an atlas until 1981, at which time it grew to encompass much more information. Wayne Campbell began acquisition and transfer of data in 1972, and over the next 13 years all available specimen records, literature, notebooks and field diaries of collectors and naturalists and hundreds of thousands of observations by birders were compiled. Neil Dawe joined the project in 1978, Gary Kaiser and Michael McNall in 1980, John Cooper in 1981 and Andrew Stewart joined in on the later volumes. Ian McTaggart-Cowan was also instrumental in helping the project to completion. There were other contributing authors. The 4,600 people who contributed observations are listed by name in Volume 3 page 559 onwards and the 3,629 who contributed to Volume 4 are listed by name, page 723 onwards. Wayne Campbell was chairman and coordinator of the project.

The four-volume series took 29 years to produce. Volumes One and Two (the non-passerines) were printed in 1990, Volume Three (Passerines, Flycatchers through Vireos) was printed in 1997 and Volume Four (Passerines, Wood-Warblers through Old World Sparrows) in 2001.

The BC Ministry of Environment provided a grant to BC Nature in 2006 to copy the cards (85,000 two-sided cards) from the beginning of the Nest Record Scheme up to 1997, the year the cards were removed from the RBCM. With the grant from the Ministry, BC Nature arranged for the cards to be digitized so that the information

could be readily available to relevant agencies and to the public. Jeremy McCall coordinated this project, completed in August 2007. Digital copies of the cards were provided to the Ministry of Environment, RBCM, Bird Studies Canada and on disc to anyone interested (*BCnature*, Vol 46, No 3). Digital copies can still be requested through the BC Nature office.

The BC Nest Record Scheme, with its data extending back to 1955, and the four-volume *Birds of British Columbia* have served as major sources for the new online *BC Breeding Bird Atlas*. Through the leadership of Bird Studies Canada, the *BC Breeding Bird Atlas* was initiated in 2008 as a five-year project to document breeding birds in BC. Once again, many naturalists volunteered hours of their time to record observations of breeding bird evidence, descriptions of breeding and nesting location, and confirmation of breeding success and young fledged. The compilation of this recent data, including species accounts, distribution maps, photographs and other materials, is available as an online publication. BC Nature was a partner in this project, participating through Anne Murray, our representative on the BC Breeding Bird Atlas Steering Committee, led by Bird Studies Canada. The Steering Committee included provincial and federal environment staff and, among others, representatives from BC Field Ornithologists and the Biodiversity Centre for Wildlife Studies.

Land for Nature 1990 - 1998

Land for Nature supported naturalist-led conservation efforts in two major activities. The first thrust was to identify, through local naturalists' knowledge, the ecologically rich, often low-elevation habitats, located within and close to communities. These low elevation habitats are important for biological diversity, yet they have sometimes been overlooked by other environmental groups whose focus has been on large wilderness areas. The 'close to home' habitats were often those that naturalists knew best. The second thrust of Land for Nature was to enable naturalist clubs to pursue constructive means to protect these areas. We did this through professional communication with relevant decision-makers and by forming local partnerships through forums and workshops.

The Land for Nature Project (initially called Land for Wildlife) had its beginnings in 1990 with a Roundtable discussion in the South Okanagan that served as a catalyst for conservation and nature education of club members. Contractor Nora Layard coordinated that Roundtable. She recalled how it led to something bigger:

Bert Brink and Dick Stace-Smith approached me saying that they had \$5000 from the BC Naturalists' Foundation and what could I/we do with it to further conservation given the current government climate and planning opportunities. They had been very pleased with the South Okanagan Round Table and wanted more of them. After thinking about it and based on my previous work/knowledge, I pitched the idea to them of a province-wide/club-wide project that could address the newly announced Parks Plan '90 initiatives, with the idea of more Round Tables. So, we went from there.

We contacted all regional coordinators and clubs to ask for involvement and one by one they came on board. (Personal Communication, 2013).

Nora next organized the "Vancouver Island East Coast Shoreline and Adjacent Wetlands Workshop" (1991). Then FBCN co-hosted a major conference titled "Habitat Enhancement Activities in BC" (1991). The pace quickened as Nora received two grants that allowed the FBCN to support the Northwest Wildlife Preservation Society in organizing another major public conference, "Endangered Species and Habitat Enhancement in BC" (Symposium on the Status of British Columbia's Threatened and Endangered Species and Their Habitat - 1991), and to support the Dunsmuir II Land Use Conference. Nora also worked with the Kamloops Naturalists Club to organize "Endangered Spaces Project: Land for Nature in the Kamloops Area" (1991).

The 1990s was the opportune decade for BC Park establishment. Provincial parkland doubled in size from approximately 6% to 12% of the province. Governments consulted with the public, asking for views on which areas to protect. This was the decade of the Commission on Resources and Environment (CORE), Parks Plan 90s, Land and Resource Management Plans (LRMPs), and the Protected Areas Strategy (PAS). The achievements of the Land for Nature project in compiling a science-based inventory of important natural areas and presenting this information in a professional manner to governments were timely and productive.

At the 1993 FBCN AGM, the Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks announced that funding would be provided to the Land for Nature project. He stated that his government's "commitment recognizes the important knowledge-based conservation advocacy role of British Columbia's naturalists and the specific accomplishments of Clubs involved in the Land for Nature Project to date" (*BC Naturalist* Vol 40, No 2).

Not only were the 1990s the decade for establishing parks on Crown lands, but major funding was also committed to acquire private lands. For example, the Lower Mainland Nature Legacy Program added nearly 2000 hectares of parkland to the Regional Park system in 1995. Land Trusts made significant purchases of private lands during the 1990s. Thus, the lowland habitats identified by naturalists, with their ecological values well documented, were ready to move forward for protection.

Specific initiatives of Land for Nature to identify natural habitats, are summarized in the titles of its 16 publications in the following table:

Publications of Land for Nature

- *The Roles of Conservancies and Education in Preserving the Natural Features of the South Okanagan, British Columbia. Report of the South Okanagan Round Table – Abstract and Recommendations.* 1990.
- *Identifying and Protecting Sensitive Shoreline and Adjacent Wetland Habitat on the East Coast of Vancouver Island, BC.* 1991.
- *Endangered Spaces Project: Land for Nature in the Kamloops Area. A Report of the Endangered Spaces Workshop – Summary of Presentations and Discussions.* 1991.
- *Tools and Mechanisms for Preserving Green Space.* Proceedings from the Land for Nature Forum. 1992.
- *Environmentally Important Sites in the Greater Vancouver Regional District: Nominated by Naturalists for Protection and/or Special Consideration.* 1992.
- *Preserving Biodiversity and Unique Ecosystems of the Okanagan-Similkameen Region.* 1993.
- *Land for Nature in the Okanagan-Similkameen Region: Report to the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks Integrated Management Branch.* 1993.
- *Ensuring Livability in Greater Victoria. Proceedings of A Forum to Establish Partnerships for Natural Areas Conservation.* 1993.
- *Incorporating Natural Areas in Community Planning in the East Kootenay.* 1994.
- *Tools and Mechanisms for Protecting Ecologically Sensitive Areas. Proceedings of the Nanaimo Land for Nature Forum.* 1994.
- *Understanding Municipal Environmental Planning.* 1996.
- *Greenways I: Implementing Greenways in British Columbia: Exploring Options.* 1996.
- *Proposed Program Development for Land for Nature, FBCN: Developing Land for Nature’s Core Expertise.* 1997.
- *What Colour is Your Green(way)? Proceedings of the What Colour is Your Green(way)? Conference.* 1997.
- *Environmentally Important Sites and Streams on the Sunshine Coast.* 1998.
- *Important Natural Areas and Streams of Squamish.* 1998.

The information gathered was uneven in terms of inventories and descriptions, depending on the area, but overall a great deal of the information collected did help with the establishment of protected areas. In addition, the data on rare species was provided to the newly formed provincial Conservation Data Centre. (See a summary of each Land for Nature publications in Appendix 9. Publications).

The second thrust of Land for Nature—to enable naturalists to pursue constructive means to protect these areas—was achieved by communicating with relevant decision makers and by forming local partnerships through forums and workshops. Several roundtables and workshops were held, with participation from all levels of government, naturalists, consultants, and politicians. As Nora Layard recalls:

We worked hard to create events that would bring together government with the clubs to increase club visibility and credibility. These were the Round Tables, enhanced and with a focus on providing input to government planning. But they were also designed to encourage members to understand the incredible opportunities at that time. I remember feeling like I was an ambassador for the times—bringing good news to the clubs but being met with a deep lack of understanding about government planning processes and how to get things done and protected. A lot of my job was education in that way. (Personal Communication 2013).

The roundtables and workshops focused on ways to improve land stewardship, including outright purchase, covenants, greenways, and landowner contact. These workshops served to foster new ideas amongst land managers and enabled naturalists to advocate for land conservation. It is difficult to quantify the benefits of these workshops and discussions, but in general, the themes from the Land for Nature workshops in the 1990s are now part of the everyday language and tools of land trusts and land managers, especially at the municipal and regional levels.

In 1994, FBCN co-sponsored the "Stewardship '94" Forum, together with eight other organizations. Focus was on the voluntary conservation of nature on private land, with two themes: "Revising the Land Ethic" and "Caring for the Land."

Financial support to hire contractors to facilitate Land for Nature came through grants from the Provincial Ministry of Environment, Lands & Parks, GVRD, Vancouver Foundation, Vancity, Environmental Partners Fund - Canada Trust, Employment & Immigration Canada, and the BC Naturalists' Foundation. By 1992 Nora Layard had left the project; she was succeeded by three other lead contractors.

In 1995 the annual budget for the Land for Nature project was bigger than FBCN's operating budget. At least 14 subcontract staff worked on this project. Excellent work was achieved; however, managing such an extensive budget with several contractors, overextended the capabilities of FBCN's volunteer Board to exercise effective financial oversight. Poor management meant that work on projects and payment of contract staff ran ahead of the grant funds in hand, with the unfortunate outcome that by 1998 the Land for Nature project ended in debt. FBCN was responsible for paying contractors with no grant funds available, so FBCN, with some assistance from the BC Naturalists' Foundation, had to cover a deficit of approximately \$50,000. Thankfully, FBCN volunteers stepped forward to complete the remaining contract work.

FBCN had learned a hard lesson about financial management. Since 1998, the FBCN (now BC Nature) has firm work contracts and an entrenched policy that project contractors will not conduct work until grant funds are in hand. Looking beyond this internal financial management lesson to the conservation of natural habitats, the outcome of Land for Nature activities in the 1990s was excellent, both in terms of protected areas established in perpetuity and increased awareness and tools to foster land stewardship into the 21st century. The work, of course, is not complete. For example, some of the Goal 2 areas identified during the Okanagan-Shuswap Land and Resource Management Plan and the 1000 hectares of Fraser Lowlands identified in 1998, are still awaiting protection.

In summary, Land for Nature achieved several important goals:

- 1) It focused interest on protecting key lowland habitats close to residential populations, including estuaries and shorelines on southeast Vancouver Island; natural areas on the Sunshine Coast and Squamish with focus on

riparian areas; Fraser Lowlands from Vancouver to Hope; South Okanagan Similkameen sensitive habitats; and Kamloops natural areas.

- 2) It gave local naturalist clubs the skills and confidence to speak up about conservation issues and to work in partnership with local governments.
- 3) It promoted greater appreciation and awareness of the important role of natural areas on the urban fringe, especially among municipal and regional government planners.
- 4) It encouraged the partnership of several groups in the South Okanagan in 1990, now the very effective South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program.
- 5) It began discussions towards the Living by Water project, which continued as a FBCN project through the early 2000s and was subsequently adopted by Nature Canada and extended Canada wide.
- 6) It supported the Squamish Eagle Watch.
- 7) It initiated landowner contact and created support for stewardship by private landowners, an approach that is now successfully undertaken by several conservation initiatives and Land Trusts.
- 8) It encouraged public donations to land acquisition for nature through Land Trusts. A recent example was the 2009 bequest from Lillian May Hayden to FBCN, earmarked for Land for Nature to purchase natural habitat in Southern Vancouver Island area. The donation enabled BC Nature to contribute substantially to private land acquisition through three Land Trusts. (See *BCnature* Vol 48, No 3).

Living by Water 1997 - 2007

This project summary was written by Sarah Weaver (Kipp). Further information can be found in the Summer 2002 and Spring 2004 issues of BC Naturalist.

In 1997 Sarah Weaver (Kipp) and Clive Callaway, independent contractors, proposed that the Federation of British Columbia Naturalists (BC Nature) become the lead organization for the Living by Water Project. The Federation agreed to this, as the project goals and objectives—protection and restoration of riparian habitat and water quality—were consistent with our mandate. The project mission was “working towards healthier human and wildlife habitat along the shorelines of Canada.”

Over the next eight years the Living by Water Project was a major initiative of the Federation. Sarah and Clive continued to act as principal contractors to the federation and developed the project. Anne Murray played a major role as President of the Federation during the time when the project was significantly expanding. Anne was involved in the National Steering committee, as well. Both Jeremy McCall and Bev Ramey, during their terms as presidents of FBCN, also guided the project. A key feature of Living by Water was that it was community-based. This meant that we relied on local community groups and local governments to promote our products and services to the primary target audience, waterfront residents. This

resulted in many community workshops and media stories about what came to be known as “shoreline stewardship.”

Another key feature was the ‘conservation marketing’ approach. The project differed from other environmental projects in that it carried out a ‘needs’ assessments of shoreline residents and then customized materials and services to meet those needs. At the same time, Sarah and Clive endeavoured to communicate the environmental messages that the project was built upon. Conservation marketing combined business marketing, social marketing, and environmental education to help foster a change of behaviour. Shoreline residents were encouraged to protect and restore riparian habitat first, to help protect their property values, and second, to protect fish and wildlife species.

While Living by Water was aimed primarily at shoreline residents, materials were developed for many ‘intermediary’ audiences—local government elected officials, municipal planners, realtors, property inspectors, and community non-government organizations.

A strategic planning process was carried out in 1998/1999 to define the project and to lay the groundwork for partners in other parts of the country to become involved. The resulting document, *Making it Happen – A Strategic Approach to the Living by Water Project 2000-2005*, guided regional partners in their Living by Water program and product development over the next five years.

Core resources developed by the Living by Water Project in British Columbia included a 144-page handbook (*On the Living Edge – Your Handbook for Waterfront Living*); brochures and posters; display panels; a workshop program for shoreline residents that included PowerPoint presentations on a variety of topics such as shoreline erosion, landscaping, recreation, water quality; workshops for municipal planners, realtors, property inspectors, and local government elected officials; a home-site assessment program that trained evaluators to give shoreline residents feedback about their properties; a “Shoreline Ambassador” program; a manual to help community groups create events around shorelines to help profile the importance of shorelines; and children’s materials for use by educators.

These resources were shipped throughout the province to various community groups and local governments. In turn, these groups and agencies ran their own programs or used Living by Water materials to support work they were already doing. In some cases, Living by Water ran “train the trainer” workshops to help develop capacity in other organizations.

Living by Water had a presence at many conferences throughout Canada, with the contractors making presentations on various aspects of the project. People were especially interested in the tools that were being used to engage communities in the concept of conservation marketing, and in how the project was including climate change in its approach.

Living by Water materials were first developed in British Columbia for shoreline residents in BC but the market soon expanded. The Federation, under the guidance of Sarah and Clive, signed partnership agreements with partners in other provinces so that eventually, by 2001 there were Living by Water Project offices in Edmonton (for Alberta), Regina (for Saskatchewan and Manitoba), and Manotick (for Ontario). Many materials were also employed by agencies in Atlantic Canada and Quebec. For example, the "Waterfront Living" and "Coastal Living" brochures and the "Shoreline Makeover" poster were printed in various editions – including a French edition – for Atlantic Canada. Materials were provided on a 'printing cost recovery' basis, so that some key resources, such as the brochures, were reprinted many times.

Several USA agencies employed Living by Water Resources and contributed to the cost recovery fund. In 2003, Nature Canada (then the Canadian Nature Federation) took over national responsibility for the Living by Water Project. A national steering committee was struck and Nature Canada took responsibility for the Living by Water website.

Living by Water was supported by a wide range of sponsors, including federal agencies (Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Environment Canada; Health Canada; Energy and Natural Resources Canada; Millennium Partnership Program) and provincial agencies (Ministry of Environment; Fisheries Renewal BC). In addition, private foundations contributed to the project (Real Estate Foundation of BC; Friends of the Environment Foundation; McConnell Foundation; Vancouver Foundation).

The grant from the Millennium Partnership Program in 2000 enabled several creative initiatives. Precipice Theatre of Banff was engaged to develop an educational play about shoreline stewardship. This play was subsequently taken 'on the road' and toured 40 communities in Alberta and British Columbia, with the entire tour coordinated by the BC office. Sarah and Clive went on a speaking tour in many communities in Alberta and BC to talk about the importance of healthy shorelines. The Shoreline Ambassador program was developed to encourage shoreline action on the part of individuals. Included in the program were certificates for people who took action. The certificates were useful in two ways: they harnessed the marketing power of 'rewards' and they gave us measurable indicators of success.

In 2006 the Federation received funds to explore the impacts of climate change on shorelines in the Thompson-Nicola-Shuswap area of the Interior. This pilot project focused on exploring ways of adapting to the impacts of climate change. Like other Living by Water activities, it was community-based. Several communities in the Interior became engaged in discussing the impacts of climate change, and well-attended forums were held in both Kamloops and Salmon Arm.

Evaluation of project outcomes suggests that the project had significant impact. The interest in other regions of the country for the products and services meant that the project went national; offices in other areas are still implementing parts of the project. Shoreline stewardship initiatives have been taken on by many

community groups, using Living by Water resources and its legacy. Over 300 realtors participated in a training program to help them understand shoreline stewardship principles. All 5,000 copies of the BC edition of *On the Living Edge* were distributed, as well as tens of thousands of brochures and posters. The book was adapted in three versions for other provinces. The Ontario edition is sold out; the Alberta edition went into a second printing, and the Saskatchewan/Manitoba edition is nearly out of print. In total, 22,500 copies of the book were printed, making it a Canadian best seller. In addition, the Alberta edition was adapted for the City of Edmonton; and the resulting book *Living Beside Urban Lakes* was distributed to residents around storm water lakes in Edmonton.

While these quantitative indicators show that the reach of the project was significant, it is harder to measure its success in protecting and restoring riparian habitat. Certainly, when the project started, the word "riparian" was virtually unknown in all but limited technical circles. Now, there is much more widespread knowledge of not only the term but also the importance and sensitivity of riparian shore lands, both freshwater and coastal. Shorelines are under huge development pressure everywhere, and in many areas riparian habitats have been significantly altered. Anecdotal feedback would suggest that the Living by Water Project has helped slow the spread of that degradation.

The major lessons learned from the Living by Water Project's approaches were incorporated into a manual on conservation marketing (see following section). Additional lessons about how to manage a conservation project include:

- Maintain a core focus and ensure that core objectives and results are achieved before stretching to new initiatives and objectives. The project over-stretched itself by starting many initiatives and providing support from the BC office to three other national offices.
- Explore ways that core project objectives can be achieved over time, even though core funding is a challenge to obtain, and funders discourage repeated requests for the same project. In the case of Living by Water, new initiatives had to be developed to maintain project continuity and to respond to community demand for products and services.
- Explore the dynamic balance between contractors and volunteers. Most of the Living by Water Project accomplishments were carried out by the project initiators, as contractors to the Federation. Although Sarah and Clive volunteered considerable time over the many years of the project, the responsibility for the project was held mostly by contractors rather than by Federation volunteers. Consequently, when the contractors decided to move on to other things, the energy for Living by Water could not be sustained.

Conservation Action Marketing Program

This project summary was written by Sarah Weaver (Kipp).

The conservation marketing approach that the Living by Water Project employed was of considerable interest to other groups. The lessons learned were incorporated into a manual on conservation marketing. The manual's introduction lays out the challenge of this work:

We, in the conservation sector, are often involved in activities aimed at influencing human behaviour. Yet not surprisingly, most of us come from a background in ecology, biology, geography or similar disciplines – rather than the human behaviour disciplines! We know the biological and ecological consequences of the human behaviour we wish to influence – such as species at risk, threatened habitats, deteriorating water quality, and a changing climate. However, our knowledge about influencing human behaviour may sometimes come more from desperation, and the desire to do something, rather than nothing. So, we propose brochures, posters, signs, newsletters. We hope that by giving people information, this will be enough to change their behaviour. But behavioural change is much more complex.

The Conservation Action Marketing manual incorporated many of the lessons that were learned along the way with the Living by Water Project. It includes information on planning, identifying measurable results, evaluation, tools for understanding audience needs, and the four “Ps” of marketing – product, price, place and promotion. The manual also includes tips on effective writing and plain language with a small number of case examples. The manual is available online through the BC Nature website under About/History. (See also Appendix 9. Publications with title, “From Science to Action: Strengthening Your Effectiveness in Conservation Outreach and Behaviour Change”).

Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) – An ongoing project 1996 – Present

This project summary was written by Anne Murray and Krista Kaptein.

What is the Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBA) Program?

The global Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBA) program aims to identify, protect and monitor a network of vital habitats for the conservation of birds and biodiversity around the world. The program was established in Canada, including British Columbia, in 1996. IBAs are identified using a set of standardized criteria developed by BirdLife International, a global alliance of more than 120 conservation organizations. While approximately 25% of the area within BC's network of 82 IBAs is formally protected, many sites are under pressure from actual and potential anthropogenic or natural events happening within or adjacent to their boundaries.

The national representatives of BirdLife International in Canada are Bird Studies Canada (BSC) and Nature Canada (NC; formerly Canadian Nature Federation). BC Nature works with the provincial office of BSC to deliver the program within BC. Our goal is the long-term conservation of birds that depend on BC's IBAs. In recognition of the increasingly important role of citizen scientists in achieving conservation goals, our primary focus since 2006 has been to build and support the volunteer based IBA Caretaker Network.

Background History of IBA Program in British Columbia

The Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas Program began in the mid-1980s in response to the European Economic Community's request for a list of critical bird habitats requiring protection. BirdLife International, with headquarters in Cambridge, UK, was launched from the International Council for Bird Preservation, an organization founded in 1922. North America joined the program in 1996, with funding in Mexico, USA and Canada from the Commission on Environmental Cooperation (CEC), part of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Canadian Wildlife Service researcher, Dr. Robert Butler, learned about the program in England and enabled its introduction to Canada. The first steps in BC were to determine which locations qualified for designation as IBAs under the internationally determined criteria. A preliminary list was prepared by Moira Lemon of Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) in October 1996. Bird biologists and leading figures in BC's birding community, together with other interested birdwatchers, gathered to discuss which sites should be included, the merits of each location, and what data was available. BC Nature members were also invited to contribute suggestions for potential sites.

In all, 269 possible sites were brought forward for consideration. Once whittled down, a list of nominated sites was submitted to the national coordinators and eventually 84 sites were found to have sufficient data to meet global or national criteria in at least one category. These sites were subsequently approved as BC's IBA sites. The list was reduced to 82 when three Vancouver Island sites were amalgamated into the new, larger K'omoks IBA.

In 2000, the National IBA Program was given a Nature Legacy 2000 grant of \$1.25 million over two years as part of the government's Millennium Partnership Program that saw \$10 million shared by the Canadian Nature Federation, World Wildlife Fund, Nature Conservancy of Canada, and Ducks Unlimited for wildlife-related work. This Millennium grant provided funds for staff to coordinate the fledgling IBA Program in each province and to set up the Community Action Fund (CAF) to support grass-roots work at individual sites. Barry Booth was hired to run the BC IBA Program in fall 1999, and he amazingly managed to spin out two years of funding into three years of work. He wrote conservation plans for sixteen IBAs, and also developed the local projects, including working with shellfish growers in Baynes Sound on a Best Practices manual for co-existing with marine birds; a stewardship project with the Stellat'en First Nation at Fraser Lake; and a Seabird Survival outreach pamphlet distributed in southern Vancouver Island and the Salish Sea

where there are five IBA. We spent \$50,000 on 12 Community Action Fund projects in BC and developed many good partnerships with other groups. Many IBAs around BC were involved including South Okanagan, Squamish Estuary, Tofino, and Laskeek Bay on Haida Gwaii. These activities set the stage for future IBA activities in the province.

After the Millennium Grant ran out, the national partners were unable to fund the provincial coordinators for some years, so the IBA Program went dormant. In late 2006, Anne Murray of BC Nature and Peter Davidson of BSC decided to reinvigorate the program by taking a network approach to the 84 sites. Funding for the technical work of conservation planning was difficult to find. Furthermore, we felt that developing individual conservation plans for each IBA was too slow to protect IBAs and their birds, in the face of many threats to their habitat. A new, five-step approach was put forward. Top priorities were updating the IBA site summaries and writing site summaries for those that were missing. We also proposed identifying a knowledgeable birdwatcher, researcher, or interested local resident to be a volunteer Caretaker for each site, and to build the network of knowledge needed for conserving these far-flung and often, little-visited, IBAs.

Subsequent steps were to work towards greater stewardship and protection of the sites, and to make the IBA Program better known. All this was to be done on minimal funds so that the program could continue in perpetuity without the boom-and-bust cycle of major grants.

The IBA Caretaker Network

The idea of using local Caretakers or stewards was based on BirdLife International's site support groups, such as Denmark's Caretaker Network. Caretakers are the "eyes, ears and hands on the ground," a vital resource in a large diverse province with many coastal sites, some of which are very remote. Caretakers work on their own or with others, with the minimum requirement of an annual site visit where possible (some sites are extremely remote) and an annual report on the status of the birds and habitat at their site. Some Caretakers and their helpers go much further, doing everything from conducting bird surveys to designing signs, speaking up for conservation, or organizing bird festivals. The BC IBA Program, a partnership of BC Nature, Bird Studies Canada, and Nature Canada, was the first in Canada to institute an IBA Caretakers' Network; the concept spread across the country from 2009.

Our IBA Team – Past and Present

BC Nature IBA staff

The hiring by BC Nature of Krista Englund as IBA Coordinator in 2008 ensured the smooth and successful operation of the BC IBA Program for the next six years. She was responsible for recruiting, training, and coordinating the Network of over 50 IBA Caretakers. She conducted meetings, talks and workshops, wrote newsletters and magazine articles, liaised with the national offices of Nature Canada and Bird Studies Canada, and ensured good communications between all partner

organizations. Krista's positive, cheerful, and persistent approach to the IBA Coordinator role was critical to the success of the Caretaker Network and set the scene for those who followed in her footsteps.

James Bradley joined the Team to help with site summary updates, and he took over from Krista Englund as IBA Coordinator in July 2014. Student assistant, Shanna Sinclair helped in summer 2014. James retired due to personal circumstances.

The IBA Coordinator position was then taken in 2015 by Krista Kaptein, a long-time BC Nature member and volunteer, based in Courtenay, Vancouver Island. Krista is an experienced birder and was an early adopter of e-Birding. She continues the role of coordinating the BC Caretaker Network as well as all IBA communications for BC Nature, and helps on the IBA Technical Committee during evaluations of IBA boundaries, bird populations, etc. During the last few years, Krista has travelled throughout BC conducting workshops, meetings and eBird counts, particularly in Haida Gwaii, northern mainland BC, the west coast of Vancouver Island and the Okanagan. Krista has streamlined the production of the annual IBA reporting process, writes regular articles in the BC Nature magazine and produces the regular BC IBA newsletter.

Budgets and work plans for the year are formulated in discussions between Krista and Anne Murray, the BC Nature Volunteer Liaison, according to grant opportunities and IBA Caretaker needs. Krista prepares grant applications and follow-up reports. She also implements the work schedule, with Anne providing occasional advice; members of the IBA Technical Committee (see below) are available for discussion as necessary. Krista reports to BC Nature at the Annual General Meeting and Fall General Meeting and via articles in *BCnature* magazine and IBA Report.

Krista has done a great job of fund-raising. Since 2014, the project has received grants from a number of sources: ongoing annual "core" funding from BC Gaming; an annual grant since 2015 from the McLean Foundation; several grants for specific projects from TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, BC Field Ornithologists, and The Columbia Basin Trust; three years of funding through Nature Canada Local Action Fund for outreach to Coastal First Nations Guardian Watchmen; and one year of funding through Nature Canada Public Engagement Fund for IBA Engagement Organizing.

Krista also assists individual IBAs with fundraising for local projects, particularly in the South Okanagan, where a working group of volunteer Caretakers has developed around a cluster of IBAs.

BC Nature IBA Volunteer Liaison

Anne Murray has been BC Nature's volunteer liaison to the IBA Program since the initial meetings about IBAs in the late 1990s. An experienced birder, and a past-president of BC Nature, her duties involve hiring the IBA Coordinator; ensuring work plans and budgets are in place annually; reviewing grant proposals written by the IBA Coordinator; speaking at events related to IBAs and serving on the IBA

Technical Committee. She also shares the role of IBA Caretaker for the Fraser River Estuary site with two other Caretakers.

Bird Studies Canada Staff

BSC's Peter Davidson worked on the IBA Program, among other responsibilities, from 2006 to 2013. He continues to occasionally contribute his experience from work with BirdLife International in Asia and Africa. He led the formation of the IBA Conservation Team (now the IBA Technical Committee) to ensure a strong scientific foundation for site summary updates.

Karen Barry joined BSC's IBA staff in 2009, coordinating BSC's citizen science counts of beached birds and coastal waterbirds. As well as providing technical expertise and access to her network of bird monitoring volunteers, she initiated outreach to municipalities and regional districts, through Real Estate Foundation grants, encouraging them to incorporate IBAs into local planning. She moved on to other work in 2014.

BSC staff, David Bradley, James Casey and Graham Sorenson are all now involved in work in Important Bird Areas, including Fraser Estuary IBA, and the Long-billed Curlew and Haida Gwaii seabird colony projects. BSC was a very active partner in the International Ornithological Congress (IOC) held in Vancouver in August 2018. James and Graham organized an important full-day field trip for a diverse group including BirdLife International staff, government officials, potential funders, and birding community members.

The IBA Technical Committee

To increase the technical knowledge of the project's members, ex-Canadian Wildlife Service senior advisors Dr. Art Martell and Dr. Rob Butler were invited to join the IBA Conservation Team in September 2011. Rob retired from the team in 2015 as he was involved in the Salish Sea Marine Atlas, among many other projects. The voluntary donation of expertise by these two highly regarded scientists is much appreciated by everyone in the program. This team is now referred to as the IBA Technical Committee and consists of Dr Art Martell, Krista Kaptein, Anne Murray, George Clulow of BC Field Ornithologists, and for BSC, David Bradley, Graham Sorenson and James Casey. Regular meetings enable the data and science behind site summary updates and boundary revisions to be thoroughly assessed before changes are sent into the national BSC office.

IBA Caretakers

Most critical to success are the 60 volunteer Caretakers and their helpers who care for BC's 83 IBAs. We could certainly not have operated the BC IBA Program without them. Many hundreds of hours have been devoted to IBA activities, including monitoring, stewardship, awareness-raising, festivals, designing and erecting signage, leading walks, giving talks, and engaging in conservation-related activities. Caretakers report annually in December on their activities, through a standardized form, collated by Krista Kaptein. Some of the Caretaker Network activities are listed below.

Since the re-invigoration of the IBA program in 2006 and the establishment of the Caretaker Network, there have been numerous successes:

- Supporting and increasing the capacity of 60 Caretakers, who have been matched with over 85% of our IBAs since 2008, to expand monitoring, outreach and stewardship in their IBAs
- Updating online site summaries for IBAs that face imminent conservation pressures, including IBAs on the South Coast and in the Southern Interior, to demonstrate that these IBAs continue to be conservation priorities
- Incorporating IBAs into local government planning documents such as Official Community Plans (e.g., Cowichan Valley Regional District and Hornby Island in 2012) to ensure that the IBAs are considered in local land use decisions
- Increasing local awareness of IBAs through the distribution of regular IBA eNews and newsletters to hundreds of people across BC, and the distribution of hundreds of brochures at community events and festivals across BC each year
- Positioning interpretive and identification signs in more than 30 IBAs across the province, with funding from Nature Canada's TCC grant, MEC, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, and other sources
- Conducting outreach about IBAs to federal, provincial, regional, and local government staff working in environmental departments, and to other charitable environmental organizations and land trusts (enabled by several Mountain Equipment Co-op [MEC] grants)
- Planning in the South Okanagan, bringing together a big group of partner agencies and organizations (enabled by grants from Environment Canada); results already include beautiful new signs for the IBAs, increased understanding of the IBA Program locally, bird monitoring, and the construction of a bird-viewing structure
- Increasing the protected areas within some of our highest profile IBAs, including the establishment of Wildlife Management Areas in Fraser River Estuary IBA, several South Okanagan IBAs, and Chehalis River Estuary IBA, a new provincial park in Chilcotin Junction IBA, as well as the purchase of private conservation lands in several South Okanagan IBAs, protection of Scott Islands Marine National Wildlife Area, the forthcoming South Okanagan Similkameen National Park Reserve and Southern Strait of Georgia National Marine Conservation Area Reserve
- Assisting with the expansion of the Caretaker Network and IBA program to all provinces across Canada

- Working on northern IBAs, along the same lines as the site summary updates and action planning processes that have been so successful in the Okanagan (enabled by Mountain Equipment Co-op [MEC] community grant in 2014)
- Developing Coastal First Nations Guardian Watchman outreach projects on Vancouver Island and Haida Gwaii
- Updating boundaries for IBAs to accord with latest information on bird populations.

The BC IBA Program is an important and worthwhile program for BC Nature. It has been well-supported and funded by members and the Board, and it has gained increased attention nationally and internationally.

Wildlife Tree Stewardship (WiTS)

This project summary was written by Ian Moul.

The Wildlife Tree Stewardship (WiTS) Program evolved out of the federal and provincial governments' Great Blue Heron and Bald Eagle inventory and monitoring programs. Herons and eagles, both top predators in the food chain, are considered excellent indicators of environmental health. In an effort to understand the habitat needs of herons and eagles, between 1987 and 1995 biologists with the Canadian Wildlife Service, the Ministry of Environment, and several forest companies worked together to catalogue nearly 200 heron colonies and over 3,000 eagle nest sites on Vancouver Island and the southern Gulf Islands. (Refer to *BC Naturalist* Vol 33, No 6 for beginning of BC Bald Eagle Registry.)

The inventories provided crucial data for the writing of Section 34 of the Provincial Wildlife Act, which includes protection of heron and eagle nests, as follows:

Section 34 of the Provincial Wildlife Act states that:

A person commits an offence if the person, except as provided by regulation, possesses, takes, injures, molests or destroys

(a) a bird or its egg,

(b) the nest of an eagle, peregrine falcon, gyrfalcon, osprey, heron or burrowing owl, or

(c) the nest of a bird not referred to in paragraph (b) when the nest is occupied by a bird or its egg

The Wildlife Tree Stewardship Program was created as a multi-agency partnership supported by the Canadian Wildlife Service, the Ministry of Environment, BC Hydro, the Community Mapping Network. Coordination was provided by the Federation of BC Naturalists, beginning in 2001. The WiTS project was overseen by volunteer FBCN executive, Ron Speller, with contract staffer, Kerri-Lynne Wilson. Inventory

and monitoring of heron colonies and eagle nest trees were seen as critical steps in preventing the loss of nest trees during land development. The original purpose of the WiTS program was to maintain a database and online atlas that pooled nest records from government, industry, conservation/naturalist groups, and the public. Thus, the Community Mapping Network was an essential partner.

Many volunteer naturalists were enlisted to provide information on the eagles' nesting, and training sessions were provided on how to enter the data. At one point there were as many as 200 volunteers submitting nest observation records into the Atlas and database. Data entries by volunteers were ground-truthed by professional biologists.

Jude Grass took over as volunteer executive liaison from Ron Speller in 2007 and has been assisted by volunteer Bev Ramey. Contract staffer Ian Moul took over from Kerri-Lynne Wilson in 2008.

As far as was logistically possible, with consideration for sensitive information and land-owner privacy, information in the database and atlas was to remain free and available to any user. As of 2013 the WiTS Atlas has nest location information for 4,430 nest sites along with 14,173 linked nest observation records. Ian Moul authored reports for FBCN describing and mapping Bald Eagle Nesting Results for nine areas on Vancouver Island and the Southern Gulf Islands (available at BC Nature's website, under "Projects"):

- Capital Regional District
- Oyster River to Menzies Bay
- Deep Bay to Little Qualicum River
- Comox Valley
- Saturna Island
- Mayne Island
- City of Nanaimo
- Cowichan Valley Regional District
- Regional District of Nanaimo

In 2005-2006, a feasibility study for the South Okanagan and Lower Similkameen valleys indicated there was interest and opportunity for the program to expand into this region, although it was clearly recognized that the wildlife focus would shift to cavity-nesting Species at Risk. In April of 2006, the program officially expanded to include the South Okanagan-Similkameen through contract staffer Lisa Scott.

Activities were also initiated in the Fraser Valley. In 2009 the Okanagan-Similkameen program expanded to include the Central Okanagan and Princeton area, thus encompassing two regional Districts. Volunteer naturalists have contributed their observations and nesting information, largely focused on four cavity-nesting species: Western Screech-Owl, Lewis's Woodpecker, White-Headed Woodpecker, and Williamson's Sapsucker. The number of volunteers has ranged annually from 11 to 20 people.

In recent years, the WiTS program on the coast has not been able to secure operating funds. Typically, granting agencies will not fund monitoring and inventory of species not listed as being at risk; it is also difficult to secure repeat funding for a continuing program. Most contemporary bird inventory programs focus on large-area, long-term trend analysis. The WiTS observation records, which focus on specific nest sites and the relationship with local area land development, do not mesh well with senior government programs; nonetheless, they remain very important at the level of local government planning.

The Okanagan-Similkameen WiTS program has found a strong footing with Species at Risk that utilize wildlife trees, and it functions in concert with federal and provincial government habitat protection and species recovery objectives. As the name Wildlife Tree Stewardship suggests, much of the emphasis of the WiTS program has been working with property owners and managers to protect wildlife trees and surrounding habitat. Community education has been extensive, and there is indeed interest in cavity-nesting birds.

The WiTS Bald Eagle inventory on Vancouver Island and, to a lesser extent, in the Lower Mainland, has helped make municipal governments more aware of the legal requirement to protect eagle nest trees; the inventory has also increased awareness of nest locations. Efforts continue to increase awareness that it is important to have several nest trees in an area, together with a group of "perch" trees near the nest tree. There continues to be high public interest in bald eagle nest trees.

Over the years, through both the nest tree monitoring program and during presentations at many festivals, the WiTS program has introduced and promoted conservation principles to thousands of British Columbians. The data collected by stewardship volunteers and maps provided by the WiTS program have helped local governments create bylaws and development permit areas specific to protecting nest trees. WiTS contracts have also worked with local governments to add policy that goes beyond the nest tree to consider perching trees as having a heritage designation and protection. The WiTS program is identified in the Provincial *Develop with Care* publications as a resource for information on nest trees.

Park Interpretation in BC Parks 2004 – 2010

BC Nature coordinated park interpreter positions in several BC Parks for seven years, between 2004 and 2010. Interpretation had been an integral part of provincial parks dating back to 1957, and it had been the responsibility of government to provide it. Many park visitors recall memorable family experiences camping and participating in programs offered by park naturalists. Park interpretation programs have extensive benefits: they attract visitors to parks, engage young learners, promote environmental stewardship, and foster healthy, active lives in the outdoors. Park interpretation generates tourism dollars through longer stays and repeat visits. It is a source of community pride and shared citizenship.

But in summer 2002, the provincial government cut funding for all park interpretation. FBCN, together with member clubs, responded by writing letters, attending meetings, and partnering with similar-minded organizations to provide stronger advocacy. Despite all our attempts to urge the government to reinstate park interpretation, it refused to do so. Then, early in 2004, BC Nature took a major step, with support from Park Facility Operators, the private companies that operate the campgrounds and day use areas of BC Parks. FBCN directly hired summer student interpreters through the federal government's summer job creation program. The Park Facility Operators played a major role in this initiative by ensuring site safety and by providing workspace, supplies, daily supervision and wage contributions.

BC Nature coordinated park interpreters for seven years, through the volunteer commitment of executive member Bev Ramey, assisted by BC Nature office managers Maria Hamann and later Betty Davison, with respect to payroll and countless other details. Contract staff assisted in later years with office coordination and contributed much to the program, including Lara Tisseur (2008), Sonya Reznitsky (2009), and Victoria Alleyne (2010). The support from Gail Ross, a BC Parks staff member, was critical to providing training for the interpreters, monitoring program content and mentoring the park naturalists throughout the summer, including site visits.

Thousands of people participated in park nature program delivery. For example, in 2008, the 37 interpreters delivered programs in 23 Provincial Parks with an estimated 133,000 people attending. In 2010, 21 interpreters delivered programs in 14 Provincial Parks involving 93,000 people. An additional 49,000 people visited nature houses at Goldstream, Rath Trevor, Miracle Beach, Kokanee Creek, and Shuswap-Scotch Creek.

Summer interpreters were hired through Service Canada, the provincial government's Conservation Corps, and through direct grants from the provincial government. The table on the next page details the number of interpreters hired and the increasing support to the program from the province through to the sixth year, including staff support within BC Parks and direct grants from Ministry of Environment. By the seventh year, the provincial government's contributions decreased and the Conservation Corps program, which had provided fully funded positions, was cancelled.

Despite the positive reception of these nature interpretation programs over the seven years that BC Nature provided coordination, we had always seen our role as a temporary "stop-gap" measure, largely to ensure continuity, and in anticipation that the provincial government would once again commit adequate and long-term funding. BC Nature recognizes the value of the park interpretation program being coordinated by government to ensure continuity of quality programs, training and site visits, and integration through all aspects of park planning and operation.

Park Interpreter Positions Coordinated by BC Nature

	# of Service Canada students	# of Conservation Corps positions	MoE Grant to BC Nature + positions	BC Parks Staff support	Service Canada \$ contributions	PFO top-up to wages (3)
2004	6				\$21,000	\$12,000
2005	10				\$40,000	\$17,000
2006	11	12	\$40,000 - 3	partial	\$51,000	\$24,000
2007	17	12	\$40,000 - 5	full-time	\$61,000	\$30,000
2008 (2)	14	16 (\$180,000)	\$70,000 - 7	full-time	\$46,000	\$38,000
2009	14	10 (\$92,000)	\$10,000	full-time	\$68,789	\$33,122 (3)
2010	17	-	\$30,000 - 3	contract	\$76,000	\$40,000(3)

Notes to accompany table:

- 1) *Table does not include extensive "in-kind" donation of volunteer time by BC Nature.*
- 2) *In 2008, Service Canada had less money to disburse and accordingly approved fewer positions.*
- 3) *Park Facility Operators fully funded a few positions, plus provided space, supplies, sometimes vehicles, and accommodation.*

It was disheartening when the provincial government's funding commitment to interpretation was greatly reduced for summer 2010. Then at the 2010 FGM, BC Nature Directors indicated that unless adequate government support could be provided, BC Nature's efforts were no longer sustainable and could not be continued. The situation looked positive at that time. Then Premier Gordon Campbell promised funding for park interpretation during his speech to the Union of BC Municipalities. The Minister of the Environment, Barry Penner, when he spoke to BC Nature's FGM, announced that interpretation programs would be reinstated. Unfortunately, with a new BC premier early in 2011, the promise was not kept. A few Park Facility Operators have continued to run nature programs on their own, such as at Goldstream, Rath Trevor, Miracle Beach, Alice Lake, Sasquatch, Manning, Wells Gray, and Lac Le Jeune.

BC Nature continues to advocate for a park interpretation program funded by BC Parks. The level of minimum funding for park interpretation was considered by BC Nature's Board at the 2010 FGM. The recommendation was that a minimum of \$275,000 would be required over each of 5 years. But this figure is a minimum. Ideally the delivery of park nature programs warrants a commitment of at least \$1 million annually to provide longer-term positions to enable spring and fall programs and outreach in communities.

Reports describing the programs delivered and the staffing can be downloaded from BC Nature's website. The reports cover 2008 to 2010. The 2010 report includes a discussion of the role of Park Interpretation in meeting provincial goals. (See Appendix 9. Publications on the BC Nature website under About/History).

BC Nature Guide

This map-based website guide to nature viewing sites throughout the province has been prepared to help enrich residents' or visitors' experience when travelling throughout British Columbia. Work on this project, also known as "Harnessing Nature Knowledge" began in 2014 with support from President, John Neville. A contractor compiled the nature information area by area with the assistance of local nature clubs. This website has been built gradually. The priority has been to include sites that are easily accessible by vehicle, along main roads and highways, including car and ferry routes. Hiking trails and destinations are being added. For each site, the viewer can zoom-in to gain detailed nature information, location, and map-based directions to the site.

BC Nature's contractor on this project is Krista Kaptein, assisted by contractor Bill Kinkaid.

(See BC Nature website under Know Nature/BC Nature Guide).

Chapter Eight

NatureKids Formation (originally Young Naturalists Club)

Written by Daphne Solecki

Background

In common with most naturalist organizations in Canada, the BC naturalist community became concerned with the fact that their members were aging and that younger, more vigorous members were not being recruited. Perhaps the biggest change between the first naturalist clubs and those that exist today is that early naturalists were surrounded by nature – they just stepped outside on to the doorstep and there it was. Nowadays, the great majority of the population lives in an urban environment and the natural world is hard to find without some guidance.

In the early 1960s, the BC Nature Council organized field camps specifically for junior naturalists; unfortunately, these “Junior Audubon Camps” continued for only a few years. Into the 1970s, the early FBCN camp organizers endeavoured to include families with young children. There were flourishing young naturalist clubs in Vancouver and Victoria in the 1970s and many of today’s active naturalists and scientists were involved in those programs. By the 1990s, FBCN’s efforts resurged to bring junior naturalists back into the forefront.

During Jude Grass’s term as President (1991-1993), the FBCN executive was holding discussions within the Young Naturalist Committee. Daphne Solecki, FBCN Vice President (while also President of VNHS), served on that Committee along with Rob Butler, Robin Owen (VNHS) and Nancy Baron (Vancouver Aquarium).

At this time various other initiatives around the province demonstrated an interest in encouraging the growth of young naturalists. In 1991 Al Grass, well-known for his “Close-Up on Nature” articles in the *BC Naturalist* Newsletter, decided to start speaking for “Jerry the Moose” in a regular column by way of introducing subjects specifically for children. Al encouraged young Earth Explorers to join Jerry’s Rangers. In 1992, a “young naturalists group” had been formed in Revelstoke by Debby Robinson. There was word of a new nature magazine published out of Nanaimo (1993), called *Get Wild*, that was aimed primarily at children and of a children’s magazine called *In S.Y.N.C.* published by the Shawnigan Young Naturalists Club (1996).

In 1993, Rob Butler proposed that the FBCN create a young naturalist program based on the youth program of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (UK, Europe’s largest conservation organization with over one million members). Their youth program, the Young Ornithologists’ Club (now known as RSPB Wildlife Explorers), has been in existence since 1965; the Junior Bird Recorder’s Club from which it evolved had formed even earlier, in 1943.

The aim of the proposed Young Naturalists’ Club (YNC) would be to develop a younger generation of naturalists who are both knowledgeable in natural history

and ecology and prepared to take action on behalf of the environment. The FBCN highlighted the formation of a Young Naturalists' Club as one of its strategies in the 1998 Strategic Plan. So, once again, the FBCN struck a Committee with the purpose of establishing a Young Naturalists' Club.

Action

For various reasons, however, this initiative stalled until the Vancouver Natural History Society (now Nature Vancouver) decided to act on behalf of all FBCN clubs to develop a program for young people. The VNHS plan, however, was not to try to organize the Club entirely on its own, but rather to be open to other partners. By doing so, the opportunities of reaching every area of the province would be greatly increased. Where there were FBCN clubs, they were invited to recruit leaders to start a local YNC, which would be supported, to a greater or lesser degree, by the adult club. In the many areas of the province that were not served by an FBCN club, VNHS wanted to provide the opportunity for every young person, urban or rural, with a group or as an individual, to join. By linking up with existing programs, duplication would be avoided.

As a trial run to establishing a YNC, VNHS started up a local family program called "Step into Nature" in 1997. Coincidentally, Al Grass transitioned his BC Naturalist Magazine column from "Jerry the Moose" and his Earth Explorers to "Nature Corner" and finally, perhaps in anticipation of things to come, he renamed his column "The Young Naturalist Explorer" (1997).

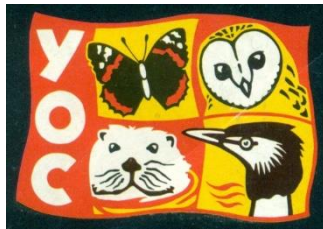
The Young Naturalists' Club of British Columbia was finally launched in the spring of 2000 by a working group of VNHS members - Karen Buschert, Carole Grupe, Diane Lepawsky, Muren Schachter and Daphne Solecki (Chair). Monica Belko joined the group through the BC government's E-Team initiative (Environmental Youth Team Eco-Ed). From 2000 to 2015, Monica was the production editor for *NatureWILD* Magazine.

An announcement was made in the *BC Naturalist* Magazine that the VNHS had launched the first issue of the YNC Magazine, *NatureWILD*. Then VNHS President, Jeremy McCall, ranked the founding of the YNC among one of the most important achievements of the VNHS, and appealed for members to support the fledging organization because, *if VNHS is to have a future, it will be with younger members of the community*. Al Grass, as a show of his lifelong commitment to the education of young naturalists, began a column called "Ask Al"; one that has been ensconced in the *NatureWILD* Magazine since that first issue in 2000.

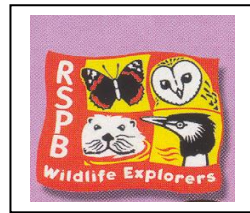
As it happens, the delay in getting the YNC off the ground—though frustrating at the time—was actually fortuitous because the launch coincided with the growth of electronic communication. Without the ability to communicate with leaders and members by email and to make the YNC known via the website, the organization would never have grown as quickly as it has.

Progress

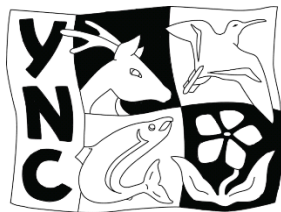
In 1995, Daphne visited the RSPB headquarters at Sandy, in the United Kingdom. The RSPB was very generous with help, advice and materials and an invitation to make use of everything that could be adapted to BC's local conditions: without further permission! YNC has made full use of this generosity, starting with adapting their logo. The YNC logo was created by Claudette Poirier originally in black and white, and a later version was adapted to colour by Andrew Frank.



YOC



RSPB Wildlife Explorers



YNC



YNC

The YNC also adapted the main elements of the RSPB's program—outdoor explorations and activities, action awards and a magazine—which evolved into

1. Monthly Explorer Days (field trips),
2. Action Awards (Bronze, Silver and Gold) for activities involving nature study, sharing knowledge with others, outdoor exploration and community action, and,
3. *NatureWILD*, the only quarterly publication for children with a focus on BC nature and the environment.

To this day, the YNC executive remains in touch with the RSPB and they continue to provide assistance on an *ad hoc* basis. Also to this day, from home base, the province-wide YNC program supports the YNC Leaders (who run local Explorer Days) with training in First Aid and stewardship opportunities, in addition to services for members such as *NatureWILD* magazine, Action Awards, Passports to Nature, and accessories (caps, T-shirts, etc.), not to mention all the administration, fundraising, and staff.

A Home Base for Developing the Membership

The first local YNC for families with children 5 – 14 years of age was inaugurated in the spring of 2000 with a children's event at Van Dusen Gardens. The first YNC on Vancouver Island was launched in Nanaimo in the same year. When funds

permitted, the YNC employed a part-time Membership Assistant to assist the YNC Coordinator and by 2005 the position of part-time Membership Assistant was securely established. Jane Shoemaker was hired and FBCN made space in its 1367 West Broadway office location to house the fledgling YNC. The sharing of space worked well, and when FBCN was forced to move due to closing of the West Broadway offices, then FBCN President, Bev Ramey, worked closely with Daphne and YNC to find an alternate, suitable joint office space.

Fortunately, space in a BC Parks original Ranger home, repurposed for planning staff, became available. The FBCN was able to enter into an agreement with the Elders Council for Parks in British Columbia and move into the “Heritage Centre” at the base of Mount Seymour Provincial Park. The FBCN invited YNC to share this space and both organizations relocated to the Heritage Centre in March 2008. FBCN (now BC Nature) has continued to support YNC financially by providing office space, as well as ongoing administrative assistance through computers, telephone, summer student assistants and other helpful administrative measures.

The arrangement is mutually beneficial for the two organizations with the close proximity enhancing the communication between the youthful energy of YNC and the mentoring/naturalist expertise of BC Nature, especially from its member clubs in communities throughout BC. In addition, YNC has had the opportunity to hold its fall and spring general meetings as part of BC Nature’s AGMs and FGMs. Space, publicity and other provisions have generously been provided by the BC Nature host clubs.

By 2006, membership in YNC had grown to 24 clubs throughout the province; by 2015, the number of YNC Family Clubs had reached 31. Recruitment of new members and volunteer leaders requires ongoing effort to continuously reach out to new young children, as the older children grow ‘out’ of the YNC and move on to other activities. Often the children’s parents are the volunteer leaders of the YNC local clubs, and so recruitment of replacement leaders must also be addressed.

In 2007, acknowledging that there were far more children in BC than could ever be reached through family YNCs, a new program for elementary schools was initiated – Nature Clubs in Schools—coordinated by Kristine Webber and supported by generous grants from government and business.

Becoming a Registered Charity

In spite of its tremendous growth and province-wide coverage during the early years when Anne Murray (1998-2002) and Jeremy McCall (2002-2006) held the FBCN’s presidency position, the YNC remained somewhat insecure financially. Support from FBCN with free office space and administrative assistance was a big help, and for the most part the VNHS successfully obtained grants to operate and maintain the YNC programs and publish *NatureWild*. Grants, however, were not always forthcoming or consistent in their generosity. Over the years, the FBCN provided YNC with several small grants to help maintain programs but it became

clear to Jeremy in 2004 that for technical reasons, the experience of erratic grant funding provoked the need for a change in focus. The YNC needed to become its own society and registered charity sooner, rather than later.

In 2006, the decision was made to become a separate registered charity. Part of the reason was economic—through internal competition YNC might hamper either Nature Vancouver or BC Nature in their own fund-raising efforts. The first YNC Directors were Rob Butler, George Bangham, Eva Nagy, Jeremy McCall, Anne Murray, and Daphne Solecki.

The Directors quickly went about the business of writing the constitution, establishing the bylaws and the special relationship between BC Nature and the Young Naturalists' Club of BC.

**Special Relationship Between BC Nature and
the Young Naturalists' Club of BC, 2006**

The special relationship between BC Nature and the YNC is recognized in the YNC Constitution as follows:

"The Young Naturalists' Club of BC Society is affiliated with the Federation of BC Naturalists [BC Nature] and is committed to supporting the objectives of the Federation. This section is unalterable in accordance with the Society Act of British Columbia."

By 2012, BC Nature approved a reciprocal statement that in words makes explicit the assistance that BC Nature had been providing to YNC, especially since opening up its office space to share with YNC in 2005.

**BC Nature Support for Young Naturalists' Club of BC
2012**

1. BC Nature recognizes the Young Naturalists' Club of BC as the youth arm of BC Nature and engages to support and strengthen the YNC by all mutually agreed methods.
2. BC Nature will appoint an Executive Committee member as liaison to YNC to ensure good communication and invites YNC to do the same.
3. BC Nature recognizes YNC financially with a line item in the budget.
4. BC Nature encourages its member clubs to assist their local YNC in whatever ways are possible.

Today (2015)

There are over 31 regional, family-based YNCs and another 30 Nature Clubs in Schools located throughout BC, serving well over 2000 children in any given year plus their parents and teachers. In addition, there are individuals and libraries that subscribe to *NatureWILD*.

Until 2008, Daphne volunteered her time to coordinate the YNC with the help of a part-time office and membership assistant. Originally operating out of Daphne's dining room, office space provided by BC Nature in 2005 at the West Broadway location and the first part-time staff person was hired. When the BC Nature moved office space to the Mount Seymour Heritage Centre, the position of a part-time YNC Coordinator was created in 2008 as a step towards ensuring a stable future for YNC. Jennifer Swanston was hired as YNC Coordinator to oversee the running of the organization, supervising YNC membership services and finances, assisting YNC leaders and maintaining the website.

In 2011, the YNC Coordinator position was split into two: the Executive Director position was defined to oversee the administration of the YNC, including communications and fundraising; the Clubs Coordinator position was defined to support the ever-growing network of volunteer YNC Leaders across the province. These positions are in turn supported by the Office and Membership Coordinator. All positions are part-time – three days a week. In 2015 the Executive Director is Kristine Webber, Clubs Coordinator is Tammy Keetch, and Office and Membership Coordinator is Karina Russell. Daphne Solecki was recently made an Honorary President of the Young Naturalists' Club of British Columbia. In 2015 the name of the society was changed from the Young Naturalists Club of British Columbia to NatureKids BC.

Future

NatureKids BC is unique in Canada in having initiated the first province-wide network of young naturalists' clubs. By providing support to local volunteer club leaders, we hope that the clubs will continue to thrive and not fade away when a current leader leaves, as has happened in the past.

Alberta, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia have adapted the BC program to their regions and interest has been shown by some other provinces. Nature Canada is currently interested in working on a young naturalist program and has cited British Columbia as a good model. In the not-too-distant future, NatureKids BC would like to see the establishment of a young naturalists' network from coast to coast to coast.

We are always looking to the future for ways to grow and improve the program – for instance, finding ways to continue serving children who are moving out of our program as teenagers but are still too young for more adult-based BC Nature Clubs. NatureKids BC has established an important link that strengthens the web of naturalist clubs throughout BC with the umbrella BC Nature organization.

Chapter written 2015. Updates: In 2016 Kristine Webber retired as Executive Director. Louise Pedersen was hired and led NatureKids BC for the next three years. Since 2020, Rebecca Clapperton Law serves as the Executive Director.

Chapter Nine

BC Naturalists' Foundation

Written by Bev Ramey and Elisa Kreller, with editorial assistance from Bob Handfield.

Formation of the Foundation

The BC Naturalists' Foundation was formed by members of the Federation of BC Naturalists (FBCN) at its 1990 AGM, to receive donations and bequests to further the work of naturalists in BC.

Reflecting on its formation, Dick Stace-Smith commented:

The Foundation was truly the brainchild of Joe Lotzkar. While he was serving as President of the FBCN (1987-88), he became convinced of the long-term value of establishing a Foundation as a major fundraiser for the FBCN. He looked upon it as an endowment that would not be created immediately but, over time, would be in a position to be of great help to the FBCN. At the time, I was Past President of the FBCN and Joe asked my assistance in setting up a Foundation. I worked with him and Bert Brink in our initial efforts to get the Foundation established.

The founding Directors of the Foundation were: Joe Lotzkar, Richard (Dick) Stace-Smith, V.C. (Bert) Brink, Yorke Edwards and Peter Legg. The purpose of the Foundation is: "To promote the preservation of the natural environment for future generations through conservation, education and research projects."

Joe Lotzkar described its formation (1991):

The vision of a Foundation for the FBCN is becoming a reality. While awaiting word from Revenue Canada regarding charitable organization status, directors have been busy setting up logistical and organizational details. An initial meeting was held with the Vancouver Foundation to manage a portion of the FBCN Foundation endowment. It is anticipated that the Foundation will be fully operational by the Fall. . . Naturalists are encouraged to think about how the Foundation can work for them and conversely, about how they can support the Foundation. The Foundation will initially support the ongoing activities of the FBCN, and it is hoped that with the growth of the Foundation, funding will become available for club projects.

On July 6, 1990 the Federation of British Columbia Naturalists' Foundation was incorporated provincially under the Society Act and soon after was registered by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) as a charity. Its initial designation was as a charitable organization. Several years later, CRA changed the Foundation's designation to public foundation.

A public foundation provides donations to a charitable organization that directly manages programs. This change in designation appropriately reflected how the Foundation uses its investment income to fund charities (primarily BC Nature and its member clubs) who in turn directly oversee the use of the funds in projects that align with the Foundation's mission.

In 2003, the Foundation's name was simplified, legally, to BC Naturalists' Foundation. The Foundation appreciates the legal help provided by Ross McCutcheon.

Governance

The governance of the Foundation is closely linked to BC Nature. BC Nature's Board of Directors appoints the members of the Foundation and nominates the Directors of the Foundation. Like BC Nature, the Foundation strives to have a Board whose Directors represent all regions of the province.

Dick Stace-Smith described in 1999 the thoughts of the founding Directors:

In preparing our by-laws, we did recognize the need for continuity of Directors. We advised every potential director that we approached that we were looking down the road many years and hoped that they would be prepared to serve several terms. This was done on purpose because we felt that a Foundation was not just your regular society – it should have a long-term view where continuity is important. This statement is not in the by-laws, but it has been the vision of the Foundation from the beginning.

Relationship between the Foundation and the Federation

In 2001, the BC Naturalists' Foundation Directors and the executive of the Federation of BC Naturalists met jointly to determine ways to work closely together to achieve a "fully seamless and integrated approach".

Again in 2009, a joint meeting was held to discuss the future of the Foundation. The role of the Foundation and its Constitution and By-Laws were reaffirmed, as recorded in the notes from that meeting:

The Foundation is an entity autonomous from the Federation but inextricably linked to it by shared goals and by the power of the Federation to appoint members to the Foundation and nominate Directors. The Foundation provides a permanent vehicle to fund enduring and tangible projects to promote the preservation of the natural environment for future generations through conservation, research and education projects.

Agreement was reached on improving the visibility of the Foundation and the working relationship between the Foundation and the Federation, including these principles:

- The President and Treasurer of the Federation, or their delegates, be members and Directors of the Foundation, and that a Foundation Director be a member of the Federation's Board.
- The Foundation use the mailing address and phone contact of the Federation.
- The annual fall fundraising appeal of the Foundation and the Federation be joint. This serves to present the message to membership that both organizations work to support each other and at the same time reduces mailing costs.
- The Foundation and the Federation meet annually to review grant applications and disbursements with at least two representatives from each attending.

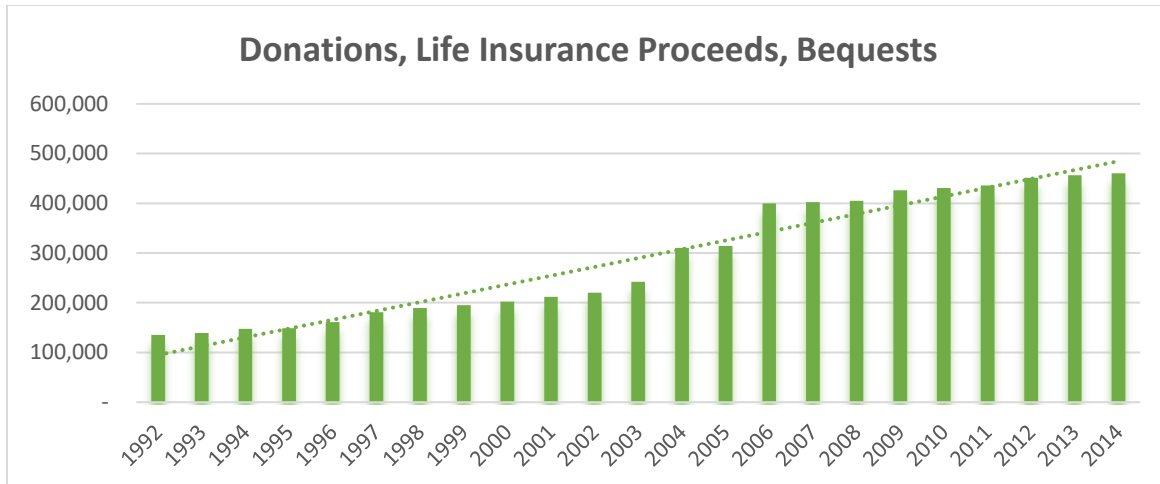
Since this agreement was reached, a joint fundraising appeal to members of BC Nature has been made each fall in a seamless manner. The joint appeal also serves to reduce costs for each organization. The review of Club Support Grant applications by a committee, with representatives from both the Foundation and BC Nature, also works well. Both organizations are proud of the support offered in this way to member naturalist clubs. Refer to Appendix 12. BC Naturalists' Foundation, Relationship and Grants, for the wording of the Relationship Agreement and for Grants provided by the Foundation since 1991.

Donors to the Foundation

Since inception, the Foundation has benefitted from many generous donors. A major impetus to establish the Foundation arose when the late Katherine Sherman of Victoria bequeathed a major portion of her estate in 1991. She was a keen naturalist, a strong supporter of the FBCN, and had attended some of the early camps that were organized by the BC Nature Council, the forerunner of the FBCN.

The Foundation and the naturalist community greatly appreciate the several major donors who have made substantial contributions as bequests, planned giving or donations over the past twenty-nine years. Ongoing annual donations from many members of BC Nature are also appreciated. The Foundation grows stronger because of you.

The following chart was compiled in 2014 to highlight donations received from inception of the Foundation, showing the steady climb of capital.



Since 2014, donations and bequests have continued to grow the Foundation’s funds, which in 2019 have now reached well over \$700,000. This amount is well beyond the top of the chart compiled in 2014. In addition to this capital, the Foundation has disbursed more than \$214,500 to support naturalist club projects. The funds disbursed come from investment earnings on the contributed capital.

The Foundation would like to recognize the generous donations of BC Nature members who have passed on, leaving substantial bequests or donations to the Foundation. Donors include: Katharine Sherman, Joe Lotzkar, Richard (Dick) Stace-Smith, Pauline and Peter Legg, Eva Mary Bene, Iris Griffith, Living by Water Project, Marjorie Clark, Lucy Hack, Katherine (Kay) Beamish, Edna Patricia Robinson, Almelda (Melda) Buchanan, Richard (Dick) Irving Greyson, Norman (Norm) Pursell, Joan Heriot, Gerard Bloem, Howard Telosky, Rolf Kellerhals, and Ursula Easterbrook.

Many BC Nature members continue to make substantial donations and have done so over several years during the joint BC Nature – BC Naturalists’ Foundation annual appeal. About 250 members have donated, including substantial donations received from: Nancy Braithwaite, Lyndis Davis, Louise Irwin, Bob Dyer, Fred McMechan, Glen and Margaret Carlson, Frances and Alan Vyse, Pat and Hugh Westheuser, Joyce Manary and Boudi Van Oldenburgh, Stephen Partington, and Elizabeth Greenwood, as well as clubs donating in memory of one of their members passing.

Capital and Investments

At incorporation, the Foundation decided to invest a significant portion of its capital with the Vancouver Foundation and a total of \$191,598 was permanently transferred to the Vancouver Foundation’s Consolidated Trust Fund (CTF). The Vancouver Foundation annually disburses the CTF’s average annual investment earnings net of fees to all of the unitholders of this fund.

The remaining major portion of the Foundation's funds are invested and managed by a professional investment firm, working under the direction of the Foundation's investment policy. This policy provides for a balance between equity and fixed income investments.

For year-end 2018 Financial Statements, the Foundation's total assets with the investment firm are \$506,681. This is comprised of \$383,435 in the Endowment Fund (donations and bequests) and \$121,708 in the General Fund (investment earnings). Note that these totals are in addition to the capital held with the Vancouver Foundation.

Foundation Grants to BC Nature

The BC Naturalists' Foundation supports BC Nature and its member clubs by providing annual grants that meet the Foundations' purposes: "To promote the preservation of the natural environment for future generations through conservation, education and research projects."

Since 1991, the Foundation has provided \$214,500 to a wide variety of projects to restore natural areas, to improve appreciation of the natural environment and to help communities better connect with nature. Each year, a portion of the earnings on investments is donated to BC Nature for grants to support Club Projects, or at times, the projects of BC Nature. Since the Foundations' inception in 1990, it has provided grants to about 110 club projects. Over the years, grants have also been provided directly to support BC Nature projects. Most recently the Foundation has funded both the BC Nature scholarships awarded annually and provided a one-time grant for BC Nature to conduct an organization review.

All donations, bequests and planned giving are invested—it is the earnings from these investments that fund the grants. In this way, the amount of grants available annually from the Foundation gradually increases. In 2012, the annual grant to BC Nature for club projects was in the order of \$9,000. By 2019 the annual grant rose to about \$18,500. Refer to BC Nature website description and listing of annual grants under About/BC Naturalists' Foundation.

Examples of types of club projects supported by the Foundation include:

- nature trails, viewing areas, and signage
- sensitive habitat signs
- bird and wildlife checklists
- bird banding
- bird identification courses
- birding trail map
- bird nesting boxes
- inventories of natural areas
- shoreline atlas
- bioblitzes

- special events to celebrate nature
- restoration and planting projects
- conferences and workshops on habitat protection
- environmental outreach
- webcam on osprey nest
- connecting children to nature
- nature centre facilities and programs.

The Future

The Foundation continues to encourage donations and bequests to increase its capital, thereby increasing its capacity to make grants for the conservation and nature education projects. The Foundation grows stronger due to the many naturalists who have, and who continue to, make donations to grow its capital.

Presidents of the BC Naturalists' Foundation

1990 – 1994: Joe Lotzkar
1994 – 1997: Jude Grass
1997 – 2003: Frances Vyse
2003 – 2009: Jeremy McCall
2009 – 2012: Bob Dyer
2012 – 2016: Bev Ramey
2016 – 2020: Robert (Bob) Handfield
2021 - : Stephen Partington

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Appendix 1. AGM and FGM Locations, Host Clubs, Themes

BC Nature Council

AGM 1963. Victoria. Meeting not as a society but rather organizing to become one, in Dr. Carl's office, BC Provincial Museum (now Royal British Columbia Museum)

AGM 1964 May 9. Penticton, host South Okanagan Naturalist Club

FGM 1964 Oct 10-11. Victoria, host Victoria Natural History Society

AGM 1965 May 8. Kelowna, host Central Okanagan Naturalists

FGM 1965 Oct 16. Vancouver, host Vancouver Natural History Society at UBC
Attendance 50

AGM 1966 May 7-8. Duncan, organized by Cowichan Valley Natural History Society
Discussion began on the process of incorporation as a society

FGM 1966 Oct 15-16. Penticton, host South Okanagan Naturalists
Attendance 13+

AGM 1967 May 6-7. Vernon, host North Okanagan Naturalists
Attendance 30+

FGM 1967 Oct 21-22. Victoria, host Victoria Natural History Society and Thetis Park Nature Sanctuary Association. Held in Thomas Francis (King) Nature Park, plus private home

AGM 1968 May 11. Vancouver, host Vancouver Natural History Society at Agriculture Canada Research Station, Burnaby
Proposed constitution for BC Nature Council ongoing review

FGM 1968 Oct 12. Kelowna, host Central Okanagan Naturalists at Aquatic Club Hall
Three constitution terms approved.

AGM 1969 April 26-27. Comox, host Comox-Strathcona Naturalist History Society
Voted to incorporate under Societies Act as Federation of British Columbia Naturalists.
Attendance 20+

Federation of British Columbia Naturalists

FGM 1969 Oct 18-19. Penticton, host South Okanagan Naturalists at Apex Lodge

AGM 1970 Apr 25. Duncan, host Cowichan Valley Naturalists
Attendance 40+

FGM 1970 Oct 10-12. Prince George, host Prince George Naturalists
Attendance 35

AGM 1971 May 1. Vancouver, host Vancouver Natural History Club

AGM 1972 Apr 15. Vancouver, host Vancouver Natural History Club
Attendance 21+

FGM 1972. Parksville, host Arrowsmith Naturalists
Attendance 50

AGM 1973 Apr 14. Kamloops, host Kamloops Naturalists at Cariboo College Buildings
Attendance 66

FGM 1973 Oct 6-7. Golden
Attendance 50

AGM 1974 Apr 12. Kamloops, host Kamloops Naturalists
Attendance 70

AGM 1974 Oct 26. Port Moody, host Alouette Field Naturalists

AGM 1975 Apr 19. Kamloops, host Kamloops Naturalists
Attendance 86

CNF Canadian Nature Federation AGM 1975 June 12-16. Host Victoria Natural History Society

AGM 1976 April 9-11. Kamloops, host Kamloops Naturalists

AGM 1977 Apr 22-24. Vernon, host North Okanagan Naturalists
Attendance 97 representing 35 clubs

AGM 1978 Apr 28-30. Williams Lake, host Williams Lake Field Naturalists
Theme: "A Naturalist's Intro to the Cariboo". Workshops on geology, forest ecology and range ecology. Paul St. Pierre banquet speaker on anecdotes from Chilcotin characters he has known.
Attendance 130, approximately 100 members at business meeting

AGM 1979 May 11-13. Vancouver, host Vancouver Natural History Club
Theme: "Fraser River Estuary and its Importance to Wildlife".
Attendance 120

AGM 1980 May 16-18. Castlegar, host West Kootenay Naturalists at Selkirk College
Registration \$25, banquet included. Attendance 140

FGM 1980 Oct 16. Squamish, host Evans Lake Forestry Centre

AGM 1981 May 14-16. Parksville, hosts Arrowsmith Naturalists and Nanaimo Field Naturalists
Workshop: "Pros and Cons of Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation".
Attendance 85+

FGM 1981 Oct 10-11. Prince George, host Prince George Naturalists
Workshops: "Impact of the Northeast Coal Development" and "Site C Hydro Development"

AGM 1982 May 14-16. Naramata, host South Okanagan Naturalists
Attendance 102+

FGM 1982 Nov 6-7. Maple Ridge, host Alouette Field Naturalists at Timberline Ranch
Workshop: "Role of Naturalists on Advisory Committees" and tour of Pitt Polder.

Registration \$40 including meals

AGM 1983 May 13-15. Sechelt, host Sechelt Marsh Protection Society
Attendance 98

FGM 1983 Oct 21-23. Grand Forks, host Boundary Field Naturalists

AGM 1984 May 25-27. Vernon, host North Okanagan Naturalists at O'Keefe Ranch Restaurant
Registration \$31 including banquet. Attendance 86+

AGM 1985 April 18-21. Crescent Beach, Surrey, host White Rock & Surrey Naturalists at Camp Alexandra
Registration 3-day package with dormitory & food \$70. Attendance 100+

FGM 1985 Oct 12-14. Oliver, host Oliver and Osoyoos Naturalists

AGM 1986 Apr 25-27. Kamloops, host Kamloops Naturalists at The Place Inn
Registration \$15, banquet \$16. Attendance 29+

FGM 1986 Oct 11-13. Chilliwack, host Chilliwack Field Naturalists at Chilliwack Cottonwood Inn
Registration \$10, banquet \$15

AGM 1987 Apr 24-26. Courtenay, host Comox-Strathcona Natural History Society at the Washington Inn
Registration \$20, banquet \$14.95. Attendance 38+

FGM 1987 Oct 9-11. Kelowna, host Central Okanagan Naturalists at Senior Citizens Activity Centre
Registration \$14, banquet \$15.50

AGM 1988 May 5-7. Williams Lake, host Williams Lake Field Naturalists
Round Table and slide show "An Introduction to Cariboo Landscapes".
Attendance 29+

FGM 1988 Oct 7-10. Duncan, host Cowichan Valley Naturalists, Inn at the Water, Cowichan Bay
Theme: "Forestry".
Registration \$17, banquet \$16

AGM 1989 May 4-7. Victoria, host Victoria Natural History Society at University of Victoria
Round Table by invitation
Registration \$20, banquet \$20

FGM 1989 Oct 6-8. Langley, host Langley Field Naturalists at Aldergrove Motor Inn
Education Committee Workshop: "Sharing Nature in Your Community".
Registration \$25, banquet \$15

AGM 1990 May 10-13. Kelowna, host Central Okanagan Naturalists at the Capri Hotel
Workshops: "Sharing Nature in Your Community" and "Project Wild: A Workshop for the Naturalist".
Each workshop cost \$25. Registration \$20, banquet \$21

FGM 1990 Oct 11-14. Salmon Arm, host Shuswap Naturalists at Salmon Arm Motor Hotel
Theme: "River Deltas and Marshlands of the BC Interior".

Land for Nature Workshop: "Old Growth Forests – Interior and Coastal". Cost \$10
Registration \$25, banquet \$15

AGM 1991 May 9-12. Prince George, host Prince George Naturalists at Esther's Inn
"Rivers and Forest Management Forum".
Registration \$25, banquet \$20

FGM 1991 Oct 4-6. Courtenay, host Comox-Strathcona Naturalists at Westerly Hotel
Workshops: "Wildlife Watch Program" and "Education – A Discussion of FBCN's Role".
Registration \$20, banquet \$20

AGM 1992 April 16-19. Maple Ridge, host Alouette Field Naturalists at Loon Lake UBC Malcolm
Knapp Research Forest. Discussion: "The Structure of the Federation".
Registration \$50 per day food and accommodation

FGM 1992 Oct 16-18. Kimberley, host Rocky Mountain Naturalists at Kimberley Ski & Summer
Resort
Workshops: "FBCN Restructuring Proposals" and "Land Use in the Kootenays: A Perspective on
the Future".
Registration \$27, banquet \$12

AGM 1993 May 13-16. Vancouver, host Vancouver Natural History Society at UBC
Workshop: "Fraser River Basin Management Program".
Registration \$26, banquet \$24

CNF 1993 July 22-25. Vernon, host North Okanagan Naturalists at Vance Creek Hotel, Silver Star
Mountain 22nd Annual Canadian Nature Federation Conference
Theme: "From Desert Sands to Alpine Slopes".

FGM 1993 Oct 21-24. Kamloops, host Kamloops Naturalists Club at University College of the
Cariboo
Workshop: "How to include Natural Areas in Land for Nature Projects".
Registration \$27, banquet \$15

AGM 1994 April 21-24. Chilliwack Field Naturalists at Columbia Bible Camp, Cultus Lake
Registration \$27, banquet \$15

FGM 1994 Sept 29-Oct 2. Salt Spring Island, host Salt Spring Trail & Nature Club at Cedar Beach
Resort, St Mary Lake.
Workshop: Land for Nature Initiatives.
Registration \$30, banquet \$17

AGM 1995 April 27-30. Naramata, host South Okanagan Naturalists at Naramata Centre
Theme: "Habitat Loss & Protection: Earth, Fire, Water".
Registration \$40, banquet \$15

FGM 1995 Sept 28-Oct 1. Quesnel, host Quesnel Naturalists Club
Theme: "Water – Lake, Stream, River and Marsh Stewardship".
Registration \$35, banquet \$15

AGM 1996 April 25-28. Abbotsford, host Central Valley Naturalists at Matsqui Auditorium
Theme: "Celebration of Naturescape BC - Caring for Wildlife Habitat at Home".
Registration \$40, banquet \$20

FGM 1996 Oct 17-20. Celista, host North Shuswap Naturalists at Quaaout Lodge & Celista Hall
Registration \$55, banquet \$12

AGM 1997 May 8-11. Princeton, host Vermilion Forks Field Naturalists at Legions Hall
Theme: "Grasslands, Forests & Riparian Habitat – A Biodiversity".
Registration \$40, banquet \$20

FGM 1997 Sept 25-27. Creston, host Naturalists Clubs of the Kootenays: Nelson Naturalists,
West Kootenay Naturalists, Rocky Mountain Naturalists, Boundary Naturalists and Arrow Lakes
Naturalists
Creston Valley Wildlife Area – BC's 2nd largest Ramsar Site for Migratory Birds.
Registration \$30, banquet \$20

AGM 1998 May 7-10. Kelowna, host Central Okanagan Naturalists at Lake Okanagan Resort
Theme: "Urban Wildlands".
Registration \$50, banquet \$25. All registrants 103, with 65 people for entire AGM

FGM 1998 Sept 24-27. Vernon, host North Okanagan Naturalists at Bella Vista Winery
Registration \$30, banquet \$25

AGM and CNF 1999 May 13-16. Qualicum Beach, host Arrowsmith Naturalists
joint AGM with Canadian Nature Federation
Theme: "Where the Mountains Meet the Sea: Opportunities in the Next Millennium".
Registration \$60, banquet \$25. Attendance 236 people including day registrations, 38 out of
province, banquet registration 180

FGM 1999 Sept 24-27. Princeton, host Vermilion Forks Naturalists at A & P Ranch
Theme: "Fire and Water – Regeneration and Life".
Registration \$50, accommodation and meals \$150, banquet \$25

AGM 2000 May 18-21. Osoyoos, host Osoyoos Desert Society assisted by Oliver-Osoyoos
Naturalists
Theme: "Endangered Desert: Wildlife and Habitats at Risk".
[Note: this has been the only AGM or FGM hosted by a non-federated club and timed with
Meadowlark Festival]
Registration \$55, banquet \$25

FGM 2000 Sept 21-24. Chilliwack, host Chilliwack Field Naturalists at Charis Camp
Theme: "Living by Water".
Registration \$50, shared residential camp accommodation and meals \$140, banquet \$25

AGM 2001 May 24-27. Williams Lake, host Williams Lake Field Naturalists
Theme: "Experiencing the Cariboo-Chilcotin Grasslands".
Registration \$50, banquet \$20

FGM 2001 Oct 18-21. Surrey, host White Rock and Surrey Naturalists at Camp Alexandra,
Crescent Beach Theme: "Birds, Bogs and Beyond".
Registration \$45, meals and accommodation \$150, banquet \$15

AGM 2002 May 9-12. Victoria, Victoria Natural History Society at University of Victoria
Theme: "Discover Island Diversity".
Registration \$60, banquet \$22

FGM 2002 Sept 19-22. Whistler, host Whistler Naturalist Club

Theme: "Peak to Valley – The Ups and Downs of Life in a Mountain Environment".
Registration \$70, banquet \$25

AGM 2003 May 8-11. Kamloops, host Kamloops Naturalist Club, University College of the Cariboo
Theme: "Fire & Water: Landscape Sculptors". Symposium: "Dry Forests Ecosystems".
Registration \$55, banquet \$26

FGM 2003 Sept 18-21. Kimberley, host Rocky Mountain Naturalists, Kimberley North Star Centre
Theme: "Learning Your Natural World: Mildred White's Legacy".
Full registration \$90 including banquet

AGM 2004 May 13-16. Vancouver, host Vancouver Natural History Society at UBC
Theme: "Where the River Meets the Sea". Symposium: "Restating the Case for Marine Reserves".
Registration \$55, banquet \$30

FGM 2004 Sept 30-Oct 2. Kelowna, host Central Okanagan Naturalists at Ramada Lodge
Theme: "Splendour of Fall".
Registration \$70, banquet \$30

AGM 2005 May 12-15. Salmon Arm, host Shuswap Naturalists at Prestige Harbourfront Resort
Theme: "Dancing in the Bay: A Study of Wetlands in an Urban Setting".
Registration by \$65, banquet \$27. Attendance 145, banquet 138

FGM 2005 Sept 29-Oct 2. Lillooet, host Lillooet Naturalists at Lillooet Friendship Centre
Theme: "Canyon to Alpine".
Full registration, including banquet \$80. Attendance 150

AGM 2006 May 4-7. Courtenay, host Comox Valley Naturalists at Coast Westerly Hotel
Theme: "Comox Valley: Sustaining the Land of Plenty".
Registration \$68, banquet \$30. Attendance 165, banquet 170

FGM 2006 Sept 28-Oct 1. Coquitlam, host Burke Mountain Naturalists, at Best Western
Coquitlam Inn
Theme: "Weaving Nature and Communities Together".
Registration \$65, banquet \$35. Attendance 96

AGM 2007 May 3-6. Vernon, host North Okanagan Naturalists at Okanagan University College
Theme: "Conserving our Watersheds and Grasslands".
Registration \$65, banquet \$35. Attendance 117, banquet 107

FGM 2007 Oct 11-14. Chilliwack, host Chilliwack Field Naturalists at Executive Hotel, Harrison
Hot Springs
Theme: "North Cascade Ecology – Sasquatch Country!".
Full registration including banquet \$100. Attendance 87

AGM 2008 May 29-June 1. Penticton, host South Okanagan Naturalists, at Penticton Lakeside
Theme: "A Century of Change".
Full registration including banquet \$100. Attendance 121, banquet 165

FGM 2008 Oct 2-5. Sorrento, host North Shuswap Naturalists at Sorrento Centre
Theme: "Preserving the Spirit of the Shuswap".
Registration \$80 with all meals; including banquet \$110. Attendance 68

AGM 2009 Apr 30-May 2. Duncan, host Cowichan Valley Naturalists at Quw'utsun' Conference and Cultural Centre.

Theme: "Nature in the Warm Land".

Registration \$110, banquet \$35. Attendance 163

FGM 2009 Sept 10-13. Sunshine Coast, host Pender Harbour & District Wildlife Society at Iris Griffith Nature Centre.

Theme: "The Value of Nature: Summit to Sea"; Workshop on "Five Year Strategic Plan".

Registration \$85, banquet \$25. Attendance 69, banquet 107

AGM 2010 May 13-16. Kamloops, host Kamloops Naturalists at Thompson Rivers University

Theme: "Grasslands: Past, Present & Future". Pre-conference tour: Highland Valley Copper.

Registration \$90, banquet \$40. Attendance 118, Friday Social 152

FGM 2010 Sept 30-Oct 3. Langley, host Langley Field Naturalists at Langley Golf & Banquet Centre

Theme: "Nature on the Urban Edge".

Registration \$110, banquet \$35. Attendance 130, banquet 91

AGM 2011 May 12-15. Williams Lake, host Williams Lake Field Naturalists at the Williams Lake Campus of Thompson Rivers University

Theme: "Enjoying Nature in the Cariboo-Chilcotin".

Registration \$90, banquet \$40. Attendance about 180, banquet 145

FGM 2011, Sept 29-Oct 1. Tsawwassen, host Delta Naturalists at Coast Tsawwassen Inn

Theme: "Nature on the Move – Fall Migration Through Delta".

Registration \$95, banquet \$40. Attendance 195, banquet 148

AGM 2012 May 10-13. Kelowna, host Central Okanagan Naturalists at Okanagan College

Theme: "The Future of Nature in the Central Okanagan".

Registration \$100, banquet \$35. Attendance 178, banquet 160

FGM 2012 Sept 27-30. Parksville, co-hosted by Arrowsmith Naturalists and Nanoose Naturalists at Quality Inn Bayside, Parksville

Theme: "Nature by the Salish Sea".

Registration \$90, Friday BBQ \$20, banquet \$40. Attendance ~132, Friday BBQ 93, banquet 114

AGM 2013 May 2-5. Abbotsford, host Abbotsford-Mission Nature Club at Ramada Inn

Theme: "Along the Fraser – Adapting to Change".

Registration \$100, banquet \$48. Attendance 91, banquet 84

FGM 2013 Sept 19-22. Cranbrook, host Rocky Mountain Naturalists at Prestige Inn

Theme: "Earth, Wind, Fire & Water: The Spirit of Nature".

Registration \$90, banquet \$37. Attendance 107, banquet 101

AGM 2014 May 1-4. Victoria, with co-hosts Victoria Natural History Society & Rocky Point Bird Observatory at Harbour Towers Hotel

Theme: "Coastal Connections". Pre-conference tour to Botanical Beach/Avatar Grove.

Registration \$110, banquet \$40

FGM 2014 Sept 25-28. Salmon Arm, host Shuswap Naturalists at Prestige Harbourfront Resort

Theme: "Salmon & Shorebirds – Incredible Journey".

Registration \$90, banquet \$35. Attendance 133, banquet 107

AGM 2015 May 7-10. Salt Spring Island, host Salt Spring Island Trail & Nature Club at ArtSpring Theatre

Theme: "Living by the Salish Sea: Protecting our Ecoregion".

Registration \$110, banquet \$40. Attendance 206

FGM 2015 None; September, BC Nature Board joined with Nature Canada's AGM in Sidney.

AGM 2016 May 12-15. Courtenay, host Comox Valley Naturalists at the Florence Filberg Centre

Theme: "Celebrating Nature for Fifty Years and 100 Years of Conservation".

Registration \$135, banquet \$45. Attendance 251, banquet 150

FGM 2016 Sept 22-25. Prince George, host Prince George Naturalists at Coast Inn of the North

Theme: "Northern Treasurers: Fish, Fur and Feathers".

Registration \$150, banquet \$50

AGM 2017 May 4-7. Lillooet, host Lillooet Naturalist Society at Reynolds Hotel and REC Centre

Theme: "Canyon to Alpine".

Registration \$125, banquet \$30. Attendance 158, volunteers and presenters bringing total to 200

FGM 2017 Sept 21-23. Vernon, host North Okanagan Naturalists at Village Green Hotel

Theme: "Lakes, Grasslands, Forests".

Registration \$125, banquet \$45. Attendance 125

AGM 2018 May 10-13. Vancouver, host Vancouver Natural History Society at UBC Forest Sciences Centre

Theme: "Promoting Health in Nature: Past, Present and Future".

Registration \$125, banquet \$50. Attendance 150

FGM 2018 Sept 20-23. Kelowna, host Central Okanagan Naturalists at Ramada Lodge

Theme: "Connections" (to the Okanagan grasslands and the world around us).

Registration \$125, banquet \$45. Attendance 75

AGM 2019 May 2-4. Duncan, host Cowichan Valley Naturalists at Ramada Hotel

Theme: "Nature in Quw'utsun, the Warmland".

Registration \$125, banquet 45

FGM 2019 Oct 3-5. Pitt Meadows, host Burke Mountain Naturalists at Pitt Meadows Golf Club

Theme: "Celebrating the Joys of Nature", celebrating the 50th Anniversary of BC Nature and the 30th Anniversary of the Burke Mountain Naturalists.

Registration \$125, banquet \$50. Attendance 160 from 34 clubs

AGM 2020 May 28-31. Princeton, Vermilion forks Field Naturalists at Riverside Community Centre

Theme: "Similkameen Spring".

Full registration \$125, banquet \$50.00

AGM cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Appendix 2. Field Camps and Exploratory Camps

BC Nature Council

	Camp Location, Leader, Host Club	Fees & attendance where available
1964	Oliver, UBC Geology Camp; leader Freeman King together with Canadian Audubon Society, July 20-31 for juniors	\$30 fee 30 attendees
1965	Peachland, Maple Springs Baptist Camp; leader Fred Gornall July 7-18 senior, July 20-21 junior	
1966	Peachland, Maple Springs Baptist Camp; leader Barry Thornton. July 9-17 senior; July 17-24 junior	
1967	Point Roberts, near Vancouver; leader M.A.F. Waugh	

Federation of BC Naturalists

	Camp Location, Leader, Host Club	Fees & attendance where available
1977	Exploratory Backpacking trip to Stein; leader FBCN President Norman Purssell with Vancouver Natural History Society	
1978	Second Exploratory Backpacking trip to Stein; leader Norman Purssell with Vancouver Natural History Society	
1978	Waterton Lakes National Park, Alberta, at Canyon Church Camp, June 4-10, June 10-17; leader Bill Merilees	\$50 fee 139 attendees
1979	Nanoose Bay, Vancouver Island, May 5-11; leader Bill Merilees	101 attendees
1979	Waterton Lakes National Park, June 3-9, June 10-16; leader Bill Merilees	138 attendees
1980	Nanoose Bay, Vancouver Island, Pentecostal Church, May 4-10; leader Bill Merilees and Nanaimo Field Naturalists	\$70 62 attendees
1981	Oliver, UBC Geology Camp; leader Bert Brink with South Okanagan Naturalists and Oliver-Osoyoos Naturalists	
1982	Oliver, UBC Geology Camp, June 12-20; Bert Brink and others	
1983	Elko near Kikomun Creek Provincial Park, Ministry of Forest Fires Suppression Crew Camp, Sept 3-10; organized by Bert and Ruth Brink, Helen Akrigg and others	\$200 60 attendees
1984	Goose Spit, Comox Bay, HMCS Quadra training school, Apr 28-May 6; organized by Pat Smith and Comox-Strathcona Naturalists	\$200 76 attendees
1985	Shuswap Lake - Magna Bay, Camp Grafton, Sept 7-15; organized by Elsie Nykyfork and North Shuswap Naturalists	\$210 70 attendees
1986	Balfour, Kootenay Lake, Pentecostal Church Camp, Aug 16-23; organized by Margaret Barwis and West Kootenay Naturalists; Creston-Salmo bus tour: Creston Wildlife Centre, Mount Idaho, Kokanee Glacier & Kokanee Creek Provincial Parks, Doukhobour Heritage Museum	\$210 45 attendees

1987	Bamfield Marine Station, Aug 31-Sept 7; organized by Norm Pursell and Sally Carson	\$285 60 attendees
1988	Oliver, UBC Geology Camp, May 28-June 5; organized by John Motz and Oliver Osoyoos Naturalists	\$280 54 attendees
1988	Bamfield Marine Station, Sept 4-11; organized by Bert Brink with registrar Barbara Blow	\$290 55 attendees
1989	Smithers field camp, Driftwood Creek Bible Camp, Aug 6-13; Bulkley Valley Naturalists leaders Rosamund and Jim Pojar; Bert Brink coordinator, Barbara Blow registrar; trips to Telkwa and Babine Mountains, Fossil Beds, Smithers Community Forest Nature Trail, Hankin Basin, Hudson Bay Mountain and Moricetown and K'San Village	\$255 fee 55 attendees
1989	Bamfield Marine Station, Sept 3-10; organizer Helen Akrigg	\$400 50 attendees
1990	Vernon field camp at Camp Hurlburt on Okanagan Lake, May 3-10; sponsored by North Okanagan Naturalists, registrar Elsie Nykyfork	\$295 70 attendees
1990	Bamfield Camp, Sept 2-9; organizer Helen Akrigg	\$435
1991	Victoria, UVic Campus at dormitories, May 12-19; organized by A. Copping and Victoria Natural History Society; birding, botany, marine field trips	\$393 Attendees limited to 70
1991	Bamfield Camp, Sept 1-8; organizer Helen Akrigg	
1991	Redfern Lake, Northern Rockies, Expeditionary Camp, Aug 7-14; leader Norman Pursell; float plane access one hour northwest of Fort St John; outfitter Paul Gillis	18 attendees
1992	Chilcotin Camp at Fletcher Challenge bunkhouses, Gaspard Creek, May 23-30; organized by Williams Lake Field Naturalists and FBCN camp chair Norman Pursell; day trips to Farwell Canyon, Junction Sheep Range, Fraser benchlands, Churn Creek, Gang Ranch and Empire Valley grasslands, Doc English bluffs	60 attendees
1992	Spatsizi Provincial Park Exploratory Camp, three separate week-long camps between July 30 to August 20; camp chair Norman Pursell with camp leaders each week: Mary Rode, Ted Stubbs, Bill Paterson; fly into Cold Fish Lake cabins (BC Parks) from Tatogga Lake	\$250 Total 66 attendees (about 22 each week)
1992	Bamfield Camp, Sept 7-13; organizer Helen Akrigg	\$450
1993	Salmon Arm residential camp at Gardom Lake Bible Camp, June 20-27; host Salmon Arm Bay Nature Enhancement Society with leader Joyce Henderson; field trips to Salmon Arm Bay, Mara Meadows, Harold Park and Margaret Falls, Larch Hills, Fly Hills, ostrich farm, Kalamalka Lake, Vernon Commanage and Anstey Arm boat trip	\$320 51 attendees

Note: In 1993 Norman Pursell had been Camp Committee Chair for about five years, with Committee including Helen Akrigg, Doreen Shaw, and Barbara Blow. In the newsletter, Norm asks for others interested in leading, or assisting with, the camps to take over.

1993	Height of the Rockies Exploratory Camp, Aug 1-7 and 7-15; camp near Sylvan Pass with campers hiking 17 km to camp via Joffre Creek; baggage horse (mule) packed by Cody Tegart of Radium; camp leaders - the Bussells; Bob Harris maps; coordinator Norm Pursell	\$250 20 campers each week
1994	Nanoose Bay field camp at Nanoose Pentecostal Camp, May 7-13; organized by Terri Martin with Arrowsmith Naturalists and Nanaimo Field Naturalists; boat charter to Mitlenatch Island, day trip to Newcastle Island, bus charters	\$325 52 participants
1994	Salmon Arm Nature Camp at Gardom Lake Bible Camp, June 5-10; host Salmon Arm Bay Nature Enhancement Society	\$300 Limit 50 attendees
1994	Ilgachuz Mountains Expeditionary Camp, two separate week-long camps between July 31 and August 13; trail head 10 km north of Anahim Lake on the Dean River Road; trail about 8 hours to campsite for hikers, horse packer for gear was Paul Lowrie; coordinator Ted Stubbs with Pat Stubbs and Bob Harris; Bob Harris maps; registrar Barbara Blow	\$250, 20 attendees each week
1995	Atlin Lake Exploratory Camp, northwest BC, two week-long camps between July 23 and August 5; leaders Ted and Pat Stubbs, Bob Harris; day hikes combined with rental of three houseboats (Norseman Adventures) and touring for five days on Atlin Lake	\$275 19 attendees each week
1995	Lac du Bois Field Camp at McQueen Lake Environmental Centre, July 15-22; host Kamloops Naturalists Club with organizers Susan Hammond and Karen Willies; toured Lac du Bois grasslands and Isobel Lake, Dew Drop Range, Valleyview Silt Cliffs, North Thompson river by paddlewheeler	\$300 15 attendees
1995	Bamfield Marine Centre, Sept 10-17; coordinator Helen Akrigg	\$485 33 attendees
1996	Sunshine Coast, Pender Harbour and District Wildlife Society, Spring on the Sunshine Coast, May 9-17	\$375 50 attendees
1996	Lorna Lakes Exploratory Camp, headwaters of Big Creek (now part of Big Creek Provincial Park), two week-long camps between July 28 and August 12; leaders Ted Stubbs (Week 1) and Norman Pursell (Week 2) with registrar Barbara Blow; fly-in and out (a few hiked) to base camp at Lorna Lakes; day trips to Dorrie Peak, Grant Creek and Cluckata Ridge, Elbow Pass, Warner Pass	\$275 to fly in & out \$150 for hikers 18 attendees each week
1997	Nonda Creek Exploratory Camp (eastern edge of Muncho Lake Provincial Park), July 10-16; leader Ted Stubbs and registrar Barbara Blow; drive-in camp near microwave tower at 3100 ft; hiking and day trips to Liard Hot Springs, one night at Summit Lake Provincial Park	\$160 15 attendees
1998	South Okanagan Spring Camp "Bunchgrass and Benchlands", May 2-6; lodging at motel on Skaha Lake, coordinator Laure Neish and South Okanagan Naturalists; day trips to Osoyoos Pocket Desert, Mahoney Lake, McIntyre Bluff, White Lake, Vaseau Lake, Keremeos Grist Mill, Summerland Ornamental Gardens, bus charter	\$375, (\$125 without accommodation) 60 attendees

1998	Jarvis Lakes Exploratory Camp (now Kakwa Provincial Park - northern Rockies), July 12-18; coordinators Ted and Pat Stubbs and registrar Barbara Blow	\$400 fly in & out \$150 for hikers 18 attendees with 3 being hikers
1998	Fall Shuswap Camp at Sorrento Centre, Sept 20-24; host North Okanagan Naturalists	\$375 rooms \$275 tenting
1999	Comox Valley Spring Camp based at Monfort House, UBC Research Farm, two one-week camps between May 6-22; coordinator Betty Lunam; day trips to Mitlenatch Island, Seal Bay, Hornby Island, Oyster River, and Strathcona	\$340 - \$400 25 attendees each week
1999	Pre-Princeton FGM Camp based at A & P Ranch, Sept 20-23; leader Madelon Schouten and Vermilion Forks Naturalists; day trips to Kentucky/Alleyne Lakes, Bluey, Hornet, Lodestone and Nicola Lakes; birding and botany	\$175 - \$250 depending on accommodation 36 attendees
2000	Alaska-Cassiar Highway bus tour with Inside Passage boat return, June 19-July 2000; leader Bill Merilees, assisted by Anne Murray, Cathy Aitchison, Rosemary Taylor and Terry Taylor; joint FBCN- VanNHS tour	36 attendees
2004	Saturna Island Field Camp, May 8-12; leaders Bev Ramey and Anne Murray, assisted by Wally Kiel and Bob Holden; most accommodated at East Point Cottages; day trips to Taylor Beach, Brown Ridge, Saturna Beach, Winter Cove, Boat Pass and boat tour to Tumbo and Cabbage Islands	\$300 shared room \$400 private Fee included dinners and accommodation
2005	Saturna Island Field Camp, April 23-27; leaders Bev Ramey and Anne Murray, assisted by Wendy DaDalt; same itinerary as 2004	\$375 shared room \$475 private
2005	Williams Lake Field Camp, based at Gavin Lake Residential Camp, May 29-June 4; hosted by Fred McMechan and Williams Lake Field Naturalists; day trips to Beaver Valley, Quesnel Forks, Chilcotins Grasslands	Fee \$400 35 attendees
2005	South Chilcotins Provincial Park Exploratory Backpacking, July 19-25; organizers Bill and Bev Ramey; hiked in via Big Paradise Creek	5 attendees
2006	Saturna Island Field Camp, April 29-May 3; leaders Bev Ramey and Anne Murray, assisted by Wendy Dadalt	\$375 shared \$475 private
2006	Okanagan Camp, north of Kelowna, east side of lake at Arbuckle Girl Guide Camp, May 14-19; leaders Pat Westheuser and Central Okanagan Naturalists; day trips to Okanagan Mountain Park, Allan Brooks Nature Centre, Campbell Brown EcoReserve, Kalamoier, Rose Valley, Bear Creek, Beaver Lake Park, and evening presentations	\$450-500 26 attendees
2006	South Chilcotin Provincial Park Exploratory Backpacking, July 9-14; organizers Bill and Bev Ramey; Cinnabar Basin area	4 attendees
2006	Bamfield Marine Station, Sept 8-15; organizer Anne Murray	About \$900
2007	Quadra Island Camp based at Tsa-Kua-Luten Lodge, May 16-20; leaders Rolf and Heather Kellerhals and Mitlenach Naturalists; explored Quadra Island and boat trip to Mitlenatch Island	\$450 - \$550 24 attendees
2007	Manning Park Bird Blitz, June 15-17; BC Nature hosts for first time (25 th Anniversary of Bird Blitz)	\$35

2007	Okanagan Camp, Kelowna at Glenrosa Church Camp, Westbank, May 6-11; leader Pat Westheuser, assisted by Fiona Flook and Central Okanagan Naturalists; day trips to Fintry, White Lake, Okanagan Mountain Park, and evening presentations	\$450 14 attendees
2007	Bamfield Marine Station, Sept 7-12; organizer Anne Murray. Fee includes return boat transportation from Port Alberni to Bamfield, all field activities and meals	\$900
2008	Birding Camp in Eastern Washington based at Soap Lake, Apr 14-19; leaders Anne Murray and Eva Durance; departure from South Okanagan	\$700 20 attendees
2008	Manning Park Bird Blitz; hosted by BC Nature	
2008	Snowy Mountain Provincial Park Exploratory Backpacking and Breeding Bird Atlassing, July 6-12; organizers Bill and Bev Ramey; hiked in via South Slope to base at Joe Lake	10 attendees
2008	Boundary Bay Winter Birding based at South Delta Coast Tsawwassen Inn, Nov 6-9; leader Anne Murray guided to birding hot spots of the delta including Boundary Bay Regional Park and dykes, Reifel Bird Sanctuary, Westham Island, Brunswick Point and Roberts Bank, Blackie Spit, Iona Regional Park, and Point Roberts, WA; evening presentations, workshops and social time	\$450 per person, double occupancy, includes all meals 24 attendees
2009	Manning Park Bird Blitz, June 12-14; now organized jointly by BC Nature and Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning	\$45 43 attendees plus 19 non-paying volunteers/youth
2009	South Chilcotins (Relay Creek and Little Paradise) and Big Creek (Graveyard Valley) Provincial Parks Exploratory Backpacking and Breeding Bird Atlassing, July 4-11; organizers Bill and Bev Ramey	10 attendees
2009	Lillooet Field Camp based at historic Miyazaki House, Sept 13-18; organized by Vivian Birch-Jones and Lillooet Field Naturalists; camp cooks Pat Westheuser and Fiona Flook; day trips alpine hiking, birding, St'at'imc cultural tour and salmon dinner, geology outing, rafting trip down the Fraser to Lytton; evening presentations	\$400, meals included but not accommodation 24 attendees
2010	Salt Spring Island Camp, April 27-May 2; organized by Nieke Visser and Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club; day trips to Mount Ruckle, Mount Erskine, Mount Maxwell, Cusheon Cove, and marine wildlife zodiac boat tour; evening presentations	\$600 Single extra \$180 24 attendees
2010	Williams Lake, Gavin Lake Field Camp, May 30-June 5; organized by Fred McMechan and Williams Lake Field Naturalists; cooks Pat Westheuser and Fiona Flook; day trips to UBC Alex Fraser Research Forest, Beaver Valley, Quesnel Forks, Becher Prairie and Horsefly River valley	\$450 24 attendees
2010	Manning Park Bird Blitz, June 18-20; organized jointly by BC Nature and Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning	\$45
2010	Kakwa Provincial Park Exploratory Backpacking and Breeding Bird Atlassing, July 3-11; Bill and Bev Ramey; hiked into Kakwa Lake and day trips from base camp	10 attendees

2011	Spring Fraser Canyon Field Camp based at Camp Squeah near Yale, April 28-May 1; organizers Janne Perrin, Chilliwack Field Naturalists and Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning; day trips including rafting down Fraser and evening presentations	\$550 12 attendees
2011	Skagit Bird Blitz, May 6-8; organized jointly by BC Nature and Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning	\$45 25 attendees
2011	Manning Bird Blitz, June 17-19; organized jointly by BC Nature and Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning	\$45 per birder 44 attendees
2011	Potato Range Exploratory Backpacking and Breeding Bird Atlassing, July 2-9; organizers Bill and Bev Ramey	No fees, self-sufficient 10 attendees
2011	Strathcona Provincial Park based at Strathcona Park Lodge, July 15-19; organized by Comox Valley Naturalists	\$600 24 attendees
2011	South Chilcotins, Fortress Ridge Exploratory Backpacking and Breeding Bird Atlassing, July 16-23; organizers Bill and Bev Ramey; day trips to Tyaughton Creek, Fortress Ridge and Castle Peak	No fees, self-sufficient 10 attendees
2012	Skagit Valley Bird Blitz, May 4-6; organized jointly by BC Nature and Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning	\$50 per birder
2012	Salt Spring Island based at Cusheon Lake Resort, June 4-8; organized by Nieke Visser and Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club	\$650 double occupancy 24 attendees
2012	Manning Bird Blitz, June 15-17; organized jointly by BC Nature and Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning	\$50 per birder 50 attendees
2012	Big Creek and South Chilcotin Mountains, early July week-long Exploratory Backpacking and Breeding Bird Atlassing; organized by Bev and Bill Ramey	No fees, self-sufficient 10 attendees
2012	Niut Range Exploratory Backpacking, mid-July week-long Exploratory Backpacking and Breeding Bird Atlassing; organized by Bev and Bill Ramey	No fees, self-sufficient 10 attendees
2012	Lillooet based at Miyazaki House, Oct 1-6; organized by Vivian Birch-Jones and Lillooet Field Naturalists; volunteer cooks Pat Westheuser and Fiona Flook	\$450 per person, accommodation not included
2013	Tofino based at Tofino's Ecolodge, April 27-May 1; organized by Anne Gosse and Anne Murray; marine exploration and spring shorebird migration; two boat tours included	\$650 24 attendees
2013	Skagit Bird Blitz, May 10-12; jointly hosted by BC Nature and Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning	\$50 per birder
2013	Manning Bird Blitz, June 14-16; jointly hosted by BC Nature and Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning	\$50 per birder
2014	Tofino, April 27- May 1; organized by Anne Gosse; marine exploration and spring shorebird migration, included two boat tours	\$650 24 attendees
2014	Skagit Bird Blitz, May 9-11; organized jointly by BC Nature and Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning	\$50 per birder
2014	Nicola Valley, May 29-June 1; hosted by Alan Burger and Nicola Valley Naturalists; volunteer cooks Pat Westheuser and Fiona Flook	\$490 and up 24 attendees
2014	Manning Bird Blitz, June 20-22; organized jointly by BC Nature and Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning	\$50 per birder

2014	Wells Gray Camp Alpine Trek hut-to-hut, August 13-17; guided by Frank Ritcey and Kamloops Field Naturalists	\$795 10 attendees
2014	Wells Gray Park Camp, August 14-17; organized by Kamloops Field Naturalists	\$300 excludes accommodation 26 attendees
2015	Tofino, May 3-6; organized by Anne Gosse; marine exploration and spring shorebird migration, included two boat tours	\$700 24 attendees
2015	Skagit Bird Blitz, May 22-24; hosted jointly by BC Nature and Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning	\$50 per birder
2015	Manning Bird Blitz, June 19-21; hosted jointly by BC Nature and Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning	\$50 per birder
2015	Tatlayoko Lake Valley Camp, West Chilcotins, Sept 6-12; organized by Fred McMechan and Williams Lake Field Naturalists	\$450 26 attendees
2015	South Chilcotins based at ranch near Gold Bridge, Aug 13-15; organized by BC Nature; hiking with option for horseback riding	\$710 20 attendees
2015	Harrison Hotsprings Eagle and Salmon Stronghold Camp based at Harrison Beach Hotel, Nov 26-29; leader Janne Perrin and hosted by BC Nature and Chilliwack Field Naturalists	\$700 21 attendees
2016	Skagit Bird Blitz, May 6-8; organized jointly BC Nature and Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning	\$60 per birder
2016	Mitlenatch Camp based at Heriot Bay Inn, Quadra Island, May 8-11; leaders Janne Perrin, Bill and Bev Ramey; two boat tours including Mitlenatch Island	\$750 36 attendees
2016	Manning Bird Blitz, June 17-19; organized jointly by BC Nature and Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning	\$60 per birder
2017	Okanagan Experience based at Camp Arbuckle residential camp, north of Kelowna; hosted by Pat Westheuser and Central Okanagan Naturalists; volunteer cooks Pat Westheuser and Fiona Flook	\$630 15 attendees
2017	Mitlenatch Camp based at Heriot Bay Inn, Quadra Island, May 8-11; leaders Bev and Bill Ramey; two boat tours including Mitlenatch Island	\$750 36 attendees
2017	Telegraph Cove Camp; organized by Heather Neville; grizzly bear and orca watching boat trips around Johnstone Strait	\$840 24 attendees
2018	Tofino based at Ecolodge, May 4-8; organized by Pat Westheuser and Fiona Flook; includes two boat trips	\$775, limited to 24 attendees
2018	Cathedral Lakes based at Cathedral Park Lodge, July 5-7; organized by Kees Visser, with leaders Kees Visser, John Henry and Mary Masiel	\$550 - \$700 40 attendees
2018	Tatlayoko Lake Field Camp, West Chilcotins, Sept 9-14; organized by Fred McMechan and Williams Lake Field Naturalists	\$645 25 attendees
2018	Harrison Eagle Camp based at Harrison Beach Hotel, Nov 22-25; leaders Janne Perrin and Helen Turner, Chilliwack Field Naturalists	\$725, capacity 21 attendees
2019	Bulkley Valley Botany Camp, Smithers, July 14-19; leader Harry Crosby	\$850 6 attendees

2019	Tumbler Ridge Geology Camp, July 21-26; leader Harry Crosby	\$350 - 550 24 attendees
2019	Telegraph Cove, Grizzly and Whale Watching Camp, Sept 9-12; leaders John and Heather Neville	\$775 - \$995 46 attendees
2019	Telegraph Cove, Grizzly and Whale Watching Camp, Sept 16 - 19; leaders John and Heather Neville	\$775 - \$995 24 attendees

In 1983 the Elton Anderson trophy was introduced—a carved wolverine by noted carver Arnold Mikelson of White Rock.

1983

Elton Anderson
Recognition (Special Service)

Norman (Norm) Pursell, *Vancouver*
Tony Eberts, *Outdoor Editor Vancouver Sun*

1984

Elton Anderson
Recognition (Special Service)

Nancy Anderson, *West Kootenay*
Ken Farquharson, *Skagit conservation*
Tom Perry, *Skagit conservation*
Iva Mann, *park at University Endowment Lands*
May Brown, *park at University Endowment Lands*
Margaret Barwis, *West Kootenay Naturalists*
Peggy and Vic Goodwill, *Victoria*
Fred McMechan, *Williams Lake*
Janice Tomlinson, *Victoria*

Club Service

Barbara Chapman

Special Thanks Award established for those persons, whether members or outside the Federation (BC Nature), whose outstanding contribution, though not made through a Club or Region, is, nevertheless, of great value to the Federation (BC Nature).

1985

Elton Anderson
Recognition (Special Service)
Club Service

Dr. Vernon C. (Bert) Brink, *Vancouver*
Bill Munro, *Ministry of Environment Wildlife Branch*
Dave and June McFarland, *South Okanagan*
Bill Huxley, *Kamloops*
David Aldcroft, *Vancouver*
Marjory Smith, *FBCN Recording Secretary*
Karl Perrin, *Agassiz*

Special Thanks
Barbara Chapman

1986

Elton Anderson
Recognition (Special Service)

Dr. Katherine (Kay) Beamish, *Vancouver*
Rod Silver, *Habitat Conservation Trust Fund*
Dr. J. Bristol Foster, *Ecological Reserves*
Jack Gregson, *Kamloops*
Frances Vyse, *Williams Lake (and now Kamloops)*
Nell Whellams, *Comox-Strathcona*
Wilma Robinson, *Alouette*
Julian Sturhahn, *Cowichan Valley*

Club Service

Barbara Chapman

1987

Elton Anderson
Recognition (Special Service)
Club Service

Dr. Richard (Dick) Stace-Smith, *Vancouver*
Dr. Bert Hoffmeister, *The Nature Trust*
Edna Slater, *Cowichan Valley*
Joan and Jim Burbidge, *Central Okanagan*
Howard Telosky, *Mitlenatch*
Bill and Dorothy Van Dieren, *Nanaimo*
Charlie Trotter, *Victoria*
Harold Pollock, *Victoria*
Stephen Joly, *100 Mile House*

Barbara Chapman

1988

Elton Anderson
Recognition (Special Service)

Peter Legg, *North Okanagan*
Robin Campbell, *North Island Wildlife Recovery Association*

Club Service

Joan E. Heriot, *North Okanagan*
Malcolm Martin, *North Okanagan*
Dr. Ken Langelier, *Nanaimo*

Barbara Chapman

Richard Wakelam, *Vancouver*

1989

Elton Anderson
Recognition (Special Service)
Club Service

Jude Grass, *Burke Mountain*
Roger Hunter
Kay Bartholomew, *North Okanagan*
McLaren Family- Karen, Art and Muriel, *Kamloops*
Martha Harding, *White Rock and Surrey*
Fred McMechan, *Williams Lake*
Anna Roberts, *Williams Lake*

Barbara Chapman

Tessa Campbell, *Victoria*

Knowing Nature Award established in 1989 for an individual or club that has carried out a project or projects that has added to the knowledge of the natural history of the province (later becomes Nature Education).

1990

Elton Anderson
Recognition (Special Service)

Dr. Jim Lunam, *Comox-Strathcona*
Dr. Michael Biggs, *DFO Whale photographic identification*
Paul Smith, *Nature Trust & BC Conservation Foundation*

Club Service

Pauline Tranfield, *Arrowsmith*
Ron Walker, *Boundary Grand Forks*
Brian Self, *Vancouver*

Barbara Chapman
Knowing Nature
Special Thanks

Birch Van Horne, *Chilliwack*
Jolie Fitzgerald, *Black Creek*
Shuswap Naturalists Club
Adeline Nicol, *Langley, FBCN staff*

1991

Elton Anderson
Recognition (Special Service)

Joe Lotzkar, *Vancouver*
Dr. David Suzuki, *communicating science and conservation*
R. Wayne Campbell, *BC Nest Records, Birds of British Columbia*

Club Service

Mary Pastrick, *Langley*
Madelon Schouten, *White Rock & Surrey (now with Vermilion Forks)*
Daphne Smith, *White Rock and Surrey*
Christine Hanrahan, *Burke Mountain*

1992

Elton Anderson
Recognition (Special Service)

Frank Paul, *North Okanagan*
Dr. Barry Leach, *Lower Fraser wetlands and waterfowl*
Twenty-one students & three teachers - David Thompson High School, *Invermere for video "Infinite"*

Club Service	<i>Field Trip”, produced over four years showing SE BC natural history</i> Frances McPherson, <i>Mitlenatch Field Naturalists</i> Valerie May Whetter, <i>Chilliwack</i> Frances and Allan Guinet, <i>Chilliwack</i> John Toochin, <i>Vancouver</i> Beryl Cunningham, <i>Alouette</i> Anne Murray, <i>Delta</i> Tom Bates, <i>White Rock & Surrey</i>
1993	
Recognition (Special Service)	Neil Dawe, <i>CWS and spearheading Brant festival</i>
Club Service	Fiona Flook, <i>Salt Spring (now Central Okanagan)</i> Ros Eldridge, <i>Kamloops</i> Betty Lunam, <i>Comox-Strathcona (now Victoria)</i> Elaine Golds, <i>Burke Mountain</i> Mary Louise Macdonald, <i>White Rock & Surrey</i> Jack Williams, <i>White Rock & Surrey</i> Comox-Strathcona Naturalists
Knowing Nature	
1994	
Elton Anderson	Duanne Vandenberg, <i>Alouette</i>
Recognition (Special Service)	Stephen Owen, <i>Chair of CORE process</i>
Club Service	Sandrina Rathbone, <i>North Shuswap</i> Vera Gotlieb, <i>North Shuswap</i> April Mol, <i>Burke Mountain</i> Gladys Brown, <i>Chilliwack</i> Deanne and Kathleen Munro, <i>Shuswap</i> Linda Van Damme, <i>Nelson</i> Kathy Reimer, <i>Salt Spring Island</i> Chris Sandham, <i>Vancouver</i> Rolf Harrison, <i>Pender Harbour</i> Ryan Austman, <i>Burke Mountain</i> Christopher Charlesworth, <i>Central Okanagan</i> Terri Martin and members of Arrowsmith Naturalists
Barbara Chapman	
Knowing Nature	
1995	
Club Service	Frank and Doris Kime, <i>Shuswap - Salmon Arm</i> Karen Willies, <i>Kamloops</i> Syd Watts, <i>Cowichan Valley</i> Ruth Keogh, <i>White Rock & Surrey</i> Mildred White, <i>Rocky Mountain</i> Sylvia Pincott, <i>Central Valley-Abbotsford (now Pender Island)</i> Len Goldsmith, <i>Squamish</i> Rolf and Heather Kellerhals, <i>Mitlenatch</i> Jamie Fenneman, <i>Comox-Strathcona</i> Williams Lake Naturalists–Scout Island Nature Centre
Barbara Chapman	
Knowing Nature	
1996	
Elton Anderson	Frances Vyse, <i>Kamloops</i>
Recognition	Myrtle Hogan, <i>Abbotsford, donation of woodland for park</i>

Club Service	Mladen Komnenic, <i>Vancouver, for computer skills</i> Jake Kimberley, <i>Mayor Penticton, waterfront project</i> Tim Wood, <i>Administrator Penticton, waterfront project</i> Don and Norma Gillespie, <i>Burke Mountain</i> Ellen Schoen, <i>Timberline - Dawson Creek</i> Glenn Ryder, <i>Central Valley - Abbotsford</i> Dennis Knopp and Lee Larkin, <i>Chilliwack</i> Tom Dickinson, <i>Kamloops</i>
Knowing Nature	Mary Lou Tapson-Jones, <i>Shuswap, botanist</i>
1997	
Recognition	Walter Volovsek, <i>West Kootenay</i> South Okanagan Rehabilitation Centre for Owls, <i>Oliver</i>
Club Service	Madelon Schouten, <i>Vermilion Forks - Princeton</i> Tom Gillespie, <i>Victoria</i> Glenda Ross, <i>South Okanagan</i> Johanna Saaltink, <i>Central Valley - Abbotsford</i> Gordon Gadsen, <i>Chilliwack</i>
Barbara Chapman	Kyle Elliott, <i>Vancouver</i>
Knowing Nature	Sherri Klein, <i>South Okanagan school group education</i>
1998	
Elton Anderson Recognition	Audrey Hoeg, <i>Cowichan (now 108 Mile House)</i> Municipality of Saanich, <i>re appointing Environmental Planner</i>
Club Service	Betty Barnes, <i>Arrowsmith</i> Jack Robinson, <i>Kamloops</i> Meredith Thornton, <i>Timberline - Dawson Creek</i> Art Gruenig, <i>Rocky Mountain</i>
Knowing Nature Outstanding Service	Lynn Vardeman, <i>establishing Stanley Park Nature House</i> Jude Grass, <i>20+ years editing BC Naturalist, two terms as President</i>
1999	
Elton Anderson Recognition	Ted Stubbs, <i>Vancouver re exploratory camps</i> Rhonda Millikin, <i>CWS, Partners in Flight</i>
Club Service	Marie Pearson, <i>Prince George</i> Sandra Gray, <i>Arrowsmith</i>
Knowing Nature	Dr. E. Chris Pielou, <i>Comox – author of science/natural history books</i>
2000	
Elton Anderson	Allan Brooks, <i>Pender Island, Comox, Mitlenatch (posthumous)</i>
Recognition	Judie Steeves, <i>Kelowna Capital News reporter</i> Dr. Neil MacRae, <i>Kamloops & Wildlife Park (posthumous)</i>
Club Service	Annabelle Rempel, <i>Chilliwack</i> Harold King, <i>Oliver-Osoyoos</i> Karen McLaren, <i>Kamloops</i> John Harris, <i>White Rock and Surrey</i>
Barbara Chapman	Emily Ferguson, <i>Kamloops</i>

New Regional Award introduced for a member who has served with dedication, devotion and energy to further the Federation (BC Nature) across his or her Region.

2001

Elton Anderson Recognition Regional	Daphne Solecki, <i>Vancouver</i> Stewart Clow, <i>West Kootenay</i> Brenda Balaam, <i>West Kootenay</i> Bircham (Birch) and Mary Van Horne, <i>Chilliwack</i> Betty Lunam, <i>Comox Valley</i>
Club Service	Stan and Lyn Paterson, <i>Mitlenatch</i> Greg Ross, <i>Rocky Mountain</i> Diane Lepawsky, <i>Vancouver</i> Lambie Family (Vi, John and David), <i>Mackenzie</i> Lesley Keith, <i>Squamish</i>
Knowing Nature	The Osprey Survey Team, <i>Nelson Naturalists</i>

2002

Elton Anderson Regional Recognition Club Service	Anne Murray, <i>Delta</i> Henk & Johanna Saaltink, <i>Central Valley - Abbotsford</i> Scott Alexander, <i>Kelowna, Park Naturalist</i> Vi Wilcox, <i>West Kootenay</i> Don Burbidge, <i>Vermilion Forks</i> Rene Saveneye, <i>White Rock & Surrey (Posthumous)</i> Central Okanagan Naturalist Club, <i>Kelowna</i>
Knowing Nature	

2003

Elton Anderson Regional	Bev Ramey, <i>Vancouver</i> Gary Davidson, <i>Arrow Lakes, secondary school teacher, Nakusp</i> Margaret Barwis, <i>West Kootenay</i> Joan Best, <i>Kamloops</i>
Recognition	Ross McCutcheon, <i>Vancouver, lawyer advising FBCN</i> Robert Koopmans, <i>Kamloops – nature/outdoor column</i>
Club Service	Marie Madsen, <i>Mitlenatch</i> Ralph Ritcey, <i>Kamloops</i>
Barbara Chapman	Michael Vaninsberghe, <i>Victoria</i>

Outstanding Naturalist Award established for contribution to the knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the natural history of British Columbia.

Name change: Knowing Nature award becomes Nature Education

2004

Outstanding Naturalist Regional	Malcolm Martin, <i>Vernon</i> Ron Speller, <i>Vancouver Island</i> Eva Durance, <i>Penticton, Parks & Protected Areas</i>
Recognition	Stephen Hume, <i>journalist</i> Blair Acton, <i>Squillax bats public education</i>
Club Service	Rick Howie, <i>Kamloops</i> Barbara Sedgwick, <i>Comox Valley</i> Anne Redfearn, <i>Rocky Mountain</i> Dorothy Beetstra, <i>West Kootenay</i> Rhys and Annabel Griffiths, <i>Langley</i>

Nature Education

Osoyoos Desert Society

Daphne Solecki Award introduced for persons who have contributed to nature education for children in BC.

New Volunteer Appreciation Award for volunteers serving FBCN in areas other than through their Club or Region. Replaces Special Thanks Award.

2005

Elton Anderson

Outstanding Naturalist
Regional

Recognition

Club Service

Daphne Solecki

Volunteer Appreciation

Jeremy McCall, *Vancouver*

Dick Cannings and Syd Cannings, *South Okanagan*

Heather and John Neville, *Kootenays, now Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club*

Rod Silver, *HCTF and Conservation, Naturescape, ProjectWild*

Anthea Farr, *Langley*

Norma Morton, *Comox Valley*

Dulcie Hamilton, *Comox Valley*

Judy Wickland, *Chilliwack*

Don McLellan, *Vancouver, FBCN treasurer*

David Lassmann, *Squamish, FBCN webmaster*

Linda Halls, *Vancouver, FBCN membership, magazine advertisements*

New Operating Name - BC Nature - adopted, but legal name remains Federation of British Columbia Naturalists.

2006

Elton Anderson

Regional

Club Service

Daphne Solecki

Nature Education

Volunteer Appreciation

Joan Best, *Kamloops*

G. Allen Poynter, *Victoria, Delta, then Arrowsmith*

John MacKenzie, *Arrowsmith*

Nancy Braithwaite, *Salt Spring*

Frank Hovenden, *Comox Valley*

Victoria Otton, *Burke Mountain*

James Shaver, *South Okanagan*

Jack Hammonds, *Arrowsmith*

Betty Brooks, *Comox Valley*

Pamela Zevit, *Burke Mountain, Como Lake Watershed*

2007

Recognition

Club Service

Barbara Chapman

Daphne Solecki

Nature Education

Volunteer Appreciation

Harold Baumbrough, *monitoring after Okanagan Mountain fire*

Sherri Klein, *South Okanagan Owl Rehabilitation Centre*

Margaret Graham, *Kamloops*

Val Tinney, *Arrowsmith Naturalists*

Helen Turner, *Chilliwack*

Rhys Krannitz, *Langley*

Anthea Farr, *Langley*

Will Lemmon, *Arrowsmith Naturalists*

Paul Watts, *North Shuswap, combating pollution*

2008

Elton Anderson

Fred McMechan, *Williams Lake*

Outstanding Naturalist Regional Recognition	Rick Howie, <i>Kamloops</i> Ralph Ritcey, <i>Kamloops</i> Richard Armstrong, <i>traditional ecological knowledge,</i> <i>teacher</i>
Club Service	Kim North, <i>Lillooet</i> Hans Laue, <i>Nanoose</i>
Daphne Solecki Nature Education	Kerrie Mortin, <i>Victoria</i> Joan Kelly, <i>Princeton</i>

2009

Elton Anderson Regional Recognition	Eva Durance, <i>Penticton</i> Ed McDonald, <i>Salmon Arm</i> Ron Walker, <i>Grand Forks</i> Gail Ross, <i>BC Parks</i>
Club Service	Don Guild, <i>Central Okanagan</i>
Daphne Solecki Nature Education	Jennifer French, <i>Kelowna</i> Margaret Cuthbert, <i>White Rock</i>

Outstanding Naturalist Award renamed McTaggart-Cowan Outstanding Naturalist Award.

2010

Elton Anderson McTaggart-Cowan Outstanding Naturalist Regional Recognition	Harold King, <i>Oliver Osoyoos</i> Al Grass, <i>Langley</i> Kiyoshi Takahashi, <i>Burke Mountain</i> Ann Nightingale, <i>Victoria</i> Robert (Bob) Handfield, <i>Penticton</i>
Club Service	Mike Roberts, <i>Okanagan TV media</i> Susan Weilandt, <i>Kamloops</i> Judy Kilcup, <i>Delta</i> Mike Griffin, <i>Burke Mountain</i>
Nature Education	Dave Williams, <i>Kamloops</i>

2011

McTaggart-Cowan Outstanding Naturalist Club Service	Anna Roberts, <i>Williams Lake</i> Krista Kaptein, <i>Comox Valley</i> Mary Ronback, <i>Delta</i>
Daphne Solecki Award	Karen Needham, <i>Vancouver</i>

2012

Elton Anderson Regional Recognition	Pat Westheuser, <i>Kelowna</i> June Wood, <i>Nechako, near Vanderhoof</i> Michelle Hamilton & Eco Club, <i>Kelowna</i>
Club Service	Marlene and Mitsuru Hikichi, <i>Summerland</i> Maggie Little, <i>Arrowsmith Naturalists</i> Alison Bakker, <i>Qualicum</i>
Daphne Solecki Award	

2013

Elton Anderson Regional Recognition	Rosemary Fox, <i>Smithers</i> Vivian Birch-Jones, <i>Lillooet</i> Peachland Chamber of Commerce
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2014

Elton Anderson
 McTaggart-Cowan Outstanding Naturalist: John Neville, *Salt Spring*
 Regional: Joy & Cam Finlay, *Victoria*
 Recognition: Janne Perrin, *Harrison Hot Springs*
 Eliza Olson, *Burns Bog Conservation Society, Delta*
 Jim & Midge Wyse, *Burrowing Owl Conservation, Oliver*

Club Service: Rick Gee, *Kelowna*
 Tom Bearss, *Delta*

Daphne Solecki Award: Dr. Enid Elliot, *Victoria*

2015

McTaggart-Cowan Outstanding Naturalist: Bill Merilees, *Nanaimo*
 Regional: Anthea Farr, *Langley*
 Genevieve Singleton, *Duncan*
 Krista England, *Lower Mainland*

Club Service: Jean Gelwicks, *Salt Spring*
 Eric Marshall, *Duncan*
 Paul Levesque, *Vancouver*
 Doreen Olson, *Penticton*
 Terry Carr, *Delta*

Daphne Solecki Award: Al Grass, *Langley*
 Volunteer Appreciation: Elisa Kreller, *Vancouver*

Note: Nature Canada's premier award, the Douglas Pimlott Award for Conservation, presented to Anne Murray, Delta, September 2015

2016

Recognition: Vera Vukelich, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources Operations, *Victoria*

Club Service: John Smith, *Duncan*
 Jean and Geof Hacker, *Tsawwassen*
 Clive Keen, *Prince George*
 Anne Hogan, *Prince George*
 Nola Daintith, *Williams Lake*

Barbara Chapman Award: Jordyn Emshey, *Penticton*
 Daphne Solecki Award: North Shuswap Naturalists and North Shuswap Elementary School, *Celista*

Nature Education: Frank Ritcey, *Kamloops*

2017

Recognition: Orville Dwyer, *biologist with Province of BC, Okanagan & Similkameen*

Club Service: Jean Crowe, *Kamloops*
 Helen Robinson, *Comox Valley*
 Christine Rock, *Vancouver*

Daphne Solecki Award: Cynthia Berg, *Chilliwack*
 Volunteer Appreciation: Christine Galliazzo, *Lillooet*

Note: Nature Canada's premier award, the Douglas Pimlott Award for Conservation, presented to Dr. George Scotter, Kelowna, 2017

2018

McTaggart-Cowan Outstanding Naturalist: Peter B. McCallister, *Salt Spring*
Club Service Bob Puls, *Langley*
Nigel Peck, *Vancouver*
Hank Roos, *Abbotsford*

2019

Elton Anderson Cornelius (Kees) Visser, *Salt Spring*
Club Service Annabelle Rempel, *Chilliwack*
Alison Moran, *Victoria*
Harvey Abraham, *Kelowna*
Daphne Solecki Award Elke Wind, *Nanaimo*

A new Merit Award was introduced for a member nominated by the BC Nature Board of Directors to recognize and convey BC Nature's appreciation for their dedication, devotion and exceptional service, their contributions to BC Nature as a Board member and a Committee Chair and /or Project Coordinator, and who has taken responsibility for, and contributed to, the function of BC Nature for 10 years or longer.

2020

Merit Award (new) Bev Ramey, *Vancouver*
Anne Murray, *Delta*
Regional Award: Fred McMechan, *Williams Lake*
Club Service Roland Gebauer, *Kelowna*
Christine and John Saremba, *Coquitlam*
Volunteer Appreciation Tom Bearss, awarded posthumously, *Delta*

Appendix 4. Scholarship Recipients

Rene Savenye Scholarship and Bert Brink Scholarship

The Rene Savenye Scholarship was established in 2005 in memory of Rene Savenye following his untimely death in 2002.

Recipients:

- 2006 Jen Pukonen, UVic MSc School of Environmental Studies
Elizabeth Milword, UVic undergraduate
- 2007 Tim Blair, UBC MSc in Forestry Hydrology
Elly Knight, UVic third year BSc
- 2008 Magnus Bein, UVic Biology
- 2009 Christina Melynck, BCIT Fish & Wildlife
- 2010 Christine Rock, SFU MSc Biology
- 2011 Wade Van Herwaarden, Vancouver Island University, Resource Management
- 2013 Carolyn Prentice
- 2014 Jeremiah Kennedy, SFU Biology
- 2015 Ian Cruickshank, UVic Biology
- 2016 Haley Crozier, Northwest Community College, Applied Ecology
- 2017 Keila Stork, UBC BSc Marine Biology
- 2018 Vanessa Robinson, TRU, Natural Resource Science
- 2019 Brennan Strandberg-Salmon, SFU Global Environmental Systems
- 2020 Rachael Tancock, UVic and Vancouver Island University Education program

The Bert Brink Scholarship was established in 2019 in memory of Vincent Cuthbert (Bert) Brink (1912 – 2007)

Recipients:

- 2019 Lee Beavington, SFU PhD Philosophy of Education program
- 2020 Hannah Hall, SFU MSc Biological Sciences

Appendix 5. Naturalist Mentors

The BC Nature Education Committee developed the Naturalist Mentors program in 2015. In 2016, these recognitions were introduced and generally included thereafter, in every issue of the BCnature magazine under "Spotlight On Distinguished Naturalist Mentors". The acknowledgements in the BCnature magazines include a photograph of the mentors, their interests, mentor activities, achievements and awards.

A mentor is a nature enthusiast who helps to support our motto "Know Nature and Keep It Worth Knowing", with emphasis on youth. A mentor devotes time to educate our budding naturalists and scientists by providing services such as tours, lessons, slide shows, camps, Science Fair Guidance, Scouting, Guiding, and nature appreciation. Recognition was initially given to club members but recently has been expanded to include community and First Nations mentors.

Winter 2016

Al Grass – Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society and Langley Field Naturalists
Lynn Pollard – Nicomekl NatureKids Club and Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society

Spring 2017

Bill Dancer – Victoria Natural History Society
John Henigman – Victoria Natural History Society

Summer 2017

Anthea Farr – Langley Field Naturalists and Nicomekl NatureKids Club
Liz Walker – White Rock and Surrey Naturalists Society

Fall 2017

Yvonne Dawydiak – Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society
Eva Nagy – Nature Vancouver and Vancouver NatureKids

Winter 2017, 2018

Malcolm Martin – North Okanagan Naturalists Club and Native Plant Society of BC
Vi and John Lambie – Mackenzie Field Observatory Club

Spring 2018

Daryl Calder – Rocky Mountain Naturalists
Terry Taylor – Nature Vancouver and NatureKids BC

Summer 2018

Sue Elwell, Vermilion Forks Field Naturalists
Anne Gosse, Langley Field Naturalists

Fall 2018

Robert (Nature Bob) Livesay, Fernie Nature Club & Nature Bob's Interpretive Centre
David Cook, Nature Vancouver and NatureKids BC

Winter 2018

Joseph Lin, Nature Vancouver and The Green Club

Spring 2019

Genevieve Singleton, Cowichan Valley Naturalists' Society and docents
Sue Hemphill, Williams Lake Field Naturalists & Scout Island Nature Centre

Summer 2019

Gwyneth Wilson, Central Okanagan Naturalists' Club
Mandy Ross, Kamloops NatureKids

Fall 2019

Des Belton & Dawn Germyn, Nass Valley NatureKids and Northern Amphibians
Naturalists Society
Rick Shortinghuis, Rocky Point Observatory & Victoria Natural History Society

Winter 2019

Anne Murray, Delta Naturalists' Society and Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society
Pam Laing, Central Okanagan Naturalists' Club

Spring 2020

Phillip Milligan, Little Campbell Watershed Society
Jacquie Stinson, Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society and Nicomekl NatureKids

Summer 2020

Fred McMechan, Williams Lake Field Naturalists and Scout Lake Nature Centre
Hugh Westhauser, Central Okanagan Naturalists' Club
John Scull, Cowichan Valley Naturalists Society and Cowichan NatureKids

Spring 2021

Olivia Corke, Kamloops Naturalist Club
Isaac Nelson, Kamloops Naturalist Club
Valentina Santamaria, Kamloops Naturalist Club
Tristan Semeniuk, Kamloops Naturalist Club

Appendix 6. Presidents and Honourary Presidents (BC Nature Council, FBCN and BC Nature)

Presidents of BC Nature Council

1963-1964 Dr. T.M.C. Taylor
1964-1966 Dr. J. Bendell
1966-1969 Dr. R. (Dick) Stace-Smith

Presidents of Federation of British Columbia Naturalists (FBCN)

(after 2006, under operating name of BC Nature)

1969-1970 Hugh Monahan/ Dr. T.M.C. Taylor
1970-1972 Dr. T.M.C. Taylor
1972-1974 Elton Anderson
1974-1975 Frank Paul
1975-1978 Norman (Norm) Pursell
1978-1981 Dr. V. C. (Bert) Brink
1981-1983 Dr. R. (Dick) Stace-Smith
1983-1987 Jude Grass
1987-1988 Joe Lotzkar
1989-1991 Syd Cannings
1991-1993 Jude Grass
1993-1993 Daphne Solecki
1994-1996 Frances Vyse
1996-1998 Audrey Hoeg
1998-2002 Anne Murray
2002-2006 Jeremy McCall
2006-2010 Bev Ramey
2010-2014 John Neville
2014-2016 Kees Visser
2016-2019 Alan Burger
2019-2020 Kees Visser
2020 - Harry Crosby

Honourary Presidents

1971-1976 Roderick L. Haig-Brown
1978 Dr. Charles E. Borden (six months only due to untimely death).
See BC Naturalist newsletters December 1978 and March 1979, p. 5)
1979-2010 Dr. Ian McTaggart-Cowan
See BC Naturalist newsletters Dec 1976, Fall 2005 and summer 2010)

Since 2010 Honourary Presidents have not been appointed.

Appendix 7. Outstanding Volunteers described in Tributes

Thanks to BC Nature Communications Consultant, Daniel Nesvaderani, for reviewing the past magazines and newsletters and compiling this list.

The following list provides the names of volunteers who have been recognized in tributes written in past magazines and newsletters. Most were written when the person passed on, but a few are descriptions of awards presented from other organizations, and so those people are still with us!

Names are listed alphabetically, followed by the magazine or newsletter issue and page number where the tribute is printed.

Scans of these historic magazines and issues can be found on the BC Nature website: members-only section, under "Publications" (lower right of that subpage).

Special volunteers are also recognized in other appendices, as follows:

Appendix 3. Award Recipients

Appendix 5. Naturalist Mentors

Appendix 6. Presidents, Honourary Presidents

Appendix 13. Interviews with Former Presidents 1989-1998

Appendix 15. Recollections of Former Presidents 1998-2020

<u>Name</u>	<u>Year of Newsletter/Magazine, Issue, Page #</u>
Anderson, Elton Alexander	1975 September-October, pp. 1-2
Anderson, Elton Alexander	2015 Spring, pp. 17-18
Brink, Vincent Cuthbert (Bert)	2007 December, throughout magazine
Brink, Vincent Cuthbert (Bert)	2008 Spring, pp. 15-22
Aikens, Joyce	2002 Summer, p. 22
Akrigg, Helen	2008 Winter, p. 23
Atchison, Jennifer	2010 Fall, p. 22
Balaam, Brenda	2010 Spring, p. 22
Bartholomew, Kay	2018 Summer, p. 14
Bawtree, Alf	2019 Spring, p. 20
Beamish, Katherine (Kay) Isabel	2003 Spring, p. 6
Bloem, Gerard	2016 Spring, p. 20
Blokker, Peter	2018 Summer, p.14
Borden, Charles E.	1978 December, p. 1
Borden, Charles E.	1979 Mar-Apr. p. 5
Buchanan, Melda	2010 Spring, p. 6
Cannings, Stephen Robert	2003 Spring, p. 4
Carter, John	1996 May-June, p. 16
Collins, Kathleen Mary	2005 Spring, p. 28
Davidson, Peter	2015 Winter, p. 9
Dieren, Bill Van	1995 Jul-Aug, p. 7

<u>Name</u>	<u>Year of Newsletter/Magazine, Issue, Page #</u>
Edwards, Yorke	2011 Fall, p. 11
Flook, Donald	2018 Winter, p. 23
Fox, Irving	2006 Fall
Fox, Rosemary	2021 Summer
Grant, James	1986 Spring, p. 4
Greyson, Richard	2012 Fall, p. 18
Griffith, Lela Margaret	2003 Spring, p. 9
Griffith, Elaine	2003 Spring, p. 8
Griffith, Rhys	2018 Spring, p. 12
Haig-Brown, Roderick	1976 December, p. 1
Harris, Robert (Bob) C.	1998 March-April, p. 19
Hayden, Lillian	2010 Fall, p. 22 (Land bequest)
Heriot, Joan	2013 Fall, p. 28
Hoeg, Nils	2012 Summer, p. 12
Huxley, Bill	1995 September-October, p. 19
Kellerhals, Rolf	2017 Spring, p. 31
Kelsall, John	1995 September-October, pp. 19-20
Kenner, Rex	2010 Spring, p. 10
King, Harold	2012 Spring, p. 11
King, Joan	2004 Spring, p. 2
Kuhl, Ruth	2004 Spring, p. 2
Lambert, Violet (Vi)	2007 Spring
Lambert, Violet (Vi)	2008 Fall
Leach, Barry	1995 September-October, p. 20
Legg, Peter	1994 Jul-August, p. 17
Lloyd, Gladys	1996 November-December, p. 16
Lotzkar, Joseph	2006 Summer
Lunam, Jim	2009 Spring
Mackenzie, Hue	2009 Winter, p. 20
Martin, Malcolm	2017 Winter, p. 32
McCall, Jeremy	2018 Winter, p. 30
Mckinnon, Betty	1995 May-June, p. 16
McTaggart-Cowan, Ian	2010 Summer, p. 22
McTaggart-Cowan, Ian	2005 Fall, p. 8
Murray, Anne	2015 Winter, p. 19 (Nature Canada award)
Paul, Frank	2013 Spring, p. 21
Pielou, Chris	2016 Fall, p. 15
Purssell, Norman	2012 Winter, p. 10
Roberts, Anna	2011 Summer, p. 13 (award recognition)
Roberts, Syd	2006 Summer, p. 24
Saaltink, Johanna	2018 Winter, p. 15
Savenye, Rene	2002 Fall, p. 22
Schouten, Madelon	2019 Summer, p. 30
Scotter, George	2017 Spring, p. 30 (Nature Canada Award)
Sigurdson, Frank	2006 Winter, p. 21

<u>Name</u>	<u>Year of Newsletter/Magazine, Issue, Page #</u>
Smith, Jamie	2005 Fall, p. 5
Stace-Smith, Richard (Dick)	2015 Spring, p. 29 (letter of thanks)
Stace-Smith, Richard (Dick)	2017 Summer, pp. 15-16
Van Horne, Birch	2010 Summer, p. 13
Walker, Ron	2011 Winter, p. 11
Watts, Syd	2014 Summer, p. 26
Watts, Syd	2011 Summer, p. 6
Whitehead, George	1995 March-April, p. 20
Wayne, Mary Maureen	2000 Summer, p. 21

Appendix 8. Archival Records

Files stored at University of Victoria Archives, together with summary examples of Conservation Issues and Committee Representation

Compiled by Bev Ramey when organizing files for storage at UVic Archives.

This Appendix has three sections.

- Part One: Record of Minutes in Archives—four boxes of (unscanned) files.
- Part Two: Conservation Files in Archives—five boxes of files. Note these files are scanned and available on BC Nature website: members-only section under “Archives” (lower right)
- Part Three: Summary examples of Conservation Issues and Committee Representation

Part One: Federation of British Columbia Naturalists (BC Nature) Archival Record of Minutes

Four boxes of minutes (unscanned) deposited in UVic Archives November 2013

Minutes BOX 1 of 4

Minutes and Correspondence, including BC Nature Council 1958 – 1968

Minutes include AGM, FGM, Directors and Regional Committees

Minutes BOX 2 of 4

Minutes and Correspondence 1987 – 1994

Minutes include AGM, FGM, Directors and Regional Committees

Minutes BOX 3 of 4

Minutes and Correspondence 1995 – 2001

Minutes include AGM, FGM, Directors and Regional Committees

Minutes BOX 4 of 4

Minutes and Correspondence 2002 – 2010

Minutes include AGM, FGM, Directors and Regional Committees, including files from Vancouver Island Regional Directors

Part Two: Federation of British Columbia Naturalists (BC Nature) Archival Record of Conservation Letters and Briefs

Five boxes of (scanned) conservation letters and briefs deposited in UVic Archives November 2013

The following list identifies the titles of file folders (from #1 to #21) and includes the topic of letters within each of the numbered files, line by line. The numbered files are approximately in chronological order, although many issues and topics span more than one year. In that case they are usually grouped in the critical year

of the topic. The 21 files by year are listed according to the box where they are stored (Box numbers 1 through 5). Some topics for which there were many letters and papers, are indicated with one line only, but with an "*" in front of the description, *which is in italics*. The "*" and *the description of the topic in italics*, indicates that the topic has a mini file on this issue within the larger numbered file.



The nine file storage boxes delivered to archivist librarian at UVic.

Conservation BOX 1 of 5

1. BC Nature Council: Conservation Issues 1963 – 1969

(correspondence and some papers)

- Pollution
 - Soil, Air, Water; Biocides, Insecticides, Pesticides, Chemical Use, Herbicides, Fungicides, Biological Control, Bush-killers along highways
 - Roadside Tables (Department of Highways)
- Litter
 - Beverage Bottles: outlaw non-returnable ones
 - Roadside garbage cans and other means to reduce littering
 - 'Outdoors Unlittered'
- Grazing: Winter Grazing Areas for Wildlife and Domestic Grazing
- Snowshoe Plateau (near Barkerville)
- Fraser River Estuary and Boundary Bay:

- Roberts Bank and Sturgeon Bank and proposed Roberts Bank Superport and coal loading
- Need for a Waterfowl Habitat Conservation Plan
- Firearms
 - their indiscriminate use (from any highway)
 - objection to licensing of Shooting Reserves
 - Harbour seals: shooting along BC Coast as no restrictions
- Fisheries and Forestry (Brief to Select Standing Committee)
- Burns Bog and protection of bogs
- Burnaby Lake: opposition to plans to permit motor-boating
- Land Management (Access and Protection Committee)
 - protection and improved management
 - marina development, Blue Heron Basin of Tsehum Harbour, Saanich Peninsula
 - Reservoir Clearing: clear proposed reservoirs prior to flooding: BC Hydro at Duncan and High Arrow reservoirs, Mica Reservoir; Brief for Clearing by Slashing forests within the Mica Reservoir
- Snowmobiles: disturbance and abuse of wildlife
- Mining: laws to outlaw strip mining and "cat roading"
- Parks, Provincial and National
 - establish Cathedral Lakes Park
 - opposition to logging, old blocks within Glacier National Park
 - concerns re mine establishment in Strathcona Park (Cream Silver Mines and Western Mines, both in Class B areas)
 - to acquire property for sale at Brandywine Falls
 - Hamber Provincial Park: restore lands to park where size reduced in 1961
 - Establish park at Brent Mountain
 - proposal for Edziza Plateau
 - access to Garibaldi Conservancy, leave volcanic areas natural
 - praise to Deputy Minister and staff regarding work in Provincial Parks, including Nature Houses and trails
 - recalling leases in Banff
 - need for new provincial park legislation
 - establishment of small Ecological Conservancies or Ecological Reserves outside existing parks (e.g., Whitebark Pine in Shulaps Mountain, portion of dry zone in South Okanagan)
 - Tenquille Lake
 - create more roadside camping areas
- Falcons
 - peregrine and prairie: dramatic reduction in breeding success
 - falconry and capture of wild birds
- Predator Control Committee: established to keep informed on kind and number of predators destroyed by provincial government, costs of program, effects
- Threatened Species Report: Vancouver Island Wolf, Trumpeter Swans, Peregrine Falcons, badgers, grizzly bears in Tweedsmuir Park given protection from hunting along their feeding grounds of the major rivers, sea otters, Vancouver Island Marmots
- Mica Reservoir: Brief for Clearing by Slashing, BC Nature Council 1967-1968

2. Conservation Committee Minutes 1969 – 1991

- Minutes from meetings 1969-1982, and notes from 1975 tour of Hat Creek proposed BC Hydrothermal-Electric Project
- Minutes from Annual Conservation Committee Meetings 1986-1991

3. Conservation Committee Correspondence 1979 – 1993

- Conservation Committee Annual Reports
- Letters covering resolutions not listed here (See separate booklets on website listing resolutions)
- Letters on numerous issues, some noteworthy topics include:
 - Sidney Island purchase 1971
 - Thetis Lake Nature Sanctuary 1976
 - Trail Bikes and 4WDs, need for regulations
 - Snowmobiles, need for designated areas 1976
 - Poisoning of lakes to remove 'trash-type' fish 1976
 - Widgeon Slough, power boating 1978
 - Vancouver Island Marmot, request for no hunting area designation 1981
 - Caribou Herd, Telkwa Mountains, restrict snowmobiling 1981
 - Thompson River water quality 1982
 - Wolf Management 1983
 - Old Growth Forest, northern Vancouver Island, protection 1983
 - Fish Farms, Aquaculture, and concerns with importation of Atlantic Salmon, September 1986
 - Site C Dam, opposition 1986
 - Wells Gray Provincial Park and boundary expansion to include Trophy Mountains 1986
 - Mud Bay proposed wildlife sanctuary 1986
 - Mount Klappan Coal Project 1986
 - Long-billed Curlew in East Kootenay 1987
 - Support to reduce beverage container litter
 - Great Blue Herons nesting near Chemainus River mudflats 1987
 - Stein Valley, protection 1987
 - Uranium mining and expiry of moratorium 1987

4a. Conservation Issues 1971 – 1986

- **Parks Issues 1969-1985*
- ** Wilderness: Proposal for Wilderness Legislation 1974, Wilderness Advisory Committee 1986*
- ** Spatisizi 1977-1980*
- ** Problem Wildlife Advisory Committee: Lower Mainland report 1974-1975, Minutes of meetings, Re-introduction of use of Compound 1080, Wolf Poisoning 1978, FBCN Presentation to Western Guides & Outfitters 1980, Vancouver Is Wolf Management, Annual Report 1986*
- Provincial Caves
- Trail: Lifesaving Trail section of Pacific Rim National Park, width of corridor 1971

- Ministry of Forests: Wilderness Recreation
- Mud Bay land acquisition, Serpentine & Nicomekl
- Surrey Bend protection
- Manning Park Issues 1971
- Mackenzie Valley Pipeline: submission to Berger Hearings 1976
- Offshore Oil Exploration and Drilling 1981
- * *Hudson's Bay Brigade Historic Trails Hope to Tulameen in Hozameen Mountains to north of Manning Park including Sowaqua Valley 1971-1974*
- Litter: standardized pop bottle for refunds
- Kettle River protection
- Fish & Wildlife Branch review, Brief 1976
- Hunting of Furbearers
- Sea Island, impact from military exercises on north part of island
- Golden Bear Mine Proposal
- Genetically Engineered Organisms
- Estuaries: southeast coast of Vancouver Island, tour and protection 1978
- Energy, Brief 1979
- Diamond Head Lodge, Garibaldi Provincial Park
- Coquihalla Highway proposed route
- Cherry Point Oil Refinery
- Burns Bog
- Uranium Exploration and Mining, call for moratorium
- Vancouver Botanical Gardens Association and Vandusen Gardens 1972-1986
- Agricultural Land Reserve, Brief 1980
- Stanley Park, support for Nature Centre 1986
- Rare and Endangered Species Committee 1978
- Save our Parkland Association correspondence
- Wolf Kill discussion paper and correspondence 1978-1983
- Forest and Forest Management in BC 1979
- Landfill at Cache Creek 1987
- Chemical Weed Control, resolution 1978
- PCBs, control
- Uranium Mining Public Inquiry: presentation 1979
- Pollution Control Objectives for mining 1972
- Agricultural Land Reserve letter of support 1979
- Bogs of Richmond: letter of support for preservation to Township of Richmond 1980
- Fraser Valley Wetlands letter 1980
- Mineland Reclamation letter 1981
- * *Tsitika Watershed protection, 1978-79, Resolution opposing Tsitika Resource Management Plan and Further Extending the Moratorium on Logging, Tsitika River Integrated Resource Planning Committee, Brief from United Fisherman and Allied Workers Union 1978*
- Old Growth Timber reserve for wildlife on northern Vancouver Island 1983
- * *Sidney Island Appeal for Purchase 1979*
- * *Manning Park Extension, Cascade Wilderness Study 1976-1981*
- * *South Moresby 1978*
- * *Skagit (Ross Committee) 1973-1983*

- * *Burrowing Owl Recovery 1981-1988*
- * *Fish & Wildlife Branch and Wildlife Management 1973-1983*

4b. Conservation Issues 1971 – 1986, Fraser Lowlands, Wetlands and WMAs

- * *Serpentine Fen 1975-1993*
- * *Fraser Valley Wetlands Habitat Committee 1980*
- * *Pitt Wildlife Management Area Advisory Committee, Sandhill Crane 1975-1982*
- * *Fraser River Estuary Forum 1980-81*

Conservation BOX 2 of 5

5. Conservation Issues 1987 – 1991

- * *Save the Stein Coalition (efforts from 1976-1995 when Provincial Park established). (See also separate Box 5 for files on Save the Stein Coalition)*
- Land for Nature Project
- Environmental Education Workshop
- Uranium Moratorium
- Mining Environmental Impacts
- Future Hydroelectric Power Development
- Oil Scarcity and Security
- Oil Tanker Safety and Spills
- Wildlife Viewing and Contract for Viewing Guide in southwest BC
- Bats: Survey in South Okanagan
- Sustainable Development 1989
- Nature Interpretation proposal for Vaseux Lake 1988
- British Columbia Round Table on Environment and Economy 1991: submissions from Lower Mainland
- Provincial Green Plan: response from FBCN 1991
- Marbled Murrelets Old Growth Forest Haven 1991
- Interior Old Growth
- Hudson's Bay Company Heritage Trail 1989
- Nahmint Watershed Plan Review
- Animal Transplants: pros and cons 1988
- * *Forests, Management Wilderness and Old Growth, Wilderness for the 1990s*
- * *Vancouver Island Estuaries and Wardens 1988-1989*
- * *Kemano Completion Project 1987-1991: letter from Federal Minister of Oceans and correspondence regarding workshop and Rivers Defense Coalition*
- * *Wildlife, Hunting, Guide Outfitters 1987-1989*
- Tree Farm Licences: comments by FBCN, letter to editor 1989
- Off-Road Vehicles: damage to environment 1989
- "Managing Wildlife to 2001": comments from FBCN on Discussion Paper 1991
- Boundary Bay, Mud Bay conservation lands: importance of wildlife values. (See separate file within Conservation 2000)
- Ecological Reserves: support for Pacific Spirit Regional Park Reserve

- Fraser River Estuary Management Plan secretariat: letter supporting recreation work group report 1988
- Galiano Island: Forestry lands and clearcutting 1990
- Native Plant: proposal for Roadside Reserve for orchids near Kamloops 1990
- South Okanagan: request for geology report 1990
- South Okanagan: a viewing plan for Vaseaux Lake 1990
- Martindale Flats
- Salt Spring Island: letter supporting park or reserve status for 12 parcels of Crown Land 1990
- Wetlands acquisition and support for North American Waterfowl Management Plan
- Royal BC Museum: letter in support of increased funding and reply
- Land Use plan for Mountain forested lands of north side of Fraser Valley: letter to BC Forest Resources Commission and to GVRD requesting such a study 1990
- Upper Fraser Valley: letters requesting conservation of key lands, regional planners to review 1990
- Brief to Fraser/Cheam Regional District Board urging designation of parkland, brief joint FBCN and Chilliwack Field Naturalists 1990
- Harrison-Chehalis Wildlife Management Areas: proposal for protection in correspondence to Fish and Wildlife Branch and replies 1990-1991
- Trapping and request for statistics from Fur Carnivore Specialist 1990
- Peace River wetlands: letter to Ducks Unlimited
- Thacker Mountain Hope: two letters to Regional District of Fraser-Cheam explaining the lands were donated by Mr. Thacker to UBC to be used as a nature preserve and for biological studies 1990-1991
- Debris Control program on lower Fraser River
- Tsawwassen Nature Park forest: letter of support for preservation 1991
- Similkameen River Dam proposal near Princeton 1991

6. Conservation Issues 1992 – 1995

- **Ecological Reserves 1979-1995: including exclusions for hunting, educational use, Ambrose Lake, Yale Garry Oak, Thacker Mountain at Hope, greater support for program*
- ** Mitlenatch Island Viewing Platform 1992*
- Commission on Resources and Environment (CORE): comments re Vancouver Island, includes Clayoquot Sound, Cariboo-Chilcotin
- MOD Squad Meetings 1993-1994: environmental groups comments to government land use planning
- Explanation to FBCN Executive on PAS, CORE, LRMP and LRUP planning 1993
- Boundary Bay management
- Hunting and discharge of firearms in Surrey, Boundary Bay, Lower Mainland
- Meeting with Rod Silver, Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks to discuss: Land for Nature Project, Environmental Education Workshop, Boundary Bay Special Wildlife/Agriculture Reserve, or Biosphere Reserve 1992
- Meeting with Ray Halladay, Wildlife Branch to discuss: Habitat Conservation Fund, South Okanagan Land Acquisition support, Chilcotin Junction, Stanley Park Biosphere 1992

- Support to BC Minister of Environment, John Cashore, for South Okanagan land purchase, Pacific Coast Joint Venture, South Chilcotin Mountains support for park, Stikine River Basin special management area support, Project Wild, Public Conservation Assistance Fund, and Widgeon Valley Reserve protection 1992
- Parks Canada: establishment of marine protected areas and Churn Creek 1992-1993
- Wetlands protection and management 1993
- Wildlife Trees, guide for users
- Kamloops Silt Cliffs proposal for Ecological Reserve 1993
- East Kootenay Land Use Plan through CORE
- Ashnola Wildlife Management Area: support for designation
- Vancouver Island Lands: Goal 2 protection 1995
- Northern Rockies Conservation Coalition 1995
- Creston Skyway feeding station and trophy hunting of wildlife
- Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area: cuts to funding 1995
- Thompson-Okanagan Encyclopedia of Human and Natural History (RBCM): two-year project 1994-1996
- Ecological Reserves program: need for higher profile
- Canadian Standards Association: Sustainable Forest Management and Certification comments
- Swan Lake, Vernon: opposition to water-skiing 1993
- South Okanagan Conservation Strategy (CORE): comments 1993
- Purple Loosestrife 1993
- Lillooet LRMP meeting 1996
- Pacific Water Shrew recovery team 1995
- Resolutions: letter responses
- Park Act and Ecological Reserve Act amendments: comments 1994
- Lower Mainland Nature Legacy Program: press conference 1995
- Protected Area Process
- Jumbo Creek ski resort proposal 1995
- Red Chris Mine Project 1995
- Ministry of Forests and District staff: thank you letters for LRMP Agreements
- BC Habitat Conservation Fund
- Grasslands: Chilcotin, letter supporting inventory 1992
- Kootenays: Shell land donation for Mount Broadfoot/Wigwam area conservancy
- Greenhouses in Boundary Bay area and diminish waterfowl use on backup lands
- * *Nechako, Kemano Project, correspondence and briefs 1991-1998, including Rivers Defence Coalition, letters and replies from federal and provincial Ministers*
- *Parks Canada and Federal Budget: brief from Canadian Nature Federation 1995*
- * *Cypress Provincial Park Special Planning 1994-1995*
- Canadian Nature Federation comments on Parks Canada
- Tsawwassen Forest
- McGillivray Creek Game Reserve: recommendation for protection
- Wolf Control in Northeast BC
- * *Conservation Network representatives 1989-1998: including Environmentally Sound Packaging, Environmental Network Fund, Nootka Resources Board, Naturescape*
- * *Gravel Removal Fraser River, Hope to Mission 1992-1995*

- **Parks Issues 1991-1995: including submissions to Parks Plan '90 and Wilderness for the 1990s, Strathcona, Tweedsmuir, Clayoquot Sound, Cypress, Babine Mountains, Tatshenshini, and Caren Range*

7. Protected Areas Strategy in Lower Mainland 1993 – 1997

- Land for Nature sites identified in Lower Mainland as Environmentally Important Sites and Fraser Lowlands Ecosession
- Public Advisory Committee for Lower Mainland Protected Areas Strategy
- Memorandum of Understanding of Southwestern BC "Wildlands Alliance"
- FBCN: 12-page brief regarding Priority Sites in Fraser Lowlands Ecosession recommended for Protected Area Status, February 1995
- Letter to Minister of Environment regarding important wetlands on Lower Fraser
- Lower Mainland Public Advisory Committee recommendations, August 1996

8. Conservation Issues 1996 – 1998

- FBCN Initiatives re Parks 1996
- Brief Report re Cassiar Issue by Bert Brink
- Protected Area Strategy and dry Southern Interior
- Pacific Marine Heritage Legacy and support to acquire lands
- Ryder Lake, Chilliwack: comments on Area Plan, letters and responses
- Pitt Meadows and dredged sand dumping: letter of complaint and reply
- Golden Ears Park: proposal to expand and include hillside on east side of Alouette Lake; response under evaluation
- Vancouver Island Regional Naturalists letters from Tony Embleton: regarding Vancouver Island Resource Targets, 'push over' logging, revitalize volunteer Ecological Reserves Warden program and reply, comments on Juan de Fuca Provincial Park draft Master Plan
- Thompson-Okanagan Region comments on protected areas
- Salt Spring Island Mill Farm and support for acquisition
- Protected Areas Strategy and letter advocating more acquisition of ecosession in Kamloops LRMP (12% representation in all ecosessions)
- Letter to new Minister of Environment expressing greater support for creation and management of parks
- Invitation to participate in Central Coast LRMP
- Reply to FBCN resolution requesting amendments to the Park Act to set out strict and clearly defined limits on commercial operations and services in Class A provincial parks
- Regional Directors meetings
- Itcha-Ilgachuz Provincial Park background document
- FBCN Initiatives re Parks, 1996 compilation of Land for Nature project and Resolutions Dunsmuir III – Grass Roots Review of Moving Forward Together on Provincial Land Use Strategy 1996
- Wildlife Management Areas: Harrison-Chehalis and McGillivray Slough
- Grasslands Restoration and BC Grasslands 1996
- Wildlife Watch and future funding
- Pacific Marine Heritage Legacy: support 1996

- Nancy Green Provincial Park: concern re removal of land
- Meeting with Minister of Environment 1998: topics covered concerns regarding BC Parks budget decline, no BC Endangered Species Legislation, Forestry and Range management, Aquatic Habitat Conservation, Nechako River water flows, Agriculture
- Okanagan Mountain Park: hunting and guide outfitting
- Coho Crisis Enquiry 1998
- Beehive burners and air quality 1998
- BC Parks Legacy Project Panel discussion paper 1998
- FBCN comments on Interim Report from Parks Legacy Panel 1998-1999
- FBCN comments to Forum on Sand and Gravel in Fraser River
- Forest Biodiversity Research Council 1996
- * *Parks Forum: Working Together to Sustain Parks and Protected Areas – public forum, with support from FBC 1997*
- Cypress Provincial Park: support for management principles 1997
- Ecological Reserves: reply to letter requesting penalties for infractions and support for Warden program
- BC Parks: Memorandum of Understanding between BC Parks and FBCN for a cooperative relationship and comments from clubs 1997
- Resolutions: reply from Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks on topics including increase in penalties for illegal possession of bear parts, and that the Ministry is identifying candidate areas for designation as Grizzly Bear Conservation Areas 1997
- Fraser River North Arm: barge berthing facility
- Telkwa: support for land acquisition 1997
- Granet Lake Logging licence on Lang Creek, Wolfson Bay, Powell River, letter regarding abuse and reply 1997
- Vancouver Island Regional Directors letters regarding Lazo Marsh and Beckton Estate Development, Groundwater
- * *Mount Arrowsmith: plan for Regional Park, approval of ski development proposal and legal opinion, purchase of Mount Cokely and Mount Arrowsmith 1998*
- **Vancouver Island Conservation Issues 1998-1999: proposed development Mount Arrowsmith, proposed quarry Metchosin, purchase of South Winchelsea Island, Sooke Road rock quarry, Islands Trust Natural Areas Tax Incentive, Forest Renewal BC, Englishman River Estuary and gravel pit proposal, Special Management Zones, support for Pacific Marine Heritage Program, Jedediah Island management plan, and herring depletion of stocks*
- Resolutions: response letters regarding federal endangered species legislation, Riverview Lands
- Agricultural Land Reserve: letter of support
- Six Mile Ranch development on prime farmland: letter response
- Vancouver Island Marmot
- Lower Fraser River: sand and gravel removal, letter of concern and reply 1998
- BC Parks Legacy Project: views and response 1998
- Mara Meadows: province refuses water diversion application 1998
- Burns Bog (See file under Conservation 2004)
- Do We Value our Parks – Opinion Editorial and Backgrounder, November 1998

- Alpine Environment Discussion
- Game Farming
- Alaksen National Wildlife Area Advisory Committee
- Fisheries Survival Coalition and comments 1997
- Francis Point Marine Park Society: proposal for protection 1998
- Parks Legacy Panel: Interim Report by FBCN, September 1998
- Gravel removal from Fraser River: reply from Federal Fisheries Minister 1998
- * *Fraser River Coalition 1977-1999, including minutes to 1988*

9. Conservation Issues & Letters File Summary, October 1998 – early 1999

- **Notes prepared for meeting with Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks, Honourable Cathy McGregor, October 16, 1998: covering BC Parks, Recreation and Access, Endangered Species, Forestry Range Lands, Aquatic Habitat Conservation, Nechako River, Agriculture, Resource Extraction and projects Land for Nature and Living by Water*
- Agriculture and Food: Brief to BC Government Select Standing Committee, December 1999
- Conservation Priorities for 1998-1999
- Fraser Lowlands
- Nechako
- Islands Trust
- Burns Bog
- Provincial and Regional Parks: Entiako Proposed Protected Area, Access to 18/20 Mile Creek through Manning Provincial Park, Sale of Boundary Bay Greenbelt Lands, Pitt Wildlife Management Areas, Park Legacy Panel Final Report, Seymour Demonstration Forest, Okanagan Mountain Park hunting and guide outfitting, West Vancouver Madrona Ridge/Telegraph Hill, Riverview Property, Sooke Hills
- Agriculture/Wildlife Conflicts: including mesh netting on grape crops, use of Compound 1080 poison, Provincial Interest in Agricultural Land Commission Act
- Crown Lands: Off-Road Vehicle use and need for Act to manage, Taseko Mines Prosperity Project, BC Assets and Lands Corporation and sale of Crown Lands, transfer of MacMillan Bloedel forest lands to Weyerhaeuser
- Marine Protected Areas
- Water Act

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10. Conservation Issues & Letters 1999

- **Yale Garry Oak Ecological Reserve 1996-1999*
- Regional Directors meetings
- FBCN News Release in support of Parks Legacy Panel 1999
- Fraser Lowlands Working Group: support for recommendations
- Manning Provincial Park: timber access to 18/20 Mile Creeks
- Resolutions response from government to:
 - Sturgeon Bank and Roberts Bank WMA

- Gravel Management in Fraser
- Tranquille WMA
- Parks Legacy
- Nechako River
- Grizzly Bear Management
- Pacific Marine Heritage Legacy
- Identified Wildlife, Special Management Zones 1999
- Environment Minister Honourable Joan Sawicki, notes prepared for meeting, December 1999
- Burnaby Mountain interpretive panels
- Forest Renewal BC
- Forest Policy Review
- Ski Resort Proposal "Garibaldi at Squamish"
- * *Ski Resort Proposal "Cayoosh- Melvin Creek" near Duffey Lake: Comments from FBCN 1999*
- * *MacMillan Bloedel Ltd. Parks Settlement Agreement, public hearings and background*
- Grizzly Bear Management
- Telegraph Hill/Madrona Ridge in West Vancouver
- Nanaimo River Estuary
- Carp Lake Provincial Park: Forest Road Access through Entiako Protected Area – beetle-killed trees salvage operations
- South Peace: protection for Red and Blue-listed birds
- South Slokan Perry Ridge Water Users
- Nature Canada letter regarding National Park establishment
- Meeting with Minister Joan Sawicki coordinated by FBCN with conservationists to discuss Parks Involvement, December 1999
- Puget Sound/Georgia Basin International Task Force
- * *Seymour Demonstration Forest, North Vancouver 1998-1999*
- * *Grasslands and Grasslands Conservation Council 1996-2000*
- * *Endangered Species Coalition 1994-2000*

11. Conservation Issues and Letters 2000

- Regional Directors meetings
- * *Grizzly Bear Hunt 1999-2002*
- Telkwa Mountain Caribou Recovery
- Anderson's Fur Brigade Trail, Fraser Canyon
- Sumas Energy 2 Power Generating Plant
- Berg Lake trail, Mount Robson Provincial Park, helicopter disturbance
- Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park, acquisition priority
- Ecological Integrity in Provincial Parks
- Fraser Lowlands, Proposed Parks and WMAs
- Pitt River, stopping gravel mine in Upper Pitt
- Southern Gulf Islands National Park Reserve
- Kamloops Highway Bypass route and impact on Silt Cliffs
- * *Jones (Wahleach) Lake, Chilliwack: Mountain Beaver and proposed Jones Lake Wildlife Habitat Area*

- Ministry of Environment funding HELP MELP campaign
- Cassiar Iskut-Stikine Land Resource Management Plan
- Eagle nest trees and Wildlife Act
- Lillooet Land and Resource Management Plan
- Cayoosh Mountain/Melvin Creek Ski Resort Development proposed
- Nature Canada completing National Park system
- Agriculture Wildlife conflicts
- Ashnola WMA establishment
- Marine Protected Areas: Strategy for Canada's Pacific Coast, comments
- Cassiar Iskut-Stikine Land and Resource Management Plan: support
- * *Gravel Pit Review of policies by Government, and FBCN Submission*
- Tsitika Valley: Claud Elliot area boundary review
- Strathcona Park Public Advisory Committee and Master Plan Update
- Riverview Property, Coquitlam, preservation
- Squamish Estuary: agreement to preserve
- Burns Bog: support for preservation
- Okanagan Shuswap Land and Resource Management Plan: completion
- * *BC Assets and Lands Corporation: Government Commitment to principles respecting Crown Land management, issuance of commercial outdoor recreation licenses*
- * *Boundary Bay Conservation Lands: Importance of Wildlife Values 1988-1989 and more recent concerns regarding sale of Mud Bay Greenbelt Lands, Robert Bank Back-up 1988-2000*
- * *Marine Protected Areas 1998-2002, including FBCN Marine Policy*

12. Conservation Issues 2001

- Regional Directors Meetings: agendas and minutes
- Koksilah River Provincial Park: comments on draft management plan and protection for Eagle Heights pocket grassland
- Strathcona Provincial Park Master Plan update issues of snowmobiling and hunting
- Nootka Island public access
- Logging roads: impact from accelerated construction due to mountain pine beetle
- Resolutions covering letters and replies:
 - Burns Bog, Riverview property in Coquitlam
 - Provincial Ministry of Environment need to increase budget
 - Heritage trail designation for Anderson's Fur Brigade Trail
 - Eagle Heights Grasslands near Duncan See also 2004
 - Mandatory licensing for All Terrain Vehicles
 - Ban on selling purple loosestrife by nurseries
 - Hunting on Nature Trust Lands on Vancouver Island
 - Crown Lands on Southern Gulf Islands, Log Booms on Nanaimo River Estuary, Cowichan Lake Weir
- Landstrom Provincial Park Proposal, District of Hope
- Moratorium on hunting grizzly bears (See also mini file in year 2000)

- Meeting with Minister of Sustainable Resource Management, Stan Hagen, June 2001
- Park Interpretation in BC Parks cut for 2001: proposal to request government to increase camping fees by \$1 per night in parks where interpretation is offered
- Updates from Conservation Chair on Lillooet LRMP, National Park for Natural Region Three, HELP MELP campaign for funding provincial Fish & Wildlife and Parks
- Harrison Knob letter from Scowlitz First Nations
- Nature Canada Resolution regarding settlement of Treaty Negotiations
- Rath Trevor Park: concern regarding Calypso Orchids
- "Grasslands" FBCN Conservation Policy
- Southern Gulf Islands National Park: support
- * *Bowron Lake, Cariboo Mountains and Cariboo River Park Management Plan, 2000 to 2001, and comments submitted*
- ATVs responsible use
- BC Assets and Land Corporation: disposition of Crown Land near Mud Bay
- Burns Bog (See file for 2004)
- British Columbia Wildlife Watch Provincial Viewing Program, business plan
- Bella Coola: adjacent to Tweedsmuir Park, proposal for heli-skiing
- Bowron Lake/Cariboo Mountains/Cariboo: comments on Park Management Plan
- * *HELP MELP Campaign: letters, updates, newspaper clippings*

13. Conservation Issues 2002

- Regional Directors meetings
- ATV use for hunting
- Streamside Protection Regulations
- Questions for Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection for May AGM: Why was Park Interpretation Cut, Proposed changes to BC Parks Act, Staff cuts to Wildlife, Fisheries, Habitat and Parks Program, Establishment of Marine Protected Areas, Support for boundaries of Spruce Lake Protected Area, Groundwater Legislation, ATV Improved Management, Commercial backcountry use
- Recreation Stewardship Panel, comments re recommendations
- Mountain Caribou Emergency Recovery Plan
- Conservation Notes for Directors' Meetings: South Chilcotin Mountains, Kyoto Accord, Recreation Stewardship Panel, National Park proposal in South Okanagan, ATV legislation, Forest Road Access to 18/20 Mile Creeks through Manning Park panhandle
- South Chilcotin Mountain Park (See separate file #15b)
- Ambrose Lake Ecological Reserve: letter requesting addition, and reply
- Resolutions covering letters and replies:
 - Crown Land Leases
 - Pesticide Use in Urban Areas
 - Indicators of Economic Health
 - Staffing for Parks
 - Wildlife, Fisheries, Habitat and Forestry
 - Fraser River Debris Trap
 - Snowmobiling in Provincial Parks
 - Mandatory Licensing for All-Terrain-Vehicles

- Management of Fraser River Hope to the Sea
- Crown Land Tenure and Sales
- Tyax Air Service: comments on application for landing permits
- Wind Farm proposal for Boundary Bay
- Columbia River Wetlands: Regulations to Manage Vessels
- Species at Risk Act Bill C-5: urging federal government to pass this legislation
- Nanaimo River Estuary and hunting
- Forest Recreation Sites: meeting notes and government brief titled "Divesting MOF Recreation Sites and Trails"
- Environmental Cuts: What we are Losing?
- Response from Premier Campbell regarding government restructuring and its effects on natural resources
- North Cascades Grizzly Bear Recovery Team
- Blue Mountain Provincial Forest
- Clendinning Provincial Park Management Direction Statement
- Species at Risk, Bill C-5
- Caren Range Park Proposal, Sunshine Coast (Spipyus)
- Manning Provincial Park: forest access road through panhandle
- **Elk Creek, near Chilliwack, proposed logging (See separate file in 2003)*

14. Conservation Issues and Letters 2003

- **Recreation Stewardship Panel 2002-2003: Brief and meeting with Assistant Deputy Minister*
- Working Forest initiative, Working Forest Legislation and Discussion Paper
- Riparian Area Regulations
- Lannan Forest (Comox area) sale by Land and Water BC
- Graham-Laurier Provincial Park: removal of land
- South Chilcotin Mountains Park (See separate file 15b)
- Gladys Lake Ecological Reserve (Spatsizi): commercial use
- Stikine Country Management Plan: submission from FBCN
- * *Elk Creek, near Chilliwack: proposed logging*
- McGillivray Wildlife Management Area: proposed
- Blackie Spit, South Surrey: birds and dogs
- Sale of Crown Land
- Strathcona Provincial Park: not to siphon water from Carwithen and Greenview Lakes
- Eagle Heights Grasslands: protection
- Resolutions covering letters and replies:
 - Moratorium on Oil and Gas Exploration and Marine Protected Areas
 - Reinstate Nature Interpretation and Education
 - Phase Out of Single Hulled Tankers
 - Fish Farming
 - Provincial Protection for Species at Risk
 - Marbled Murrelet Recovery
 - Integrity of Ecological Reserves
 - Lower Fraser River Dykes and Shoreline

- Sale of Crown Land Lake Lots on Okanagan Reservoir Lakes
- Spotted Owls and Lillooet Land and Resource Management Plan
- GVRD Sustainable Region
- * *West Nile Virus, FBCN Brief, municipal information and presentation*
- * *Muskwa-Kechika Wildlife Management Plan and comments*
- Ecological Reserves Wardens Gathering September 2003
- Off-Road Vehicles
- Hotel Lake and Sunshine Coast Regional District's water licence application and concerns regarding stickleback
- Mitlenatch Island Volunteer Warden program
- Vancouver Island Marmot Recovery Team and Foundation's work
- Roberts Bank Container Expansion Project: proposed third berth
- Cuts to Provincial Environment staff: letter of concern
- Falconry: Government paper on options for management and FBCN comments
- Pacific Water Shrew Recovery
- * *Vancouver Island Marmots 1981-2003*

15a. Conservation Issues and Letters 2004

- **Park Interpretation: Efforts to reinstate 2001-2004*
- Meeting March '04 with Minister of Water, Land & Air Protection, Bill Barisoff, Briefing and Discussion Notes: Integrity of Parks and Protected Areas and Bill 84, Lodge Strategy, South Chilcotin Provincial Park, Nature Interpretation, Species at Risk, Marine Protected Areas
- Stickleback and Hotel Lake letter to Sunshine Coast Regional District
- Delegation to GVRD comments re Barnston Island ALR Application
- Lannan Forest sale letter to Minister of Sustainable Resource Management and reply from Land and Water BC and Minister
- Graham Laurier Provincial Park land removal reply from Minister
- Burns Bog purchase: congratulations to governments, March 31, 2004 and replies
- Riparian Area proposed regulations: letter to Minister and reply
- Species at Risk Report Card: joint with Canadian Nature Federation and failing grade F for British Columbia, letter explaining reasons to province and reply
- Codd Island Wetlands, Pitt Polder (Aquilini Conservation Reserve), dedication
- Muskwa-Kechika Management Plan letter to government and reply
- Float plane landings in provincial parks: letter to Minister and response
- Senator Fitzpatrick letter regarding start of feasibility study for South Okanagan Similkameen National Park
- Offshore Oil and Gas Moratorium: submission to Federal Public Review Panel with six-page presentation, May 25, 2004
- Valemont to Blue River Winter Recreation Plan: comments
- Okanagan-Similkameen-Shuswap LRMP and designation of Goal Two Areas: letter to Minister
- Resolutions: response letters sent, following May AGM:
 - Water conservation initiatives and water supply in Okanagan
 - GVRD commitment to Fraser River Estuary
 - Spotted Owls

- Marine Protected Areas establishment
 - Mountain Caribou management
 - Breeding birds of Boreal Forest
- Aircraft landings in Provincial Parks: reply from Minister
- Provincial Park Boundary Adjustment Policy
- West Nile Virus Control Regulation letter to Minister of Health
- Point Roberts Heron Colony letter of concern re impacts and reply
- Submission to Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services regarding Funding for BC Parks, October 13, 2004
- Meeting with ADM, Water, Land and Air Protection, Nancy Wilkin, November 2004, regarding issues: Funding for BC Parks, Identified Wildlife, Mountain Caribou and Marbled Murrelet, Ecological Reserve Warden commitments
- Grizzly Bear Conservation strategy: request from government for representative
- * *Coalbed Methane Extraction: recommendation that all further projects be suspended; background information*
- Kakwa Park Management: draft comments from FBCN
- Boreal Birds and Identified Wildlife: need for protection for warblers
- Cultus and Sakinaw Lakes Sockeye salmon listing as Species at Risk
- Tsawwassen First Nations Treaty Negotiations: letter outlining vital importance of conservation lands in Delta
- Eagle Heights near Shawnigan Lake: need for protection of this Goal 2 Area
- Provincial Park Boundary Adjustment Policies and Guidelines
- * *Burns Bog 1998-2004*

15b. Conservation Issues – South Chilcotin Mountains, Lillooet LRMP 1979 – 2004

- Support for South Chilcotin Mountain Provincial Park, South Chilcotin Mountains, Lillooet Land and Resource Management Plan 1979-2004
- Integrated Resource Management Planning 1980-1985, South Chilcotin Mountains Wilderness Society

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16. Conservation Issues and Letters 2005

- Abbotsford request to remove land from ALR
- Abbotsford Official Community Plan and Sumas Mountain
- Species at Risk and Community Plan for McKee Peak, Abbotsford
- Boreal Forest Birds: warbler protection
- Mountain Caribou: news release re threats from heli-ski tenure
- Species at Risk Act: comments on listing new species, including White Sturgeon
- Species at Risk: listing of Cultus and Sakinaw Lakes sockeye salmon
- South Okanagan-Similkameen National Park proposal: support (See separate file)
- Lead Sinkers and Jigs: support letter to federal Ministry of Environment to prohibit

- Deltaport Expansion and Protection of Fraser Estuary (See separate file end of #17)
- Mountain Caribou in Hart Ranges and opposition to BearPaw heli-ski tenure
- Okanagan: protection of Goal 2 Areas
- Resolutions passed at AGM, covering letters and responses received on:
 - Off-Road Vehicles
 - Coal-Fired Electric Power Plants
 - Groundwater Resources
 - Nanaimo Estuary Management Plan
- Manning Provincial Park Fuel Reduction, salvage logging, tree removal guidelines
- White Rock Pier Expansion
- North Thompson Trail Project: comments
- Barnston Island: opposition to application to exclude land from ALR
- Train Derailments: need for better regulation and penalties and sending two resolutions passed at FGM on the derailment and damage to Lower Cheakamus
- Funding for BC Parks and Conservation Officers: presentation to Select Standing Committee of Government
- Columbia Lake Provincial Park: opposing application to remove land
- North Thompson Off-Road Vehicle Trail
- Mountain Caribou and Heli-Ski application northeast of Prince George
- * *Nechako 1998-2005: including White Sturgeon Recovery Team and Action Planning Group*

17. Conservation Issues and Letters 2006

- **Species at Risk Act 2001-2006 (See Endangered Species Coalition in File #10)*
- Mountain Caribou Recovery and heli-skiing tenures (See separate file)
- Off-Road Vehicle regulation (See separate file)
- Fixed Roof Accommodation (see mini file under 2007)
- Listing of Coho Salmon under Species at Risk Act
- Lower Mainland Roosevelt Elk Recovery
- * *Northern Spotted Owl 2002-2006*
- Columbia Lake east side: support for Agricultural zoning of District Lot 48
- Jumbo Lake Resort proposal: comments against resort development
- Birch trees, burning, in Mackenzie Forest District
- Resolution Covering letters and replies regarding:
 - Spotted Owl Habitat
 - Cathedral Grove By-Pass Road
 - Goal 2 Areas for parks in Southern Interior
 - Gilpin Grasslands protection
 - Commercial Lodges in Parks, Roofed Accommodation in BC Parks and Declaration on Park Principles
 - South-Okanagan National Park Reserve proposed feasibility study
- BC Nest Records data
- Boreal Forest Birds: support for listing of species as Identified Wildlife and request to set aside more Wildlife Habitat Areas and reply from government on WMAs

- Barnston Island: presentation to ALR Panel regarding removal of agricultural lands
- Echo Heights, above Chemainus: need for protection
- Violin Lake in West Kootenays and management as natural area
- Riparian Area Regulations
- Princeton Wood Residue and Coal Power Generation Project
- Submission to review of BC Government's Raw Log Export Policy
- Sustainable Aquaculture: Submission to Panel October 18, 2006
- Batholiths Project: proposed seismic testing in inside passages, concerns
- Kakwa Provincial Park Management Plan: concerns with extensive and intensive use allotted to snowmobilers within the park
- Support for acquisition of Mission Point on Sunshine Coast
- Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area: concerns with proposed logging plan as part of Corn Creek Habitat Restoration; reply regarding undertaking environmental impact
- * *BC Parks Funding, submissions to Select Standing Committee on Finance 2004-2006*
- * *Deltaport, Roberts Bank, Proposal for Third Berth; also National Wildlife Management Area Proposal 2004-2006*

18. Conservation Issues and Letters 2007

- Mount Klappan Coal Project: comments on draft terms of reference to EAO
- Deltaport Third Berth Project: letter from Port Vancouver that has been approved
- Fisheries Act: comments on proposed amendments (Bill C-45), January 2007 and sign-on letter from Environmental organizations; reply from Minister of Fisheries and Oceans
- * *Mountain Caribou and government's commitment to recovery 2003-2007*
- Cariboo Chilcotin Land Use Plan: implementation and forest stewardship
- Mountain Pine Beetle: concerns regarding salvage logging and reply
- Kakwa Provincial Park: reply to concerns with extent of snowmobile use
- Okanagan Proposed Goal 2 candidate areas: second letter re protection
- Galore Creek Copper-Gold-Silver Mine Project: comments on CEAA Comprehensive Study Report
- * *Fixed Roof Accommodation proposed within BC Parks, including meeting to improve tenure system and renewal system; letter expressing BC Nature's concerns with proposal to provide fixed-roof accommodation facilities in 12 Provincial Parks; review by Public Service Employees for Environmental Ethic; ENGO response to proposal; notes from meeting between ENGOs, Industry and Adventure Tourism; Campaign for BC Parks launched; candidate proposal summary; BC Parks Policy re Fixed-Roof Accommodation and Development Guidelines*
- ATVs in sensitive habitats: support for penalties
- Partnership Award presented to BC Nature from Ministry of Environment
- * *Mount Robson Provincial Park Management Plan*
- Pinecone Burke Provincial Park: proposed boundary adjustment for transmission line from Independent Power Project on Upper Pitt River

- Scallop Culture Facility (shellfish management) near Bowser: submission to CEAA
- Roberts Bank Wildlife Management Area designation: urgent need and reply
- Resolution Covering Letters and Replies:
 - Management of Forests: proposed amendment of Forest and Range Practices Act
 - Agricultural Self-Sufficiency
 - North Okanagan Grasslands protection
 - Brunswick Point Farmlands and ALR protection
- Moose Conference
- Bamberton development: proposal and concerns regarding impact on rare ecosystems
- Wildlife Act: comment on Discussion Paper of proposed changes
- Shuswap Lake: comments on application for marina at mouth of Adams River and government reply
- Canadian Wildlife Service budget cut
- Provincial Government Standing Committee on Finance: email submission to increase BC Parks budget, Conservation Officers, and programs to improve health such as getting youth outdoors
- Rath Trevor Provincial Park: proposal for biosphere reserve building within the park
- South Fraser Perimeter Road environmental assessment and Burns Bog
- Celebration of Life of Dr. V.C. (Bert) Brink: tributes and messages regarding his conservation and education contributions 2008

19. Conservation Issues and Letters 2008

- Parks Canada letter regarding feasibility study, South Okanagan
- Blue Mountain Gravel Quarry: impact on wetland, letter to Maple Ridge
- Climate Change Mitigation: joint letter to Premier's Advisory Committee on Adaptation to Climate Change
- Osoyoos Lake oxbows and proposed Willow Beach development: letter to Okanagan Similkameen Regional District
- Species at Risk: need for provincial legislation letter to Premier Campbell and reply from Minister of Environment
- Clean Energy Call: joint letter to BC Hydro regarding Tender Evaluation process and reply
- Incidental Take of Migratory Birds: submission re regulatory approach to Canadian Wildlife Service
- Site C pre-consultation: comments to BC Hydro
- Vernon proposed western by-pass highway: letter opposing route through grasslands to City of Vernon
- Recreation Trail Strategy: support for non-motorized trail designations and reply
- Gilpin Grasslands Wildlife Management Area: letter of support for proposed designation to Ministry of Environment
- South Fraser Perimeter Road: reply from Minister of Transportation
- DeltaPort Terminal 2 proposal: letter with concerns to APM Terminals as a major potential user

- Peachland Creek, Finlay Creek and Antlers Saddle area: letter to Integrated Land Management Bureau expressing concerns with tenure request for ATV tours
- Coquihalla Pass Resort proposal: letter to provincial Environmental Assessment Office requesting that terms of reference be expanded to consider potential impacts on adjacent Coquihalla Summit Recreation Area
- * *Independent Power Projects, including letter to Premier regarding Squamish River watershed, Fries Creek, presentation to public meeting on Upper Pitt proposal*
- Nature Canada: letter explaining their Board's decision not to accept resolution on economic growth and BC Nature's letter requesting reconsideration
- Garibaldi at Squamish Project: letter submitting comments to Environmental Assessment Office
- Shuswap Lake, Adams River West Beach Marina Development: letters to Columbia Shuswap Regional District Board and provincial Minister of Environment expressing BC Nature's opposition to this proposed development
- Adams River private land at mouth: letter to Minister of Environment encouraging purchase
- White Lake Basin, St. Andrews area: letter to Regional District Okanagan Similkameen requesting reversal of recent decision to designate as Secondary Growth Area
- Morkill River: letter to Integrated Land Management Bureau opposing application of Rocky Mountain adventures to develop three additional hunting camps
- Resolutions Covering Letters and Replies
 - Garibaldi at Squamish
 - Brunswick Point Lands on Fraser River Estuary
 - First Nations and South Okanagan National Park Reserve feasibility study
 - Ocean Dumping in Howe Sound
 - Natural Values Commission
- Strathcona Provincial Park and horse use in Bedwell Creek: letter to BC Parks and reply
- Compensation limits when restricting or cancelling tenures on public land: letter of regret that government is withdrawing this proposal
- BC Nest Records Scheme letter to Biodiversity Centre for Wildlife Studies and remaining cards to scan
- BC Conservation Framework: letter of congratulations to Ministry of Environment for publication of Taking Nature's Pulse and launching Conservation Framework
- Finance and Government Services, Select Standing Committee: presentation, September 15
- Mount Robson Provincial Park Management Plan: comments to BC Parks Planning Section Head
- Salmon Arm proposed SmartCentre: comments of concern to City of Salmon Arm
- Garibaldi Provincial Park: letter to Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Arts, Major Projects, expressing concerns with snowmobilers suggesting possible use as part of Garibaldi at Squamish development proposal and reply
- South Fraser Perimeter Road and Burns Bog Covenant: letter to Delta in support of covenant

- Shuswap Lake Integrated Planning Process: letter to Premier Campbell urging funding for this process to implement and reply

20. Conservation Issues 2009

- **Agriculture-Wildlife Advisory Committee 1998-2010*
- Ecological Reserves Wardens funds for another Gathering: letter to Friends of Ecological Reserves
- Trail Strategy: letter to BC Recreation Sites and Trails Branch
- Bute Inlet Hydroelectric Project (Plutonic Power) IPP: comments to BC Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) and Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA)
- Nechako White Sturgeon and support for conservation fish culture program: letter to provincial and federal Environment Ministers and replies
- Federal Budget Implementation Act relating to Navigable Waters Protection Act: email letter to Senators
- Response from Nature Canada regarding position statement on economic growth
- Shanker's Dam on Similkameen: thanks to Province for requesting intervenor status
- Active Pass Important Bird Area: letter to BC Ferries CEO re partnership
- Northwest Transmission Line Project: comments on draft Terms of Reference to provincial Environmental Assessment Office
- Kakwa Provincial Park: comments to Omineca Region, BC Parks, regarding proposed change to agreement on snowmobile seasonal closure
- Crown Lands in south Okanagan Similkameen lands disposal: joint letter to Minister of Agriculture and Lands, Forests and Range, and Environment requesting meeting to discuss sale of Crown Lands in sensitive habitat areas
- Resolution Cover Letters and Replies
 - Gravel Removal in Lower Fraser
 - Deltaport BC Development and Terminal 2
 - Coarse Woody Debris management
 - Local Conservation Fund of East Kootenay Regional District
 - Thompson River Steelhead
 - Open net-cage salmon farming
- NaiKun Wind Energy proposal for wind farm near Rose Spit, Haida Gwaii: letter regarding concerns to Premier Campbell and response
- NaiKun Wind Farm: submission to Provincial Environmental Assessment Office
- Sunshine Valley All-Seasons Resort: letter regarding concerns with proposed new tenure
- Climate Action Network Canada: sign on to KYOTO plus petition
- Bear Bay Forest, Sunshine Coast, near Pender Harbour: letter to Regional District with concerns for auction sale of timber and replies from BC Timber Sales
- Finance and Services: submission to BC government Select Standing Committee urging increased funding to BC Parks and Environmental Stewardship
- **Enbridge Northern Gateway Proposal: invitation from Enbridge to Marine Community Advisory Board inaugural meeting and invitation to one day meetings, Enbridge discussion guides. Background information prepared by BC*

Nature for members, Letter to Prime Minister requesting an Independent Public Inquiry and reply, Letter of Support for Participant Funding for Nature Canada

21. Conservation Issues 2010

- **Park Interpretation: letters, proposals for increased funding, summer student park placement reports and program content 2004-2010*
- Fish Farming and impacts on wild salmon: letter to Federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and reply
- Response form supporting ban on cosmetic use of pesticides
- Nanoose Bay District Lot 33 and proposed logging: letter of concern to Integrated Land Management Bureau
- Salmon farming: letter of concern to Federal Minister of Fisheries & Oceans, and reply
- Agenda for March 17, 2010 meeting with Minister Penner, Minister of Environment
- Wolf Kill: letter to Minister Penner, Minister of Environment, expressing BC Nature's opposition to proposed killing of wolves to supposedly protect mountain caribou
- Northern Gateway Project: Community Advisory Board Membership stating that BC Nature declines the invitation to participate or to be an observer in the CAB
- Off-Road Vehicles proposed use in Capital Regional District Parks, BC Nature's opposition to this proposal and reply from CRD that their Regional Parks Committee voted unanimously that there be no motorized use permitted in regional parks
- Ministers of National Defence and Environment, encouraging the federal government to close the door on further industrial development in CFB Suffield National Wildlife Area, Alberta; from the Canadian Nature Network, including BC Nature, and coordinated by Nature Canada
- Water Act: submission from BC Nature on the modernization of BC's Water Act to Living Water Smart
- Sign-on Letter to federal government, together with Nature Canada, to protect Suffield National Wildlife Area, Alberta
- Federal Bill C-9: letters to Finance Committee expressing concerns that this Bill would weaken Canadian Environmental Assessment Act; letter to opposition party leaders requesting that their parties commit to restoring and reforming the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act; sign-on letters spearheaded by Sierra Club, West Coast Environmental Law and Ecojustice
- Minister Pat Bell, Forests and Range: letter expressing concerns with staff cuts and impacts on research; reply regarding funding for Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem classification program
- Resolution Cover Letters and Replies
 - Funding for BC Provincial Parks (lack thereof)
 - Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Plan: implementation
 - Open Net-Cage Salmon Farming
- Nature Canada notification of "Affiliate Award" to BC Nature for IBA Caretaker Network

- BC Parks, Upper Fraser River and east of Prince George: letter providing comments on draft management plans
- City of Salmon Arm Mayor and Council: letter reiterating BC Nature's concerns with proposed development in the Salmon River's floodplain
- Crude Oil tanker moratorium and Northern Gateway Project: letter to Honourable Michael Ignatieff, Leader of the Opposition expressing support for moratorium
- Harrison Hot Springs Official Community Plan: letter to Minister Barry Penner, Ministry of Environment, regarding Official Community Plan for East Sector, that it be preserved for nature, and reply
- Joint letter with Nature Canada to Joint Review Panel for Enbridge Northern Gateway Project: sent as interveners, stating that proposed review is limited in scope and should be broadened as detailed in letter
- BC Parks and Protected Areas: letter to Select Standing Committee of Provincial Finance Committee urging more funding
- Solid Waste Management: brief on Metro Vancouver's Draft Integrated plan presented to Environment Minister Coell
- Experience the Fraser Ideas Forum
- Park Interpretation: letter with funding request to Environment Minister Coell
- Off-Road Vehicle Trails: comments to Provincial Trails Strategy, Recreation Sites and Trails
- Species at Risk: submission of brief to the BC Species at Risk Task Force
- * *Wetlands Stewardship Partnership 2003 – 2010*
- * *Off-Road Vehicles: FBCN submissions to Minister of Recreation and Conservation, Coalition for Licensing and Registration and Off-Road Vehicle Joint Advisory Group, 1971-2010*
- * *South Okanagan Similkameen National Park Reserve proposal 1999-2010*

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Save the Stein Coalition 1977-1986

- Background documents, brochures, minutes of "Save the Stein Coalition" of which the Federation of BC Naturalists (BC Nature) was a founding partner. Also, the government's Public Liaison Committee
- Government 1995 establishment of Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park following 25 years of conservation efforts

Part Three: Summary examples of 3 Park Issues and 4 Committees

Skagit (and Run Out Skagit Spoilers)

In 1967, the BC government signed an agreement with Seattle City Light to raise the height of the ROSS dam situated on the Skagit River in Washington State. The

proposed addition of 122.5 feet to the existing height of the dam would have flooded 6000 acres of Canadian land and destroyed 10 miles of the Skagit River on the Canadian side. A coalition of groups, including FBCN, formed the "Run Out Skagit Spoilers" or ROSS Committee. In 1984, the High Ross Treaty was reached which stopped the proposed flooding into Canada and led to the creation of the Skagit Environmental Endowment Committee (FBCN and Vancouver Natural History Society participants: Bert Brink, Dick Stace-Smith, Norm Pursell).

Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park

Government moratorium on logging the Stein concluded in 1976. Environment and Land Use Committee of Cabinet decided the Stein would be logged. Conservation groups became active in late 1976 and early 1977. "Save the Stein Coalition" was formed. A meeting of the Conservation Committee of the FBCN, chaired by Dick Stace-Smith and held at his house on January 21, 1977, decided to become active in efforts to protect the Stein, becoming a founding member of Save the Stein Coalition.

In 1976 a lake in the Stein Watershed had been named "Elton Lake" in memory of Elton Anderson (1907-1975), who had contributed a great deal to FBCN as president and newsletter editor. (The location of the lake in the Stein Valley was thought fitting as one to name in his memory, not only for its beauty, but also because it is located close to Anderson Lake which had previously been named in memory of his grandfather, Alexander Caulfield Anderson, 1814-1884). In 1977 and 1978, two Exploratory Backpacking Trips to the alpine areas of the Stein Watershed were organized by FBCN President, Norman Pursell, through the Vancouver Natural History Society.

FBCN member and Office Secretary, the late Adeline Nichol, was especially involved in efforts to protect the Stein and the Save the Stein Coalition, served as its treasurer, and wrote several letters. Bev Ramey, former BC Nature President, also was also involved in the Save the Stein Coalition, at that time representing the Sierra Club. Bev served as Secretary to the Save the Stein Coalition and produced the several flyers and newsletters. The Save the Stein Coalition was actively involved in the Stein Public Advisory Committee, which completed its final report in 1984. Government staff and non-profit groups, including FBCN, participated on this Committee.

The work of the Save the Stein Coalition was essential to spread awareness early in the fight to protect the unlogged, entire Stein watershed. The Coalition also drew attention to the question of the economic viability of logging the Stein, due to the anticipated bridge crossings and road construction. By 1985, First Nations became actively involved and carried the effort forward, first with the Lillooet First Nations, and then in 1986 with the Lytton and Mount Currie Bands. Ruby Dunstan was an effective spokesperson for the Lytton Indian Band.

In 1986, the government-appointed Wilderness Advisory Committee recommended that a road should not be constructed through lower Stein Canyon without a formal

agreement between the Lytton Indian Band and the Province, due to the heritage and spiritual value of the Stein.

Major festival events like the "Voices for the Wilderness" were organized by Western Canada Wilderness Committee. These events greatly publicized the value of the Stein Wilderness and public support for its protection.

- 1985 Labour Day: alpine setting, sponsored by Lillooet Tribal Council, 500 people attended
- 1986 Thanksgiving: mouth of the Stein River, sponsored by Lytton & Mount Currie Bands, 700 attended
- 1987 August: alpine setting, 2000 people attended including big name celebrities
- Huge festivals continued in summers 1988 through 1992, held in the Pemberton - Mount Currie area
- 1986: start of Stein Rediscovery Youth Program to reconnect with nature
- 1987: Lytton and Mount Currie Bands sign the Stein Declaration: "We will maintain the Stein Valley as a wilderness in perpetuity for the enjoyment and enlightenment of all people."
- 1995, November 22: Government establishes the Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park, following 25 years of debate.

South Okanagan Lower Similkameen National Park Reserve feasibility study

A resolution was passed at the 1999 General Meeting in support of the establishment of one or more National Parks in the "Natural Region Three" located on the Interior Dry Plateau. FBCN followed up with letters and meetings with Parks Canada staff.

Following completion in 2001 of the Okanagan Shuswap Land and Resource Management Plan (with Harold King as BC Nature's representative) and a 2002 resolution from the Thompson-Okanagan-Shuswap Region of FBCN, FBCN wrote to the federal government in support of establishing a national park in the South Okanagan.

- 2003: Canada and BC signed a Memorandum of Understanding to pave the way for creation of this new national park reserve
- 2004: FBCN letters written to provincial government to establish the Goal Two areas (smaller parks) identified in the Okanagan LRMP
- 2006: AGM in Comox passed resolution in support of establishing the South Okanagan Similkameen National Park Reserve. Wrote letters and encouraged Parks Canada staff to take a broad approach to grazing and recognize the potential role of grazing in managing the grasslands
- South Okanagan naturalist Doreen Olson was very active in this cause. Jim Bryan, representative to South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program and Eva Durance worked on the South Okanagan Similkameen (SOS) National Park Network of environmental organizations (Eva Durance)
- 2007 in fall BC Nature Magazine, featured the petition to establish the park
- Presentations made at our 2008 AGM in Penticton with update on feasibility study and encouragement of members to write letters

- Presentations at our 2010 AGM in Kamloops (Doreen Olson) to encourage members to write letters in support of establishing this park
- Efforts continue.

Agriculture-Wildlife Advisory Committee

A committee formed as the "Problem Wildlife Advisory Committee" in the 1974 was renamed in 1998 as the "Agriculture-Wildlife Advisory Committee". It was abandoned by government in 2010 due to staff cuts.

The Committee was co-chaired by staff from Ministries of Agriculture and Fish & Wildlife and included representatives from industry, ranchers, farmers, BC Wildlife Federation and BC Nature, to identify and seek solutions to issues between wildlife and the agriculture sector of the province. The Committee focused on ways to minimize and compensate impacts of wildlife on agriculture and to promote better management practices that benefit both sectors.

Meetings were held three or four times a year at rotating locations, e.g., Vancouver, Kamloops, Kelowna, Williams Lake, Dawson Creek. BC Nature representatives alternated, depending on location: Joan Best, Harold King, Pat Westheuser and Bev Ramey. Topics have included Starling Control, Deer Fencing, Stack Yard Fencing (around feed yards), forage compensation from waterfowl damage, bear/orchard conflicts, etc.

Off-Road Vehicle Coalition and Joint Advisory Group

As Off-Road Vehicles (ORVs) proliferated and their damage to the environment became more visible, concerned organizations such as the Grasslands Conservation Council, ATV/BC (Quad Riders of B.C.), and others established a group comprised of a wide representation of outdoor recreation interests in 2002. BC Nature was a founding member of this group, called the "Coalition for the Licensing and Registration of Off-Road Vehicles in British Columbia". The Coalition worked for five years to reach consensus on a document setting out points for government to consider what would result in better management of ORVs. This document was presented to government in January of 2006.

(See the BCgrasslands.org website for more BC Grasslands Conservation).

In 2008, work commenced by Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations staff to create the necessary legislation. A committee of Cabinet Ministers and MLAs, the Implementation Committee, was struck to oversee the work of the Off-Road Vehicle Management Framework. At BC Nature's AGM in Kamloops in 2010, we were promised by MLA Kevin Krueger that this new legislation would be enacted by November 2011.

Still working towards legislation, BC Nature participates in the government appointed Joint Advisory Group (JAG) to advise and consult on this process. The JAG group included a wide range of stakeholders: representatives from ATVs

(quads), motorized trail bikes, snowmobilers, dealership representatives, Union of BC Municipalities, the Conservation Officer Service and ICBC. The FBCN representatives were Joan Best and Bev Ramey.

See more information at the BC Province websites on Off-Road Vehicles and Off-Road Act and Regulations.

Rivers Defense Coalition Steering Committee, Nechako Environmental Enhancement Fund Management Committee and Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative

The FBCN has been well represented on these three related committees through June Wood. In the 1990s, June was the FBCN representative on the Rivers Defense Coalition Steering Committee. The Rivers Defense Coalition succeeded, at least temporarily, with its goal to halt the Kemano Completion Project. The government halted this project in 1995.

June then represented BC Nature on the Nechako Environmental Enhancement Fund Management Committee that was established as part of the 1997 Settlement Agreement between Alcan and the Province of BC. This Committee was disbanded in 2001, following completion of its final report which recommended that a cold-water release facility be constructed at the Kenney Dam.

June continued her work as a BC Nature representative on related committees, especially the Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative Action Planning Group, from 2003 onwards. June is a Co-chairs of this Committee, now known as "Community Working Group", and is based in Prince George. As a member of the Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Team, June has advocated for recovery initiatives. She drafted a resolution which BC Nature members passed at AGM 2010, urging the federal and provincial governments to adequately fund implementation of the recovery plan for sturgeon.

Wetlands Stewardship Partnership

The Wetland Stewardship Partnership (WSP) is a group of government and non-government organizations dedicated to the conservation of wetlands and other sensitive ecosystems. BC Nature was a founding partner in 2009, but the groups and agencies had been working together on an *ad hoc* basis since about 2002. The purpose of the partnership is to ensure that the functions and values of BC wetlands are appreciated, conserved, restored, and managed.

The partners work collaboratively to maintain, restore and protect wetland ecosystems throughout BC by implementing the Wetlands Action Plan (2010) that outlines specific objectives and actions, and evaluates current conservation initiatives.

Resources produced by the WSP included:

- The Green Bylaws Toolkit for Conserving Sensitive Ecosystems and Green Infrastructure
- Wetlands in BC: A Primer for Local Government

- Grasslands in BC: A Primer for Local Government
- Wetland Action Plan for BC
- Wetland Ways: Interim Guidelines for Wetland Protection and Conservation in BC

Current partners include BC Hydro, BC Nature (Federation of BC Naturalists), BC Ministry of Environment, BC Wildlife Federation, Ducks Unlimited Canada, and Environment Canada Canadian Wildlife Service.

Appendix 9. Publications

Publications are listed chronologically together with a summary.

Note that the newsletter, magazine and journal are described in Chapter 4.

** indicates scanned publications available on BC Nature website in the Members' Only section, then click lower right hand side title "Publications". Titles that have not been scanned are available in BC Nature's office library.*

BC Land for Wildlife - Past, Present and Future, Proceedings of Symposium. 1981. FBCN, SFU and Fish & Wildlife Branch.

Bits & Pieces - Symposium on Natural Diversity. 1987. November 20-21. Federation of BC Naturalists and the Centennial Wildlife Society of BC. FBCN played the leading role in organizing the symposium. The name of the symposium presents the question: Given that our Province possesses highly significant physical and biological diversity, and knowing that diversity adds to complexity in its management, is our approach as a jurisdictional entity coherent or is it fragmented? Presentations from government, academics and naturalists covered the physical and biological structures of our province, approaches to wildlife and habitat inventories, and the question of management for sustainability given inadequacy of staffing and funds. Topics ranged from British Columbia's Wild Heritage, and Wildlife Habitat Inventories Development of a Program, to Managing Terrestrial Vertebrates and other Wildlife, Landscapes and Corridors, Biophysical Mapping and Environmental Studies Performed by the Geological Survey of Canada in BC. This two-day symposium was split into four sections: Session 1 – Review of the Land Base, Session 2 – Identifying the Bits and Pieces, Session 3 – Continuation of Previous Day's Topic, Session 4 – Foresight. A Conclusion followed: a comprehensive conservation policy is needed to manage, in a sustainable manner, our rich and varied wildlife heritage.

***A History: The Federation of B.C. Naturalists.** 1988. Barbara Black. This project was carried out through Douglas College, funded by a grant the FBCN received from the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission. This report begins by defining a "naturalist" and continues with an account of the formation of the BC Nature Council, its work, and the formation of the Federation of BC Naturalists. This is followed by an historical account of the clubs' regionalization and camps, its role in education, and conservation, and the direction it was heading towards at the time. Appendices list recipients of the Elton Anderson Award, Past Presidents, AGMs, and a history of the logo.

***FBCN Policy Manual and Resolutions 1978-1988.** 1988. Rob Kitchen. This manual contains FBCN policies intended for cursory reference. The first section includes the constitution of the organization, objectives, area of operation, and protocol of dissolution. The second section is comprised of by-laws, namely those relating to membership, meetings, officer positions, account auditing, seal custody, amendments, finances, and borrowing and investing powers. These are all followed by Resolutions of the FBCN passed since 1978, indexed alphabetically. The manual ends with a glossary of terms, and an overview of the archival filing system.

Toward A Provincial Land and Water Use Strategy: Proceedings & Consensus Statement. 1991, May 1-3.

Fifty-six individuals representing 38 agencies and/or groups met in a workshop at Dunsmuir Lodge, Sidney, BC. The workshop was organized by representatives from the Association of BC Professional Foresters, BC Forestry Association, BC Wildlife Federation, Council of Forest Industries of BC, Federation of BC Naturalists, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Forests, and the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC. The workshop objectives were to prepare a provincial land use strategy plan, to determine and identify the inventory and resource needs necessary to implement a land use strategy, and to develop approaches and action steps for implementation. Contained in the proceedings are presentations, workshop summaries, a plenary session summary, a steering committee summary, follow-up, and appendices. The consensus statement is that agreed upon by the participants at the second Dunsmuir Workshop, and formed the framework to assist in the development and implementation for resource allocation and ecosystem management to integrate environmental, economic and social values.

Community Action for Endangered Species – A Public Symposium on B.C.’s Threatened and Endangered Species and their Habitat. 1991, September 28-29. Co-sponsored by the FBCN and Northwest Wildlife Preservation Society. Edited by Susanne Rautio.

This two-day symposium held at Robson Square in Vancouver focused on creating public awareness on the status of the endangered species in British Columbia. It also hoped to create public dialogue on the need for proper legislation which would serve to protect these species. It was hoped that in the five years following the symposium, BC would have a thorough, meaningful, and effective Endangered Species Act, which it lacked at the time of this publication. Topics included Causes of Endangerment, Freshwater Ecosystems, the Southern Interior Ecoregion, Marine Ecosystems, High Altitude and Northern Interior Forest Ecosystems, Coastal Forest Ecosystems, Strategies to Bring About Change, and Legislative Change for Endangered Species. In addition, a Conclusion, Wrap Up, Agenda for Action, and an Appendix are included.

Summaries of Discussion Papers. 1991. Bert Brink, Rosemary Fox, Phil Haddock, Joe Lotzkar, Ruth Lotzkar, Wilf Medd, Frank Paul, Donna Sanford, David Shackleton.

This booklet contains summary statements by members of FBCN regarding various conservation issues in British Columbia. Topics discussed are as follows: translocating living organisms, environmental enhancement and restoration, wolf control, big game ranching, forestry policy, pesticide use, trapping, waste management, genetically engineered organisms, electrical power generation, and mining.

Land For Nature (LFN) 1990-1998

Description of the sixteen LFN publications follows:

The Roles of Conservancies and Education in Preserving the Natural Features of the South Okanagan, British Columbia. Report of the South Okanagan Round Table – Abstract and Recommendations. 1990.

Map included.

This report of the South Okanagan Round Table was prepared using submitted abstracts and a series of notes and memories about the day's workshops. It provides overviews of the South Okanagan Critical Areas Project and the South Okanagan Conservation Strategy. Overviews of the biogeography of the region, with an emphasis on rare and endangered species, is followed by land use, environmental education, and demographic changes. It concludes with conservation recommendations, and various appendices, including a list of notable species of concern, and a map.

Identifying and Protecting Sensitive Shoreline and Adjacent Wetland Habitat on the East Coast of Vancouver Island, BC. 1991. Report of the Vancouver Island East Coast Shoreline and Adjacent Wetlands Workshop.

Maps included.

The goal of this workshop was to identify shoreline habitat and adjacent wetlands requiring some form of protection on the east coast of Vancouver islands between the Campbell River and the San Juan River; as well as to set priorities for control over and protection of habitat. Included is a map of sensitive areas identified by a study conducted by naturalists' clubs. A discussion of the effects of global warming on shoreline habitat is followed by presentations from various natural history clubs, conservation projects, and government representatives. These are followed by recommendations.

Endangered Spaces Project: Land for Nature in the Kamloops Area. A Report of the Endangered Spaces Workshop – Summary of Presentations and Discussions. 1991. Editor Frances Vyse. Desktop Publishing Karen Willies. Sponsored by the Kamloops Naturalist Club and the Federation of BC Naturalists.

The goal of this workshop was to discuss where, when, and how better we might protect key natural spaces in the Kamloops area that are threatened by human activities and expansion, and to include experts and other people involved in the management and protection of these areas. Two panels were organized: Panel 1 discussed Local Ecosystems, Landscapes and Cultures (including physical landscapes, forest ecosystems, grassland ecosystems, riparian ecosystems, historical landscapes, and visual landscapes); and, Panel 2 examined The Way Ahead: Mechanisms for Protection, involving Crown Lands, parks and ecological reserves, private funding, the Kamloops Indian Band, Thompson Nicola Regional District, and forest lands. The objectives included educating participants in endangered spaces in the area, defining these spaces as they occur in Kamloops, completing a primary list of significant endangered spaces, and defining the

mechanisms and responsibilities for identification, protection and management by various stakeholders and agencies.

Tools and Mechanisms for Preserving Green Space. Proceedings from the Land for Nature Forum. 1992. The Federation of BC Naturalists.

Divided into four sections, Panel One: Existing Tools and Mechanisms examined tools for preserving greenspace, conservation tools available to local governments under the Land Title Act, green land conservation tools available to local governments and others under the common law, and environmentally sensitive area protection in Richmond, BC; Panel 2: Land Trusts looks at Land Trusts in New England: Lessons for BC, private conservancy initiatives in BC, and the technique of limited development; Panel 3: Voluntary Stewardship Programs was comprised of an introduction to Washington State's Adopt-a-Stream program, Ontario's Natural Heritage Stewardship, and Conservation Land Tax Reduction Programs; Panel 4: Funding and Implementation examined options for funding conservation acquisitions, implementing a regional green zone, green legislation; as well as an Afterword and Appendices. Speakers and contributors included Nora Layard, Mayor Robert Bose, Donald Lidstone, Dr. James Smith, David Loukidelis, Alex Jamieson, Dick Munn, Dr. Clark S. Binkley, Tyhson Banighen, Bradley Vinish, Eva Durance, Bill Wareham, Calvin Sandborn, Nancy Knight, Bill Huot, and Dr. V. C. Brink.

Environmentally Important Sites in the Greater Vancouver Regional District: Nominated by Naturalists for Protection and/or Special Consideration. 1992. Federation of British Columbia Naturalists' Land for Nature Project, in cooperation with eight of its member clubs in the GVRD. Funding provided by Canadian Jobs Strategy, Greater Vancouver Regional District, Environmental Partners Fund – Environment Canada, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, and the Vancouver Foundation.

This document urges the GVRD, municipalities, and the provincial and federal governments to take action effective immediately, in order to protect 143 areas identified by naturalists. It advises that an action plan/strategy be devised by June 1992 to increase participation and support by naturalists, NGOs and other government agencies. All streams and waterways in the GVRD have been highlighted as environmentally valuable for wildlife in the area, and it is the hope that these valuable ecosystems can be protected through collaboration of multiple levels of government to ensure their health and vitality in the future. The report describes the current situation regarding the protection of sites for conservation values, describes the background reasoning for the Land for Nature project, lays out the processes used to nominate sites, notes the major findings of the Project such as the need for a Conservation Strategy for the Lower Mainland, suggests additional research and work needed to document these sites, highlights the mechanisms and tools available for protecting the sites, and suggests other ways to ensure protection.

Preserving Biodiversity and Unique Ecosystems of the Okanagan-Similkameen Region. 1993. Proceedings: Land for Nature Workshop, Summerland, BC.

Beginning with a definition of biodiversity, its importance, and an overview of the FBCN Land for Nature Project, this publication identifies areas in the Okanagan-Similkameen Region that are threatened at the present time, or into the near future. Ways to mitigate and/or save these special areas are proposed. This workshop was split into four panels, with Panel 1: Provincial Government Programs, discussing topics from Protected Areas Strategies, the Commission on Resources and Environment, the South Okanagan Conservation Strategy, and the Conservation Data Centre; Panel 2: Regional, Municipal, and First Nations Governments – Programs and Perspectives, involved First Nations perspectives, the City of Kelowna's Natural Features Inventory, and the Greater Vernon Parks and Recreation District; Panel 3: Legal Tools and Appropriate Development identified tools for preserving green space and development to Preserve Habitat; Panel 4: Natural Heritage Trusts and Private Land Stewardship Programs, was comprised of topics from The Nature Trust for BC, The Nature Conservancy of Canada, Ontario's Natural Heritage Stewardship Program, and Private Stewardship as a Conservation Strategy. Presenters and other contributors included Robert Purdy, Dr. Geoffrey Scudder, Phil Ransom, Mike Sarell, Dennis Llyod, Calvin Sandborn, Orville Dyer, Syd Cannings, Albert Saddleman, Robert Hobson, Kees Ruurs, Donald Lidstone, David Loukidelis, Kerry Korberg, Sue Austen, Yorke Edwards, Eva Durance, Alan Peatt, and Nora Layard.

Land For Nature in the Okanagan-Similkameen Region: Report to the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks Integrated Management Branch. 1993.
Prepared by Nora L Layard, for the Federation of British Columbia Naturalists.

The Land for Nature program was introduced to the 5 Okanagan-Similkameen area clubs in 1991 to bring together naturalists concerned about the environmental destruction in sensitive areas around the Okanagan and Similkameen valleys. This study area ranges from Armstrong to the Canada-USA border, east and west to the height of land from the lake system in the Okanagan Basin. Topics within this publication include an overview of the Land for Nature Project, the current Protected Areas System, identification of sites that need protection, protecting identified sites (a proposed strategy), government processes that need to be effectively utilized, regional communications strategies (proposed), private landowner stewardship program (proposed), and conclusions that tie together these topics. Up until March 31, 1993, the Land for Nature project in this area has been comprised of site identification, site mapping, a Land for Nature Workshop in February of 1993, and a report to the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks.

Ensuring Liveability in Greater Victoria. Proceedings of A Forum to Establish Partnerships for Natural Areas Conservation. 1993.

The Victoria Natural History Society and FBCN organized a forum to discuss the conservation of remnant natural areas on private lands in the Greater Victoria area. The forum brought together biologists, landscape architects, naturalists, planners, politicians, and other interested individuals to explore the importance of natural areas to quality of life in the region, and to examine existing initiatives and potential options, for their conservation. These proceedings provide a comprehensive overview of local land use planning issues in Greater Victoria. The presentations and ensuing questions and comments, illustrate the complexities and challenges of conserving natural areas. Topics covered include the contribution of natural areas to quality of life, contemporary conservation initiatives, mechanisms and tools for conservation, and challenge response stratagem.

Incorporating Natural Areas in Community Planning in the East Kootenay. 1994. Proceedings from the Land for Nature Forum.

This forum focuses on conservation and planning issues in the East Kootenay Region of BC. Using examples of planning initiatives from the Okanagan and elsewhere, this forum demonstrates both the possibilities and challenges facing the East Kootenay Region to conserve its natural diversity. Involved in the forum were government, landowners, citizens, conservation and business organizations. Topics covered include the Kimberley Sustainable Communities Project, land development in the Okanagan, Land for Nature, building support for wildlife through partnership and education, the Salmon Arm Bay Initiative, permaculture, urban ecosystems in mountainous environments, and creating an environmentally appropriate community plan.

Tools and Mechanisms for Protecting Ecologically Sensitive Areas. Proceedings of the Nanaimo Land for Nature Forum. 1994.

This forum focuses on conservation initiatives on southeastern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. These proceedings illustrate the complexities and challenges facing this rapidly growing region. The proceedings also underscore the actions being taken at the provincial, regional, and local levels to conserve its natural heritage. Topics discussed include the Georgia Basin Initiative, a First Nations perspective of Eastern Vancouver Island, statutory and common law tools for green space preservation at the local level, an environmental protection case study, contemporary conservation initiatives, and emerging tools and approaches for protecting ecologically sensitive areas.

Understanding Municipal Environmental Planning. 1996. Prepared by Land for Nature for the Residents of the District of Squamish. Funded by the

Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Environment Canada, and the Government of British Columbia.

As stated in this publication, the goals of this paper are to describe, in basic terms, how municipal government operates, outlines the role of municipal government within the field of environmental management, and also describes how residents of Squamish can contribute to and participate in municipal government's environmental activities. Multiple approaches on how to achieve better environmental management are discussed, including government cooperation and community involvement. A list of helpful publications is also included to allow readers of this document to access more information on various topics involving the District of Squamish Municipal Government, such as Bylaw information, Stream Stewardship and Community Greenways programs.

Greenways I: Implementing Greenways in British Columbia. Exploring Options. 1996.

Greenways I was held over two days in Brackendale, BC, to explore options for implementing greenways throughout BC. It was an opportunity for the Greenways Technical Committee to present *Community Greenways*, the most recent publication in the Stewardship Series, to an audience of active leaders in resource management and conservation, and to receive direction on how to communicate and deliver the greenways message. Greenways I was an opportunity to discuss means of promoting greenways initiatives in both large and small BC municipalities and to coordinate support for existing greenways in related environmental projects. Topics discussed included approaches for different greenways and different municipalities, reaching target audiences, identifying roles of partners, forming of a greenways working group, identifying collaborative greenways projects, and developing an implementation strategy.

Proposed Program Development for Land for Nature, FBCN: Developing Land for Nature's Core Expertise. 1997. Submitted by Andrew Bales. Prepared for the Land for Nature Management Advisory Committee.

This paper outlines some options for overall program direction for Land for Nature for 1997, regarding further development of the core of Land for Nature's work in natural area identification and protection. It is intended to demonstrate some coherence in Land for Nature's work and suggest where it might be heading. Following, are overviews of the various objectives of the program: promoting awareness of small natural areas identified by naturalists, completing studies of small natural areas in settled areas, improving the quality of natural areas inventories, and developing a system of environmentally sensitive areas in BC. The various appendices are mostly comprised of study site lists.

What Colour is Your Green(way)? Proceedings of the What Colour is Your Green(way)? Conference. 1997. Held in Penticton, BC. Edited by Bob Phillips.

These proceedings on the South Okanagan Conservation Strategy are part of the Land for Nature Project and are one of the final products of this program that was initiated in 1995. Overviews are provided of the workshops held during the conference, such as development and tourism, recreation/trails, agriculture and greenways. Other topics covered the unique habitat of the dry south Okanagan-Similkameen, development challenges in the Okanagan, First Nations in the Okanagan, as well as discussions of the greenways program.

Environmentally Important Sites and Streams on the Sunshine Coast. 1998. Land for Nature. FBCN. Map included (separate).

This booklet is part of the Land for Nature Project on Identification and Mapping of Streams and Environmentally Important Sites on the Sunshine Coast. The study was a cooperative project of various local groups sharing an interest in protecting natural areas on the Sunshine Coast from Port Mellon to Egmont and was carried out from early 1996 to mid-1997. The booklet includes background information on the study, such as participant groups, the study area, the goals of the project, its methodology and why it was necessary. Conservation policy recommendations are provided, a list of environmentally important sites and streams, along with site information. There is also a separate supplementary map, which includes related information on the back.

Important Natural Areas and Streams of Squamish. 1998. Prepared with the support of Land for Nature, under the direction of the Squamish Environmental Mapping Advisory Committee. The project was funded by the BC Ministry of Environment's Urban Salmon Habitat Program, Environment Canada's Action 21 Program, Department of Fisheries and Ocean's Mifflin Plan funding, and the Vancouver Foundation.

The report is divided into three parts. Part 1 introduces background to the study of streams and Environmentally Important Sites - a joint project of various local groups who are passionate about protecting natural areas around Squamish. Part 2 provides definition and value of an Environmentally Important Site. Part 3 looks at Natural Areas of Squamish (including a database list of natural areas, key to database fields and acronyms used in the data). The goal of this study was to get community groups with similar conservation interests in mind to collaborate on producing educational tools focusing on specific natural areas. Other objectives of the study included capturing local natural history knowledge from community members, merging existing stream data and making it publicly available, gathering extra biophysical data via field work, examining potential greenway corridors, creating a map of stream and other Environmentally Important Sites around Squamish and a database of site-specific information, and working with the community to identify ways to protect important natural areas.

***FBCN Resolution Manual, 1994.** Laurence C. Brown. Resolutions 1988-1994
This manual is comprised of resolutions passed by the FBCN during Annual General Meetings and Directors Meetings. Resolutions are preceded by a statement of purpose of the FBCN. The resolutions covered in this manual date from 1988 up to and including the 1994 AGM. Previous resolutions are covered in the 1988 Policy Manual. The manual also contains two indexes, organizing the content alphabetically and by topic. The major topics include site specific, species specific, government departments, and proposed legislation.

Five Year Strategic Plan 1998-2003. Anne Murray.

***FBCN Conservation Policy: Grasslands.** September 2000.
Coordinated by Anne Murray.

The document provides an overview of the FBCN's policies regarding the conservation of grassland ecosystems based on the 1998 white paper for discussion. The first section contains information about grassland ecology, including various bunchgrass zones, mountain grasslands, Northern grasslands, coastal prairies, and wetlands. The second section discusses various related conservation issues, including habitat loss (grassland conversion and urban development), ranching, alien species, and recreation. FBCN goals for grassland conservation and strategies for achieving those goals are stated in the third section; the fourth section discusses associated procedures. A bibliography, appendices on previous FBCN grassland resolutions, and associated organizations are included.

***FBCN Marine Ecosystems Policy.** May 2001. Coordinated by Anne Murray
This document provides an overview of the FBCN's policies regarding the conservation of marine ecosystems. The first section contains information about marine ecology, including a classification of marine ecosystems, and information on estuaries, intertidal and subtidal zones, fjords, and pelagic waters. The second section discusses various conservation issues such as habitat loss (from urban development, habitat degradation, and habitat changes), pollution, alien species, recreation, global climate change, and problems related to organization and planning. Goals needed for marine ecosystem conservation and strategies for attaining those goals are discussed in the third section. The fourth section is supposed to outline procedures associated with marine ecosystem conservation policy but is mostly left blank (noting that this report is a draft copy). Appendices include previous FBCN resolutions on marine ecosystems, a list of conservation organizations concerned with marine issues, and a list of various international, government or partnership programs.

Important Bird Areas (IBAs) Conservation Plans. 2001.

Conservation plans were developed for each of:

Baynes Sound / Lambert Channel - Hornby Island Waters

Osoyoos Oxbows

Fraser Lake

Southern Vancouver Island Marine Waters and Seabird Islands

Living by Water Publications, 2000 – 2007. FBCN publications with lead authors Sarah Weaver (Kipp) and Clive Callaway.

Making it Happen – A Strategic Approach to the Living By Water Project 2000-2005

On the Living Edge – Your Handbook for Waterfront Living. 144 pages. BC edition 2002. Alberta edition 2002. Saskatchewan / Manitoba edition 2003. Ontario edition 2003.

This book provides information about commonly asked questions regarding the challenges associated with shoreline residence. A range of topics is covered, providing introductory information, as well as references for further research. The second section covers topics related to lands work, such as septic systems, shoreline landscaping and shoreline erosion. The third section deals with issues of daily living, such as living with wildlife, dealing with the seasons, and protecting water quality. The final section includes important contact information, native and invasive plant species lists, and references.

Brochures and posters: Waterfront Living poster; Shoreline Makeover posters (freshwater and coastal); Living Beside Running Water poster

Information sheets: Importance of Shorelands, West Nile Virus and Wetlands

Tips for your Watershed. Green Guest Guide. Various dates, 2003-2005.

Community Planning Tools and Approaches for Protecting Freshwater Shorelines in the Thompson-Nicola-Shuswap Region of the BC Interior in Response to Climate Change. 2007.

Shoreline Ambassador Manual. 2001.

Homesite Assessment Program Manual. 2002.

Shoreline Event and Activity Manual. 2003.

Shoreline Stewardship Toolkit for Local Government (CD of resources). 2005.

Workshop in a Box Manual and PowerPoint presentations. 2004-2007. Various presentations.

Dry Forests Ecosystems Symposium. 2003, May 8. Kamloops.

Coordinated by Frances Vyse through Kamloops Naturalist Club, Federation of BC Naturalists, Biology Department University College of the Cariboo, and Forest Research Extension Partnership.

After naturalists brought attention to the need for dry forest ecosystem management, a Dry Forest Ecosystem Symposium was organized to bring together experts to discuss management options. This publication contains the proceedings from this Kamloops symposium and includes short biographies on the speakers,

recent publications and information about their presentations. Speakers included Dr. Lori Daniels, Thomas Veblen, Frances Vyse, Dennis Lloyd, Robert Richard Howie, Andre Arsenault, Walk Klenner, Steven Carr and the symposium moderator, Dr. Ken Lertzman.

Restating the Case for Marine Reserves. 2004, May 13-14. Vancouver. Proceedings of Marine Protected Areas Symposium, organized by Jeremy McCall, through Federation of British Columbia Naturalists, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Marine Life Sanctuaries Society of BC, and Vancouver Natural History Society.

This publication includes proceedings and an agenda from the Marine Protected Areas Symposium, as well as itinerary for the Symposium Field Boat Trip up Indian Arm. Short submissions include Global Trends in Fisheries and the Need for Marine Protected Areas by Daniel Pauly; West Coast Groundfish Stocks 1960-2004 abstract by Bernard Hanby; Existing West Coast Marine Protected Areas and the Legal Tools Available by Sabine Jessen; Challenges and Successes of US West Coast Marine Protected Areas abstract by Rod Fujita; Marine Protected Areas for Pacific Canada-An Intergovernmental Perspective abstract by Richard Carson; and biographical notes on each author/speaker.

***Resolution Manual 1995 – 2005.** 2005. Compiled by Bev Ramey. Resolutions are listed chronologically by each of the AGM and FGMs where they were passed, and then regrouped under topics of: Geographic Region, Species, Habitats, Government Ministries, Legislation, Funding and Other Topics.

***Dr. Vernon Cuthbert (Bert) Brink 1912-2007, A Celebration of Life.** 2008. BC Nature. Compiled by Bev Ramey. Tributes from forty people speaking on behalf of agencies, organizations and friends presented at the January 31, 2008 Celebration of the Life of Dr. Bert Brink. Many tributes detail conservation efforts and styles over the decades so provide a historical perspective of conservation activities in BC. Statements include The Nature Trust of BC; the Environmental Stewardship Division of Ministry of Environment; UBC Faculty of Land and Food Systems; Metro Vancouver Regional Parks; BC Nature; Nature Vancouver; Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation; BC Wildlife Federation; Vancouver Park Board; Ducks Unlimited Canada; Central Valley Naturalists; Fraser River Coalition; Nature Vancouver Camp Committee; Canadian Wildlife Services; Save Our Parkland Association; Friends of Ecological Reserves; Fraser Basin Council; and, Grasslands Conservation Council, as well as friends, family and former colleagues.

***BC Parks Interpretation: 2008 Summer Season Report.** 2008. Lara Tisseur. Through the cooperation and support of the Ministry of Environment, BC Nature, BC Conservation Corp, Service Canada, Park Facility Operators, and BC Parks, 37 Park Interpreter positions were funded in 26 BC Parks. This report includes some of the highlights of the season and provides an overview of an interpreter's work. Program themes included the Mountain Pine Beetle and climate change. Program attendance statistics are included.

***BC Parks Interpretation: 2009 Summer Season Report.** 2009. Sonya Reznitsky with assistance from Bev Ramey and Gail Ross.

This report includes highlights of the season and provides an overview of an interpreter's work. It includes descriptions of the programs and their locations, and topics, as well the roles and responsibilities of park interpreters. Included are program attendance statistics and visitor comments. The conclusion correlates a drop in attendance with reduced funding for interpreters for this summer season and warns against the consequences of future budget cuts.

***BC Parks Interpretation: A Strategic Role in Meeting Provincial Goals and Report on Summer 2010 Interpretive Season.** 2010. Victoria Alleyne.

This report explores the benefits offered by interpretation programs to the public, the Province of British Columbia, and Park Facility Operators. The report then draws specific connections between interpretation and its role in achieving various goals of the provincial government. It also summarizes interpretive programs from the summer of 2010 in terms of logistics, interpreter training and responsibilities, programs, and provides a statistical analysis of program attendance and visitor feedback. A recommendation for the future of BC Parks Interpretation follows.

***The Next Five Years: BC Nature Strategic Plan 2010 – 2015.**

Written and coordinated by Anne Murray, with assistance from Eva Durance and Joan Snyder. Includes: Background, Situational Analysis: How is BC Nature doing, Key Findings, BC Nature Five Year Plan, Goals for 2010 – 2015, Strategies and Actions for each goal, Measures of Success, and Action Plan.

Five-year strategic plans are created to "give vision and guidance to BC Nature" to "provide focus by setting and achieving goals" and to "renew and refresh interest in the work of the society". This strategic plan analyzed the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats that faced BC Nature at the time. Weaknesses found included insufficient publicity and media use, and membership number stagnation.

***Bald Eagle Nesting Results. 2009-2012.** Ian Moul for BC Nature, Wildlife Tree Stewardship. Reports for nine geographic areas on Vancouver Island and the Southern Gulf Islands:

- Capital Regional District
- Oyster River to Menzies Bay
- Deep Bay to Little Qualicum River
- Comox Valley
- Saturna Island
- Mayne Island
- City of Nanaimo
- Cowichan Valley Regional District
- Regional District of Nanaimo

***From Science to Action: Strengthening Your Effectiveness in Conservation Outreach and Behaviour Change.** 2010. A Handbook of Conservation Marketing Tools and Techniques for Conservation Organizations and Agencies. BC Nature with authors Sarah Weaver (Kipp) and Clive Callaway.

Appendix 10. Roundtables, Conferences and Workshops

1975. Workshop on Need for Sanctuaries in the Fraser River Estuary

1977. Fraser River Conference sponsored by Fraser River Coalition of which FBCN was a founding member

1980. Symposium on Threatened Species in British Columbia and the Yukon.

Sponsors: FBCN, Institute of Environmental Studies of Douglas College, Fish and Wildlife Branch

Purpose: an in-depth review of the current status, and speculation on the future status of threatened species and habitats in BC and the Yukon.

Keynote speaker: Dr Ian McTaggart-Cowan

Highlights/Outcomes: recommendations for immediate and future action in publication.

World Wildlife Fund donated \$4,000 for proceedings publication.

1981. British Columbia Land for Wildlife – Past, Present and Future, February 17-19.

Sponsors: FBCN, SFU, Fish and Wildlife Branch

Purpose: To identify concerns with regard to securing a land base for wildlife; to review past and present land use, and to move toward legislation in securing habitats; to discuss how to maintain wildlife within a society based on industrial development.

Keynote speaker: Yorke Edwards

Highlights/Outcomes: 25 resolutions. 25th resolution made specific reference to education, proposing “that the Government of British Columbia be urged to intensify their public relations and education efforts to ensure ongoing support of conservation and the education efforts to ensure ongoing support of conservation and the education of Canadians to a conservation ethic.”

1984. Symposium on Parks in British Columbia

Sponsors: FBCN, UBC Forestry Recreation, National and Provincial Parks Association of Canada.

Purpose: to conduct a public assessment of 1) The past, present and future roles of Canada’s national parks within BC; 2) The past, present and future roles of the provincial and regional park systems of BC.

Highlights/Outcomes: Recommendations from proceedings publication. Need for coordination among levels of government regarding parkland and use of both master plans and management plans; dwindling role of interpretation in parks, threats of privatizing parks-related services; tourism overshadowing other values such as conservation and heritage.

Organizer: Dick Stace-Smith

1987. Bits and Pieces Symposium

Sponsor: FBCN, part of the anniversary of Wildlife Conservation in Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service.

Purpose: to discuss the natural diversity of BC from the conservation perspective. The province, administered in 'bits and pieces', needs a strong interagency structure.

Highlights/Outcomes: publication of proceedings.

1987. Second Fraser River Conference, Richmond, March 6-7.

Sponsor: Fraser River Coalition of which FBCN was a founding member.

1987. Minnekhada Roundtable

Sponsor: FBCN Education and Recreation Committee.

Purpose: to discuss the directions public groups should, or could, take in the support of the parks, reserves, conservancies and crown-held lands and water roughly designated north of the Fraser River, north of Burrard Inlet. Specifically, how can the natural features of the parks and Crown Lands and waters serve in an educational context, as opposed to, for example, in the purely sports context? How can the naturalist of the Lower Mainland best fit into the educational patterns over the next quarter century?

Highlights/Outcomes: VNHS to produce brochure on physical features of Vancouver area.

1988. Williams Lake Roundtable

Sponsor: FBCN Education and Recreation Committee.

Purpose: to review the natural features of the Williams Lake area and the Cariboo-Chilcotin as part of the FBCN AGM Conference, and to ask the question, "What can the naturalists do?"

Highlights/Outcomes: Attendance from all over the province; so good that it was considered to make the roundtable a regular feature of the AGM. Discussions held with Parks, Fish and Wildlife, Tourism and Forestry with tour of specific local natural sites.

1990. Old Growth Forests (Interior and Coastal) Workshop.

BC Nature FGM, October 14 in Salmon Arm.

Purpose: Workshop to inform FBCN members about the stages of growth of forests. In particular, the workshop focused on the complex questions about Old Growth Forests, current events, decision-making processes, and potential future directions for the FBCN. Presenters: Ray Travers, Ken Lertzman, Jim Pojar, Juergen Hansen, Randy Chan, Dr Phil Haddock, Alison Nicholson. Moderated by Dick Stace-Smith.

Organizer: Nora Layard.

Field Trip in afternoon to Old Growth Forest coordinated by Alan Vyse and Dennis Lloyd.

1991. Toward A Provincial Land and Water Use Strategy, Dunsmuir Lodge, Sidney, BC, May 1-3.

Sponsors: Association of BC Professional Foresters, BC Forestry Association, BC Wildlife Federation, Council of Forest Industries of BC, FBCN, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Forests, and Outdoor Recreation Council of BC.

Purpose: to prepare a provincial land use strategy plan, to determine and identify the inventory and resource needs necessary to implement a land use strategy, and to develop approaches and action steps for implementation.

Highlights/Outcomes: Fifty-six individuals representing 38 agencies and/or groups attended. Proceedings available. (See Appendix 9. Publications).

1991. Community Action for Endangered Species – A Public Symposium on B.C.’s Threatened and Endangered Species and their Habitat. Vancouver, September 28-29.

Sponsors: FBCN and Northwest Wildlife Preservation Society

Purpose: creating public awareness on the status of the endangered species in British Columbia. Intentions were to create public dialogue on the need for proper legislation which would serve to protect these species, with hope that in the five years following the symposium, BC would have a thorough, meaningful and effective Endangered Species Act that was lacking at the time of this publication.

Highlights/Outcomes: Causes of Endangerment, Freshwater Ecosystems, the Southern Interior Ecoregion, Marine Ecosystems, High Altitude and Northern Interior Forest Ecosystems, Coastal Forest Ecosystems, Strategies to Bring About Change, and Legislative Change for Endangered Species.

(See Appendix 9. Publications. Report edited by Susanne Rautio).

1991. Workshop on Golf Courses in the Lower Mainland.

1993. Annual Conservation Day, January 30.

Highlights/Outcomes: Ski development in provincial parks, commercial backcountry development, Land for Nature, reports on hot spots.

Organizer: Dick Stace-Smith.

1994. “Stewardship ‘94”. Vancouver, March 3-6.

Sponsors: FBCN cosponsored with eight other organizations.

Highlights/Outcomes: Focused on the voluntary conservation of nature on private land, with two streams: “Revising the Land Ethic” and “Caring for the Land”.

1997. “Working Together: Sustaining our Parks and Protected Areas”. April.

Sponsors: CPAWS and GVRD assisted with this workshop.

1990 to 1998. Land for Nature Symposium and Workshops.

Several meetings and workshops were held around the province including:

1991, November 23. Endangered Spaces Workshop sponsored by FBCN and Kamloops Naturalists

1991. Shoreline Workshop.

1991. Matsqui Ensuring Livability

1996. Caring for our Rivers and Streams.

(See Appendix 9. Publications for descriptions).

2003. Dry Forests Ecosystems Symposium. Kamloops, May 8.

Pre-FBCN AGM conference coordinated by Frances Vyse, Kamloops Naturalist Club, together with Biology Department, University College of the Cariboo, and Forest Research Extension Partnership.

Purpose: After naturalists brought attention to the need for dry forest ecosystem management, the symposium was organized to bring together experts to discuss management options.

Presenters: Dr. Lori Daniels, Thomas Veblen, Frances Vyse, Dennis Lloyd, Richard Howie, Andre Arsenault, Walk Klenner, Steven Carr and the symposium moderator, Dr. Ken Lertzman.

Highlights/Outcomes: Publication of presentations. Summary of presentations in Fall 2003 issue of BC Naturalist Magazine.

2003. Ecological Reserve Wardens Provincial Gathering. Kamloops. September.

Organized jointly FBCN and Friends of Ecological Reserves.

2004. Marine Protected Areas Symposium - Restating the Case for Marine Reserves. Vancouver. May 13-14.

Presenters: Daniel Pauly, Bernard Hanby, Sabine Jessen, Rod Fujita, and Richard Carson.

Highlights/Outcomes: Collaborative and productive conversations amongst members of the Federation of British Columbia Naturalists, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Marine Life Sanctuaries Society of BC, and Vancouver Natural History Society.

Organizer: Jeremy McCall as part of the FBCN pre-conference. Included field trip up Indian Arm.

Appendix 11. Pins, Posters, Logos, and Vests

Badges

Federation of BC Naturalists badge for hats and packs: available in 1970s, with old logo.

Federation of BC Naturalists logo sticker for car windows: available in 1970s, with old logo.

Posters

- Endangered BC Wildflowers (1977)
- Endangered Birds of BC (1977)
- Vancouver Island Marmot (1980)
- Alpine Flora – The Fragile Network (1984)
- Endangered Wetlands (1987)
- Interior Grasslands Poster (1996), the third poster in the series of Fragile Network posters
- British Columbia Birds in the New Millennium (1997)
 - FBCN supported this poster coordinated by Wild Bird Trust of BC, to be proactive rather than reactive to protect habitat and encourage education.

Original Logo

The raven logo design was based on the totems of BC Coastal First Nations. It was chosen from many submissions in 1964 and was designed by Miss Margaret Dean, who was at that time a 3rd year UBC zoology major. It remained the Federation of BC Naturalists' logo until 2007.

Note Cards

Late 1990s: designed and produced by Betty Lunam.

Clothing

Vest designed in Fall 2001: includes logo and FBCN name.

New Operating Name

Legal Name, Federation of British Columbia Naturalists from incorporation 1969. This remains the legal name, while at the FGM 2005, the new operating name of BC Nature was adopted.

New Logo, Letterhead and Pin

With the new operating name of BC Nature, adopted in fall 2005, a new logo was required. This was prepared through a contract and design by a Prince George graphic firm. Several samples were reviewed by BC Nature Directors in fall 2007. The preferred logo was adopted, together with newly designed letterhead that incorporates both the legal name of Federation of BC Naturalists and the operating name of BC Nature. A new small pin was designed using the new logo.



Appendix 12. BC Naturalists' Foundation, Relationship and Grants

Principles for Working Relationship between the Federation and Foundation

Approved BC Nature Directors May 2, 2009 and BC Naturalists Foundation May 15, 2009

Background:

- The Foundation was formed in 1990 by Federation members with the intent of establishing an entity which is autonomous from the Federation but inextricably linked to it by shared goals and by the power of the Federation to nominate members to the Foundation. The intent was to provide a permanent vehicle to fund enduring and tangible projects to promote the preservation of the natural environment for future generations through conservation, research and education projects.
- The capital, which is managed by the Foundation and from which the Foundation earns net investment income, resulted from Federation member donations which in many cases, were made in reliance upon representations that donations to the Foundation would be kept separate from Federation general revenues and used for environment-related endeavours, in perpetuity.

Principles:

1. The role of the Foundation (repository for planned gifts) to be clearly explained to Federation members and be part of the message in fund-raising communication materials.
2. The goals and work of both the Foundation and the Federation, and as well the distinctions between them, be well communicated to Federation members.
3. The Foundation and Federation work closely together to raise funds and encourage planned gifts.
4. The governance of the Foundation is closely linked to the Federation through its Constitution and Bylaws. The Federation commits to providing the governance support needed for the Foundation to efficiently continue its work, as outlined in the Strategies below.

5. In line with the Federation's province-wide membership, the Foundation membership and Board of Directors will strive to maintain regional representation.

To adhere to these Principles, the Federation and Foundation agree to implement and maintain the following Governance Strategies:

A. Fundraising

- The Foundation and the Federation to meet annually to develop a joint approach to fundraising for both annual and planned giving donations. This meeting to be attended by a minimum of 2 representatives from each of the Foundation and the Federation.
- The Foundation and the Federation to work together to ensure that total fundraising costs incurred by both organizations are reasonable.

B. Grant Applications and Disbursement

- The Foundation and the Federation to meet annually to review grant applications and disbursements. This meeting to be attended by a minimum of 2 representatives from each of Foundation and the Federation.

C. Meetings

- The Foundation AGM be held in concert with the Federation's AGM to provide members and directors of the Foundation with the opportunity to participate in naturalist activities and attend the Federation's AGM, and for Federation members to attend the Foundation AGM if they so wish. This will also facilitate communication of the purpose of the Foundation to Federation members and allow opportunity for questions, dialogue, and enhanced understanding.

D. Recruitment of new members and Directors

- The Federation to actively recruit new members and nominate new Directors for the Foundation. The Foundation to also participate in the process of recruiting new members and Directors.
- The Foundation to report to the Federation a month prior to the Federation's AGM, the names of those Foundation Directors who wish to continue serving as Directors.
- The President and Treasurer of the Federation, or their delegates, be a member and Director of the Foundation.
- A Foundation Director be a member of the BC Nature Executive.

Grants Provided by the BC Naturalists' Foundation

Grant funds are from earnings on the capital investments of the Foundation, and these capital investments are from the many contributions from donors to the Foundation. Regarding the granting process, since 2007 there has been an annual application process for clubs seeking grants, advertised well in advance to clubs, and with an application due date of the end of January each year.

1991	Federation of BC Naturalists (FBCN)	\$5,000
1992	FBCN: Six Clubs (Victoria Natural History Society, Kamloops Naturalists, White Rock & Surrey Naturalists, Vermilion Forks Field Naturalists, Delta Naturalists, Central Okanagan Naturalists)	\$4,819
1993	FBCN Project: Land for Nature	\$12,000
1994	FBCN Project: Land for Nature	\$7,000
	University of Northern British Columbia – scholarships	\$500
	Stewardship	\$500
1995	FBCN: 12 Clubs (Central Okanagan Naturalists, Delta Naturalists, Langley Field Naturalists, Nelson Naturalists, Salt Spring Trail & Nature Club, Comox-Strathcona, Pender Harbour, South Okanagan Naturalist Club, Shuswap Naturalists, Chilliwack Field Naturalists, Similkameen Naturalists, and Mitlenatch Field Naturalists)	\$4,340
	Canadian Parks & Wilderness Stewardship Conference	\$300
	BC Wildlife Watch	\$1,000
1996	Dunsmuir 3 Conferences	\$1,000
	Birds of BC Volumes 3 and 4	\$4,000
1997	FBCN: Nine Clubs	\$3,220
	FBCN Project: Land for Nature – Okanagan-Shuswap LRMP	\$1,500
1998	FBCN Project: Land for Nature – Okanagan-Shuswap LRMP	\$2,000
	FBCN Operations	\$4,000
1999	FBCN for <i>BC Naturalist</i>	\$3,500
	FBCN for Conservation Committee	\$500
2000	FBCN for <i>BC Naturalist</i>	\$3,000
	FBCN for Conservation Committee	\$1,000
	Grasslands Conservation Committee	\$2,000
2001	FBCN for <i>BC Naturalist</i>	\$3,564

	FBCN for Conservation Committee	\$500
2003	Ecological Reserve Wardens' Gathering	\$2,000
	FBCN: Two Clubs	\$3,950
	(Squamish Estuary Conservation Society Estuary Restoration; Central Okanagan Naturalists' – Mildred Wardlaw Nature Trails)	
2004	FBCN: Two Clubs	\$3,700
	(Williams Lake Field Naturalists – nature science enrichment; Comox Valley Naturalists – estuary restoration)	\$3,700
2005	FBCN: Two Clubs	\$3,500
	(Mackenzie Nature Observatory bird banding; Victoria Natural History Society – Connecting Children to Nature)	
2006	BC Nature Club:	\$4,000
	Pender Harbour & District Wildlife Society – Iris Griffith Centre classroom outfitting	
2007	BC Nature: 11 Clubs	\$6,000
	(funds disbursed in 2008 plus additional \$4900 to club support from BC Nature)	
	Friends of Semiahmoo Bay – Birds on the Bay education	
	Lillooet Naturalist Society – Powerhouse Foreshore Restoration	
	Mackenzie Nature Observatory – bird banding	
	Pender Harbour & District Wildlife Society – Bioblitz	
	South Okanagan Naturalists – Bird Interpretation Sign	
	Vermillion Forks Naturalists – Checklist and Pamphlet	
	Williams Lake Field Naturalists – Getting Children Out in Nature	
	South Okanagan, Oliver Osoyoos, Central Okanagan, and North Okanagan Naturalists cooperative project – Birding Trail Map	
2008	BC Nature Magazine	\$4,000
	8 clubs funded (funds disbursed in 2009 plus an additional \$4,000 to club support from BC Nature)	\$6,000
	South Okanagan Naturalists, Central Okanagan Naturalists, North Okanagan Naturalists and Oliver-Osoyoos Naturalists – Second year of Birding Trail Map	
	Central Valley Naturalists – Abbotsford Environmental Outreach	
	Comox Valley Naturalists – estuary restoration	
	Friends of Semiahmoo Bay – Little Campbell Estuary Interpretive signage	
	Pender Harbour & District Wildlife Society – Bioblitz	
2009	No grant (but note above funds disbursed to clubs in early 2009)	
2010	One club project funded early 2010: Comox Valley wetland restoration	\$2,000
	BCnature Magazine	\$2,000

- 2011 Six Clubs funded with funds disbursed in early 2011: \$6,000
 Arrowsmith Naturalists – Seasonal Bird Checklist
 Comox Valley Naturalists – Wetland Restoration
 Friends of Semiahmoo Bay – Little Campbell Interpretive signage & restoration
 Chilliwack Field Naturalists – Camp River wildlife area planting
 North Okanagan Naturalists – Cools Pond Interpretive signage
 South Okanagan Naturalists – Half Century of Conservation
- 2012 Six club projects, with funds disbursed in early 2012: \$8,000
 Abbotsford Mission Nature Club – 2 Brochures
 Burke Mountain Naturalists – 19th Annual Treefest Celebration
 Comox Valley Naturalists – Wetland Restoration
 Friends of Semiahmoo Bay – Phase II Little Campbell
 Pender Harbour & District Wildlife Society – Nature School
 Salt Spring Trail & Nature Club – Trail Improvement
- 2013 Six Club Projects, with funds disbursed in early 2013: \$8,000
 Bulkley Valley Naturalists (Smithers) – website
 Central Okanagan Naturalists (Kelowna) – Roberts Lake Viewing Platform
 Friends of Semiahmoo Bay (White Rock) – education programs
 Lillooet Naturalists – webcam on Osprey nest, Old Bridge
 Pender Island Field Naturalists – Bird Checklist
 Prince George Naturalists – Hudson’s Bay Wetland Project
- 2014 Seven Club Projects, with funds disbursed in early 2014: \$10,950
 Comox Valley – Wetland Restoration
 Friends of Semiahmoo Bay (White Rock) – education programs
 Kamloops Naturalists – Bluebird nesting boxes
 Rocky Mountain Naturalists – DVD of FGM (J. Strong) Presentation
 Salt Spring Trail & Nature Club – Shoreline Atlas
 South Okanagan Naturalists – start-up of local YNC
 WildResearch – Solar Panel for Iona Bird Observatory
- 2015 Ten Club Projects \$11,000
 Arrowsmith Naturalists – Signs of Forest Stewardship, Errington Elementary School
 Chilliwack Naturalists – Swallow Conservation in BC’s Fraser Valley
 Friends of Semiahmoo Bay – Boundary Bay Beach Hero
 Lillooet Naturalists a Invasive Species Educational Features
 North Okanagan Naturalists' Club – Northern Pacific Rattlesnake den monitoring
 Northern Amphibians Naturalists Society – Invertebrate Biodiversity
 Prince George Naturalists – Hudson's Bay Wetland Project, Phase 2
 South Okanagan Naturalists Club – Replacement of bird blind at Vaseux Lake
 WildResearch – Community Building for the BC Nightjar Survey

	Williams Lake Field Naturalists – Golden Eagle Monitoring, Fraser and Chilcotin	
2016	Seven Club Projects	\$12,000
	Cowichan Valley Naturalists – Trumpeter Swan Society Swan Conference	
	Friends of Semiahmoo Bay – Beach Heroes Program	
	Kamloops Naturalist Club – upgrade Osprey Nest Camera	
	Vermilion Forks Field Naturalist Society – Hummingbird Project, Princeton	
	West Kootenay Naturalists’ Association – Kootenay Bank Swallow Survey	
	WildResearch – Camera and training, Iona Island Bird Observatory (Richmond)	
	Yorkson Watershed Enhancement Society – Stream of Dreams at two schools	
2017	Nine Club Projects:	\$13,000
	Bulkley Valley Naturalists – Bulkley Valley Perpetual Nature Diary Project	
	Comox Valley Nature – Wetland Restoration	
	Cowichan Valley Naturalists – Bring Back the bluebird	
	Delta Naturalists Club – Chalmers Park Re-Beautification	
	Kitimat Valley Naturalists – Bat Condo	
	Langley Field Naturalists – Budding Bird Enthusiasts Brochure	
	Lillooet Naturalists Society – Monitoring of the mid-Fraser River White Sturgeon	
	Pender Island Field Naturalists – Brochure Redesign – More than just for birds	
	Rocky Point Bird Observatory – Nocturnal Owl Migration Monitoring Project	
2018	Nine Club Projects:	\$13,500
	Cowichan Valley Naturalists – Bring Back the Bluebird Project	
	Comox Nature – First Nations Educational Pollinator Gardens	
	Delta Naturalists’ – Barn Owl Nest Replacement Project	
	Friends of Semiahmoo Bay – A Special Place Brochure Translation	
	Rocky Point Bird Observatory – Nocturnal Owl Migration Monitoring	
	South Okanagan Naturalists’: Nature in Focus – Photo Contest & Nature Journal	
	Lillooet Naturalists’– Lions Trail Upgrade and Invasive Plant Removal	
	Vermilion Forks Naturalists – Hummingbird Banding Project	
	Wild Research – Iona Island Spring Migration Monitoring	
	BC Nature grant for Organizational Review	\$8,000
2019	Eight Club Projects	\$14,500
	Cowichan Valley Naturalists – Bring back the Bluebirds	
	Rocky Point Bird Observatory – Nocturnal Owl Migration	
	Pender Harbour Wildlife Society – Swallow and Bat Nest boxes	
	Delta Naturalists – Barn Owl nesting boxes	
	Nature Nanaimo – Purple Martin nest boxes	

Nicola Naturalists Society – Nicola Valley wildlife brochures
Shuswap Naturalists (1) – Cavity nester boxes
Shuswap Naturalists (2) – Woody night shade eradication
Vermilion Forks Naturalists – Hummingbird project

A ninth project was funded with returned funds from last year's Comox Valley Naturalists pollinator garden grant: the grant was forwarded to South Okanagan Naturalists for year two of their Nature in Focus project; plus \$500 was contributed to BC Nature scholarships;

Plus, grant to BC Nature for Scholarship \$2,000.00

2020	Fourteen Projects for Twelve Clubs	\$17,250
	Burke Mountain Naturalists – Bat Matters Conference	
	Burke Mountain Naturalists – Thermal Imaging Camera	
	Nature Chilliwack – Pamphlet of Common Birds of Chilliwack Area	
	Comox Valley Nature – Wetland Restoration	
	Friends of Semiahmoo Bay – Invasive Green Crab Monitoring	
	Kamloops Naturalists Club – Grow Wild: Embracing Native Plantings	
	Little Campbell Watershed Society – South Coastal Sandhill Crane Monitoring	
	Langley Field Naturalists – Bat Exploration	
	Lillooet Naturalists Society – Presentation Trailer Upgrades	
	Northern Amphibian Naturalists Society – Invertebrate Biodiversity Collections	
	Old Interurban Forest Preservation Society – Invasive Species Removal	
	Old Interurban Forest Preservation Society – New Website	
	WildResearch – Iona Bird Observatory	
	Yorkson Watershed Enhancement Society – Mini-Bioblitz Kit Assembly	

Plus, grant to BC Nature for two Scholarships - \$3500.00

Total Funds Dispersed by BC Naturalists' Foundation, up to and supporting 2020 Club Projects, plus BC Nature projects and scholarships:
\$233,000

Appendix 13. Interviews with Former Presidents 1989 - 1998

Appendix 13 provides interviews with five former presidents who held office from 1989 to 1998. The interviews were conducted by Sheila Byers between 2012 to 2015, written as draft text and then updated in March 2020.

Sydney Cannings, President 1989 – 1991	p.170
Jude Grass, President 1991 - 1993 (also 1983 - 1987)	p.179
Daphne Solecki, President 1993 – 1994	p.195
Frances Vyse, President 1994 – 1996	p.201
Audrey Hoeg, President 1996 – 1998	p.212

Sydney Cannings, President 1989 - 1991

Sydney Cannings served as President of Vancouver Natural History Society (VNHS, now Nature Vancouver) from 1984 to 1986. He joined the FBCN Board of Directors as Vice-President from 1988 to 1989 and then served as President from 1989 to 1991. During this time period, Syd was the Entomology Curator at the Spencer Entomology Museum, UBC.

From the energy and enthusiasm instilled in Syd's first President's Report in the BC Naturalist Newsletter, he was obviously ready for action.

I must first tell you what an honour it is to be elected president of the FBCN, especially for one who 'grew up' in the organization. It is an exciting time to be a naturalist ... and what a privilege it is to be a naturalist in BC! ... Although time is desperately short for many of this earth's systems, society as a whole has finally (it seems) become aware of the earth's predicament. Never before has the work of naturalists been so respected by society at large. But this is not the time for (as Malcolm Martin of the North Okanagan Naturalists Club puts it in the History of BC Nature (Black 1988)) "well-meaning ineffectiveness" in our organization. We must be sure to attack the root causes, as well as the local effects of environmental problems. We must be sure that the role we define for ourselves as naturalists is appropriate for the task at hand.

CHALLENGES and CHANGES

No FBCN President wants to have the efforts of their organization described as "well-meaning ineffectiveness"; however, change is one of life's constants and the Federation was overdue for some upgrades. Perhaps it was the influence of the then outgoing President, Joe Lotzkar, a businessman and one of the founders of the Environmentally Sound Packaging Coalition (ESP) that was established to act on the growing problems associated with packaging waste. Joe saw the need for the Federation to become more professional, more self-sufficient, and more business-like to work with industries and governments towards finding solutions to these growing environmental problems. With about 35 clubs and 5,000 individuals under the 1990 FBCN umbrella and the frantic pace of environmental action, the volunteer FBCN Executive was showing signs of fatigue with the never-ending workload. As testimony, Syd's sister (Bette Cannings) had even been recruited to assist with the administrative work.

To begin with, communication of the Federation with its members and member clubs has always been a significant challenge; not surprising when considering the size of the province, the distances between clubs, and the days of snail-mail and non-computerized technology. In the 1950s and 1960s, the efforts of the Federation to gain broader and more in-depth knowledge and understanding of nature so as to better protect and preserve the environment, and better manage the natural resources, had perhaps grown too insular. Yet this same knowledge

base of individual members had become a valuable resource, in and of itself, that was now in great demand. So how does the FBCN promote the knowledge and expertise of its members? Syd's first significant challenge with the Federation was to help it 'get with the program'.

The 'program' was kick-started with a new "Statement of Purpose" for the Federation adopted at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on May 5, 1989. Bert Brink, then Chair of the Education and Recreation Committee, had expressed concern that the organization was getting lost in a sea of environmental groups and that the public did not really know who the FBCN was or what the FBCN stood for. After much discussion by the Executive and feedback from the Clubs, a Statement of Purpose was identified along with a simple motto "to know the outdoors and to keep it worth knowing". In the Statement of Purpose, clear goals were identified to set priorities for the Federation on both short- and long-term plans. (See Appendix 14. Communication and Restructuring to Meet Demand 1989 to 1996).

The ball was rolling. Everywhere, at Directors' meetings, at Conservation Day, at the AGMs and FGMs, over coffee or dinner, on field trips, everyone was talking about how to improve communication between the members and the Federation Board. How can we naturalists keep in better touch? How can we involve more of our members, especially those in the Interior? How can we raise our public profile? How can we be more effective in our advocacy for the environment? Where is our niche in the conservation movement?

Syd knew that there was no substitute for real communication that occurs as a result of face-to-face meetings and chats over coffee. He also recognized, however, the importance of communication through the BC Naturalist Newsletter.

It is our main means of communication with each member but because of its quarterly appearance, issues are often long since resolved, or opportunities for action missed, between deadline and mailing. To alleviate this, the Federation decided that next year it would publish six issues rather than the present four.

"RavenTalk" was another addition to the newsletter as a section heading where items of concern, resolutions, priorities of the Education and Conservation committees, the President's Message, and business from the Director's and Executive would be highlighted. In addition to the Statement of Purpose, Bert Brink made sure that everyone was moving forward from the same page with the same information by providing an overview of "What is the Federation of BC Naturalists" covering some history, a few statistics, general policy items, endeavours, accomplishments, and difficulties.

Lots of changes were happening in the office. The FBCN had recently transitioned from the Outdoor Recreation Council facility at 1200 Hornby Street, Vancouver to a small, rented and shared space with Sport BC at 1367 West Broadway. But from Syd's perspective, even without a window the office still needed a 'facelift'. Syd proclaimed - *it is being dragged kicking and screaming into the 90s and the*

microcomputer age with the purchase of a Macintosh, and word processing and accounting software.

In 1987, Adeline Nicol had been hired as the Executive Secretary (Executive Assistant), the first full-time paid FBCN staff member with formal working conditions and a contract. From scratch, she had organized the office into a coherent and functional system. After her untimely death in 1990, she was replaced by the equally competent Frieda Davidson as Office Manager.

Within the first year of his Presidency, Syd was prepared to make a significant change. A proposal for fee increases for clubs and direct members was announced via a letter from the President sent out to all the FBCN members in the spring of 1990. Proposed increases would up the fees from \$4 to \$10 per member for both individual and family members and from \$10 to \$15 for direct members.

For Syd, this was the most stressful and most vehemently opposed issue with which he had to contend. The 1990 fee debate rivalled that of 1968 when Elton Anderson made the interesting comparison that fees, recommended to increase from \$0.50 to \$2.00, were still about "half the cost of a bottle of rye"! Push-back from the members was well-founded. What if we lose members? What if we think the voting process is unfair and the identified fees unfair? What was the Federation doing for the rural clubs compared to the urban clubs, or for that matter, all clubs at a provincial level?

Undaunted, Syd saw much of the anguish as stemming from *the Federation's apparent failure to tell its members just what their money is being used for and why they should be excited about the future.* So that's what he did.

His specific challenge - convincing the membership, especially the rural clubs, of not only the administrative needs of the increase to better serve them but also the practical benefits members would receive. Syd laid out the Federation's costs of communication and action on behalf of its members: the office operating costs run at \$9,000 annually; the annual salary of administrative staff costs \$25,000; travel costs for Directors totalled \$10,497 (although they donated most of that back to the Federation). In short, the FBCN realistically required about \$44,500 annually to function (or \$35,850 with Directors' generosity). The FBCN payment structure provided the clubs the freedom to set fee structures that best served their purposes, while still ensuring that enough money was raised to pay their Federation dues. Although the FBCN federated structure made it somewhat awkward to raise membership fees, it did provide a democratic federation with strength in numbers; as well as, a system of direct input from the clubs and regions to the Federation Board in spite of a geographically diverse and far-flung province.

As it turns out, Syd discovered that the FBCN system was not unique in BC; other similar organizations, e.g., BC Wildlife Federation, Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC, had identical federated structures. Syd was convincing in his argument that with improved communications, the existing structural relationship between the Board and clubs would serve the Federation well into the future. At the AGM in May

1990, members voted 54 to 21 in favour of a motion to increase annual club fees to \$10 (both individual and family members) and \$15 (direct members). The increased fees became due to the Federation office, effective January 1992.

PROJECTS

BC's Forestry Resources, Mineral Resources, and Wildlife Resources - Environmental Concerns

During Syd's tenure as President, the FBCN became involved in many regional planning programs on major topics in hopes of achieving better long-term management of BC's forestry resources, (e.g., clear-cutting, old growth forests), mineral resources (e.g., copper mining) and, wildlife resources (e.g., caribou, bison, grizzly bear, Marbled Murrelet). Projects included the Windy Craggy Mine in the Tatshenshini/Alsek watershed of northwestern BC, Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Provincial Park near Smithers, Stikine River near the BC/Alaska border, Peace River Site C near Fort St John, Khutzeymateen Valley near Prince Rupert, Wood Buffalo National Park at the Alberta/Northwest Territories border, and, the Caren Range on the Sechelt Peninsula. Syd congratulated various members who contributed greatly to these projects including Rosemary Fox, Frances and Alan Vyse, Rosamund and Jim Pojar, to name a few.

With nature pitted against the economy on so many fronts, many people including Monte Hummel, President of World Wildlife Fund of Canada, were insistent on the need for Canada to set aside 12% of its land base for wildlife wilderness areas. In 1989, only 2.6% was recognized as wilderness. But of course, regional planning was occurring not just in wilderness areas but much closer to home (urban versus rural) in grassland, wetland and estuary habitats. For example, members of the FBCN were major players in the constant battles and vigilance required to prevent the destruction of Boundary Bay ecosystem habitats, an already internationally acclaimed wildlife asset.

In 1989, as proof that Canadians wanted more attention paid to environmental issues, Lucien Bouchard, former Federal Minister of Environment, introduced the Federal Green Plan. The Green Plan was released in 1990 as a five-year strategy for federal action and national consultation on environmental issues. In spite of its many constraints and potential concerns, Dick Stace-Smith, then Conservation Committee Chair, recommended that FBCN support the plan because Ottawa intended to set a high priority for clean-up action along rivers through consultations with the province, industry and communities to determine the best approach. The Federal Fraser River Action Plan evolved in 1991 from this initiative.

All of a sudden it seemed that public consultation processes were being requested by all manner of agencies. Word had it that various "Roundtables" were being established for the express purpose of establishing strategies for orderly development, and to avoid the shrill and often unproductive public controversies over resource decisions: e.g., Parks Plan 90, the provincial initiative to assist with

the development of the BC Parks system to add parks, ecological reserves and designate candidate wilderness areas; BC Provincial Roundtable on the Environment and Economy; and the Greater Vancouver Regional District (now Metro Vancouver) for Liveable Regions Strategy. Syd wasn't kidding when he said that

The government ministries need our help – they have asked us for it repeatedly. So let's put all of our knowledge of natural British Columbia to work!"

How was this to be achieved?

Land for Wildlife Project (Land for Nature Project)

With so much government focus on the environment and so much demand on naturalists for local knowledge on flora, fauna and their habitats, the FBCN Executive was scrambling to bring their club members up to speed.

At the request of Syd, Bert Brink (as Education and Recreation Committee Chair) was asked to communicate some of the history and accomplishments of the FBCN to the clubs in RavenTalk. He identified the following: FBCN initiated Roundtables in the 1980s to discuss the directions naturalists should take in response to the rapidly changing demography and landscapes in the different regions of the province. Roundtables were a means to examine the ways the clubs and the directors of the Federation could be mutually supportive to educate, to conserve and to maintain a balanced perspective. (See Appendix 10. Roundtables, Conferences and Workshops).

FBCN symposia and roundtables that were offered in the past had been successful catalysts for conservation and nature education of club members. Was this a solution for the present? As luck would have it, a sizeable bequest to the Federation was received in 1990 that provided the FBCN with a unique opportunity and a contract position for a promising candidate, Nora Layard. Her director experience with the BC Environmental Network and Outdoor Recreation Council, and her conservation-wise contacts, provided Nora with valuable qualifications for the task at hand. Nora's task was to involve members with key individuals outside the Federation, in conservation and education roundtables and workshop discussions. To begin, Nora organized a very successful Old Growth Forests (Interior and Coastal) Workshop (1990) and field trip for the members at the 1990 FGM in Salmon Arm that included several top-notch speakers. Her second task was to seek outside funding to continue this work into the future.

By 1991, funding was received to support a major project entitled the Land for Wildlife Project. The goals for the project were to identify important habitats that required protection; learn about government agencies' plans for completing their systems of protected areas; and, inform local decision-makers and government representatives about naturalists' concerns regarding critical habitat.

Community workshops (eventually replacing roundtables) were to serve as the vehicle to bring people together to create better understanding and to develop recommendations for actions. Information generated from the project was expected

to be useful for government/public consultation processes, and to inform naturalists and the public about the areas that required protection. Also, data was to be used by the Conservation Data Centre being developed by The Nature Conservancy of Canada, The Nature Trust of BC, BC Ministry of Environment, and by the British Columbia Endangered Spaces Project.

Under the Land for Wildlife Project, Nora continued to organize regional studies and workshops regarding critical habitat areas such as the South Okanagan Roundtable (1990) and The Vancouver Island East Coast Shoreline and Adjacent Wetlands Workshop (1991). The FBCN co-hosted a major conference on Habitat Enhancement Activities in BC (1991). The pace was quickening. Nora received two grants for the Land for Wildlife Project that allowed the FBCN to support the Northwest Wildlife Preservation Society in organizing another major public conference, Endangered Species and Habitat Enhancement in BC (Symposium on the Status of British Columbia's Threatened and Endangered Species and Their Habitat 1991); and the Dunsmuir II Land Use Conference.

FBCN representatives became involved with The BC Endangered Spaces Project wherein the provincial government intended to promote and plan for the rapid completion of a protected areas system for BC. FBCN was especially concerned about a protected-areas system that focused on conservation of biological diversity, rather than just human recreational needs. FBCN clubs took part in the consultation sessions hosted by the Provincial Roundtable on the Environment and Economy, and the Parks Plan 90; the latter specifically to ensure the identification of important habitat areas for Parks and Forest Service. Nora worked with the Kamloops Naturalists Club to organize a workshop on the Endangered Spaces Project: Land for Nature in the Kamloops Area (1991).

Nora's position as Project Coordinator for the Land for Wildlife Project continued with funding from two major grants: one from the recently formed Vancouver Foundation and one from the Federal Government. With the former grant, the Land for Wildlife Project essentially morphed into the Land for Nature Project (LFN). The long-term goals for the LFN Project were to involve all the naturalist clubs in making a real contribution to the identification and conservation of important, sensitive habitats on a regional basis; to enable the local clubs to help protect these habitats and their biological diversity; and, to stimulate the development of nature education facilities throughout the province. The process would inform local decision-makers and government representatives of naturalists' concerns about local critical habitats. Information acquired would be of tremendous benefit to land use planning processes, some of which were already initiated by Parks Plan 90, BC Roundtables and the Regional District Major Parks Planning process. The very successful LFN projects provided a wealth of information for sensitive habitats all over the province well into 1998. (See Appendix 9. Publications for a list of 16 LFN projects with more details on these projects in Chapter 7. Projects).

Syd was asked his opinion of the Federation's approach in using roundtable events. Syd commented, in retrospect, that these gatherings were very important and conducive to communication between and amongst all 'sides' with representation

from government, industry and scientists/naturalists, who tabled broad discussion and perspectives on any given topic. Many FBCN members involved with the LFN projects would whole-heartedly agree!!

Cordillera – A Journal of British Columbia Natural History

Syd's favourite project for 1990 was a proposal for FBCN to publish a provincial natural history journal. Syd envisioned features

on everything from birds to bees to buttercups and boulders.

He considered that a new journal for BC would provide a much-needed outlet for nature information in a naturally diverse province. As a boy, Syd recalled reading the *Blue Jay* from the Saskatchewan Natural History Society and *Trail and Landscape* from Ottawa. Why was there no such magazine in BC? Plenty of fascinating information was gathered by naturalists every year in BC, but there was no appropriate place to publish it. A journal would provide tangible, take-home information about naturalists and about nature, and the FBCN mandate to promote nature and education, with the long-term goal to stimulate other naturalists to do further studies.

The vision for the journal was for 'ordinary, everyday' naturalists to write articles that were scientifically accurate and current (peer-reviewed by the *Cordillera* Editorial team) but written in a style accessible to the interested public. Syd knew that naturalists could be a real positive force in conservation if they could record their knowledge and share it with the community at large. His hope was that the journal would both inform naturalists and stimulate them to go out and actively pursue knowledge directly, by observing nature. The geographic range of the journal content would primarily be BC-oriented but was also intended to extend beyond the borders of BC to take in other mountainous regions of western Canada, the northern tier of the US states, and Alaska. A children's section would feature special articles written for young people and, more importantly, provide them with space to write their own articles about their observations and adventures with the natural world. The first issue of *Cordillera, a Journal of British Columbia Natural History*, would be free to members with a copy going to every school and library in the province free of charge. After that, it would be funded primarily through subscriptions.

The first issue of the *Cordillera* was planned for release in 1991 but was not released until 1994 due to difficulties in obtaining sufficient funding to subsidize the printing costs. Syd served on the *Cordillera* Management Committee from 1994 to 1999, occasionally as Chair. (See Chapter 4. Communications through Newsletters, Magazines, Website and Office, p.3 for further information on *Cordillera*).

Cordillera was published for five years, but in 2000 after full consideration the publication was terminated. Although the journal articles had broad appeal, the FBCN lacked the funds and personnel to sustain such an ambitious publication.

BIODIVERSITY

Another key transitional moment during Syd's Presidency was the recognition of the importance of the new buzzword—biodiversity—amongst biologists, foresters, bureaucrats, and politicians alike. With all levels of government (and naturalists!) focusing on the identification of important and sensitive habitats through lands use projects, green plans and lands for wildlife and nature projects, Syd questioned:

how do we set priorities for acquiring lands for preservation or for special management without knowing what we are preserving or where it is?

To address these problems, The BC Conservation Data Centre (CDC) was initiated in 1991 as a joint program of the Wildlife Branch of BC Environment, The Nature Trust of British Columbia, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, and The Nature Conservancy (United States). After a two- to three-year trial period, the expectation was that the CDC would become an ongoing, fully funded government program (which has happened—CDC is now part of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy). Syd was fortunate to be one of the five people initially involved in that program.

ON THE SUBJECT OF CONSERVATION VERSUS ACTIVISM

To keep non-profit societies such as the Federation moving forward, it was Syd's opinion that involving key people was critical; people that were knowledgeable, respectful and strong advocates for the organization (the FBCN has had many such key advocates). He considered high profile, but contentious views in the newspaper were, in the long run, not productive and often harmful. When environmental issues of concern arise, the broader society needs activists and conservationists; they both have value and a specific role to play. For example, the Sierra Club and the Wilderness Committee (formerly Western Canada Wilderness Committee) work on public policy and environmental awareness by constant vigil as watchdog, keeping these issues in the forefront of the news. They have the staff to do so. [Syd also noted the valuable work presently being done by Ecojustice, founded in 1990 as the Sierra Legal Defence Fund].

Syd felt strongly that the FBCN must remain rational and strive to find the compromise somewhere between the position offered by the government and that of the activists. Both Dr. Ian McTaggart-Cowan and Dr. Bert Brink, past Professors at UBC, knew how to keep the FBCN focused on presenting factual, science-based information. Largely due to its key players, FBCN has had a history and legacy of being able to achieve, through persistent yet non-violent actions, win/win solutions for government, industry, conservationists, and, activists. In his view, the Federation plays an important role juxtaposed to the activists. To continue to survive, however, the FBCN must have distinct values – values that represent the voice of nature with science-based knowledge to back it up.

In closing, Syd’s perspective on why FBCN is important to the province is the unique position and capacity of the Federation and its clubs to help protect and conserve the incredible biodiversity of BC.

Syd’s BACKGROUND

Syd was the Entomology Curator at the Spencer Entomology Museum, UBC from 1980 to 1991. He then worked for the BC Government in their Conservation Data Centre (BC CDC) from 1991 to 2002 on the conservation status and locations (occurrences) of species and ecological communities at risk. Thereafter, Syd spent one year as a wildlife consultant and since 2003, he has worked with Environment Canada and is currently based in Whitehorse, Yukon. He is the Canadian Wildlife Service representative on COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada), an independent body of experts responsible for identifying and assessing wildlife species considered to be at risk.

In 1996, Syd and his brother Richard published *British Columbia: A Natural History* (the revised third edition of this book was released in February 2015). The book has led to other similar publications, including *The New BC Roadside Naturalist*. Syd has led many tours on a wide cross-section of wildlife to several continents, sponsored by Vancouver Community College Natural History Tours (Vancouver Community College Continuing Education Division), and Travel Programs 1990-1991 (UBC Field Studies Educational Travel).

Positions

VNHS (VanNHS, now Nature Vancouver)	FBCN
President: 1984-1986	Vice President: 1987-1989
Discovery Magazine Assistant Editor: (Entomology) 1985-1991	President: 1989-1991
Discovery Magazine Editor: 1989-1991	Past President: 1992
Director: 1986-1992	Cordillera Management Committee: 1994-1999

REFERENCES

BC Naturalist Newsletter. 1989-1991. Vol 27, No 1 through Vol 29, No 2. FBCN.

Jude Grass, President 1983 - 1987 and 1991 - 1993

Jude became a member of the Vancouver Natural History Society (VNHS, now Nature Vancouver) in 1968 and became active in the FBCN (now BC Nature) in 1974. She held the FBCN President's position from 1983-1987 and again from 1991-1993. The interview covered highlights that stood out in Jude's memory from both terms but focused primarily on her last term.

BACKGROUND

For her initial and extensive five-year period as the FBCN President from 1983-1987, Jude, being a rookie, felt that her role as President was more of an administrative one. She suggested that it was Dr. Bert Brink, Dr. Dick Stace-Smith and Norman Pursell with their knowledge, expertise and executive experience, who fulfilled the greater part of the Federation's work (especially with regard to education and conservation efforts). By Jude undertaking the FBCN's administrative duties, however, she filled the necessary gap in those years when no one else was prepared to step into the position; but best of all – Jude LEARNED alot!! These same men continued to be mentors and supporters of Jude well on into her second tenure of President from 1991-1993.

Jude was pulled into the VNHS in 1968 by Neil Dawe, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada as Neil was a FBCN Regional Vice-President for Vancouver Island. Jude had taken a birding course from Neil through the Continuing Education program at UBC and her keen passion for wildlife and birding (especially owls and raptors!) was immediately evident to him. Both the 'birders' memberships and influence in the VNHS had been growing since 1960, under the leadership of Werner and Hilde Hesse (Peacock, 1993). When Jude joined the VNHS, Wayne Campbell and Mike Shepard were in charge of Birders' Night, as it was called at the time. Subsequently the two went off in different job-pursuit directions; however, not before co-authoring with Wayne Weber, the publication *Vancouver Birds* in 1971 (Peacock, 1993). The popularity of this VNHS "special interest group" of Birds and Mammals grew to the point that they began meeting separately on Birders' Nights in 1975; the first section to diverge from the regular VNHS meetings (Coope, 2012). John Toochin took over from Wayne and Mike, chairing the monthly Birders' Night meetings from 1975-1982.

The growing breadth of activities undertaken by members of the VNHS Birding Section, as it eventually became known, inspired John to suggest the publication of a monthly newsletter, *The Wandering Tattler*. The Newsletter would include up-to-date bird information, speakers, field trips, announcements and meetings (not otherwise included in the VNHS *Discovery Journal*); as well as raptor counts which Jude had already been coordinating. Jude was a founding member of *The Wandering Tattler* with the first issue printed in 1978 (Peacock, 1993) and she has been the editor for most of its 37 years (1977-1991; 2005-to 2019 (McNicholl, 2009; Neville, 2012)). Before long, Jude found herself nominated to the VNHS Board of Directors in 1977, becoming the Board liaison to the Birding Section Committee in 1977 (McNichol, 2009).

Neil Dawe's influence on Jude in the late 1960s was reciprocated in 1976 when Jude succeeded Neil as the compiler and organizer of the highly successful Ladner Christmas Bird Count. She and Al organized and compiled that count again in 1978 and Jude has continued to compile, or co-compile, the bird count data ever since (McNicholl, 2009).

Jude was President of VNHS from 1978-1980 (Peacock, 1993). Her involvement in the executive position led to more association and communication with the executive of FBCN, including Dick, Bert and Norm. One thing led to another. Already a member of FBCN, Jude became interested in the "ins and outs" of the *BC Naturalist* newsletter in the late 1970s but she officially stepped into the folds of FBCN as the Regional Vice-President for the Lower Mainland in 1980, while also joining the FBCN executive as Corresponding Secretary in the same year. She became involved in the Editorial Committee of the *BC Naturalist* newsletter and by 1982 she assumed the Editor's position. By the Fall of 1981 Jude was launched into the FBCN executive position of Vice-President (1981-1983), followed by her first tenure as President from 1983 to 1987. During her Presidential term Jude learned a great deal about negotiation, mediation and communication methods from Bert, Dick and Norm, not to mention a lot more about nature (in addition to birds!).

At the time (late 1970s), Jude was working with BC Parks at Shuswap Lake as a naturalist and senior interpreter where she produced 12 self-guided nature tour brochures for Parks. As an example, over about a four-year period she produced brochures for self-guided tours of Emory Creek, Cypress Mountain, Cultus Lake, Manning and Mount Seymour Parks.

As it turns out, Jude's husband, Al, was also an employee of BC Parks. A career Parks-branch naturalist and ranger (1968-1998), Al was a birder and a long-time member of VNHS and FBCN. He became a founding member of the Langley Field Naturalists. VNHS had offered a number of field trips to the Campbell Valley area of Langley (an area larger than Stanley Park) as it was ideal for viewing owls, and had a diversity of bird, plant and mammal species. When the owner of the property put it up for sale, those naturalists who knew the wildlife value of the river valley promoted it for protection as a regional park. It took the formalization of local naturalists as the Langley Field Naturalists (~ 1976) in combination with support from VNHS and FBCN (including Jude and Al), to support the Campbell Valley Regional Park under the jurisdiction of the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD; now Metro Vancouver).

Both VNHS and FBCN deserve credit, at least in part, for the establishment and continued support of the Campbell Valley Regional Park: both Bert Brink and Dick Stace-Smith had a close working relationship with Richard Hankin of GVRD and the Lower Mainland Regional Planning Board. FBCN members Natalie Minunzie and Adeline Nicol were members of the Langley Field Naturalists; and, all were very strong supporters and dedicated members of the FBCN executive, its various committees, regional clubs, and representatives on many advisory committees. Naturalists were such a tightly knit group!

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Organization has always been a big part of Jude's personal drive—especially when it comes to procedures and ways of assisting the communication and operation of the member clubs. As Past President during Joe Lotzkar's Presidency (1987-1989), Jude took on the position of Chairperson of the Resolutions Committee. Jude was involved with the production of a *Directors' Manual*, initially started by Adeline Nicol in the days before the FBCN regionalization (1975). The Manual was revised and updated by Rob Kitchen, Fall 1988 as the *FBCN Policy Manual*. The *Policy Manual* covers the FBCN Constitution and By-Laws (e.g., Membership, Meetings of the Society, Officers, Finances, etc.), the tools that FBCN clubs need to conduct their meetings, plan and host an AGM or FGM, and, individual club responsibilities relative to those of FBCN Executive. Contributors to the 1988 *Policy Manual* included Joe, Jude, Bert, Dick, Norm, and Adeline.

The 1988 *Policy Manual* also includes FBCN Resolutions tabled between 1979 and 1988. Resolutions from 1989 to 1994 were compiled in a *Resolution Manual* prepared by Laurence Brown (1994). Jude pondered out-loud if the resolutions nowadays have similar topic foci as those during the 1983-1993 timeframe. She also raised an interesting idea for a student project focusing on heritage or conservation: extract historical information relating to how BC Nature has grown and what it has accomplished, e.g., what topic happened when and which resolutions were successful, or not. Such information would be very valuable to the FBCN clubs, keeping them aware of the FBCN accomplishments, including those in their own regions, as incentives for regional clubs to stay proactive.

(Note: Bev Ramey, FBCN President 2006 – 2010, updated the resolutions, 1995-2005, plus there is a further publication of resolutions 1996-2019 available on the BC Nature website.)

Jude developed a booklet on the *Guidelines for Field Trip Leaders* (around 1980) and continues to run or assist with workshops on the same topic through Nature Vancouver. Informative guideline topics included responsibilities of field trip leaders, safety, First Aid, liability waivers, bears and cougars: all pertinent educational information for clubs that is necessary to satisfy and ensure FBCN insurance coverage/compliance. Both the *Policy Manual* and *Leaders' Guidelines* have been provided to the BC Nature clubs as part of their essential tools: tools critical to the support and encouragement of the formation of new clubs throughout the province. The revised *Guidelines* are available on the BC Nature website - in the members only section - under Club Resources.

COMMUNICATING EDUCATION AND CONSERVATION

Over the years, Jude put a great deal of effort and energy into improving and maintaining communication between and amongst FBCN Board of Directors, clubs and members. At the completion of her first tenure as the FBCN President (1983-1987), she highlighted a number of accomplishments achieved by FBCN: the

establishment of the Publication Committee to provide educational material about nature to the public; the development of a new format and focus for the *BC Naturalist* newsletter to better serve the members with current updates about environmental issues and natural history information; and, the reorganization of the Education Committee so that it could carry out new projects to involve clubs, members and the public.

Jude's interest in communicating news through the written word was obviously as important as the verbal, given her lengthy commitment as Editor of both the FBCN *BC Naturalist* newsletter and Nature Vancouver's *Wandering Tattler*. When Syd stepped into the President's position in 1989 and decided that some major changes were in order (including the purchase of a computer!?!) there was no doubt that Jude relished the discussion around communication and the *BC Naturalist*:

What?!?... two more issues of the newsletter per year? Yes! And why not start a new format for the Newsletter if that's what the members requested.

As of 1990, the centre eight pages of the Newsletter were organized under "RavenTalk – Your Federation in Action", within which were included highlights such as the President's Message, resolutions, Education and Conservation Committee priorities, Club Chat, items of concern, and business from the Directors and Executive. *And how about more of those "Grass Clippings" please!* Although Jude retired from the position as Editor of the *BC Naturalist* in 1998, she continues to spread the word about her favourite animals—BIRDS—in the *Wandering Tattler*.

As Past President, Jude became Chair of the FBCN Education and Recreation Committee (1993-1995). Jude's passion for the conservation of nature grew over the years and she recalls that FBCN Conservation issues were non-stop throughout both presidential terms although most of the action was undertaken by Committee members such as Kevin Bell, Ken Hall, Dick Stace-Smith, and Bert Brink in the 1980s and into the 1990s, then with Anne Murray, Bev Ramey and Rosemary Fox in the later 1990s and 2000s.

Wildlife Watch Program (and Wildlife Viewing)

Jude, with her naturalist's brochure-producing experience, had taken particular interest in wildlife viewing as a consequence of a project that had been undertaken by April Mol, a SFU Masters student in 1984. April's thesis was on wildlife management planning and she had secured support (FBCN, Fish and Wildlife Branch, and provincial Ministry of the Environment), and funds (BC Public Conservation Assistance Fund, Habitat Conservation Fund, FBCN), and sufficient wildlife viewing sites (over 300) to produce a book in 1988 entitled *Wildlife Viewing Guide for Southwestern BC* (Black 1988). April documented viewing sites with location directions, habitat description, and species present including mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, and salmon. April hoped that by encouraging public awareness of these sites that the public would become more interested in conservation matters.

A Provincial Committee for Wildlife Viewing began placing BC's great diversity of wildlife on the map – LITERALLY! The Committee, with representation from FBCN, Ministries of Tourism and Provincial Secretary, Parks and Environment, followed up on April's thesis study with a report *Wildlife Viewing in BC: The Tourism Potential* (1988). Although the wildlife viewing industry was small at the time, the study concluded that BC "has a major opportunity to take a leadership role in viewing tourism."

In 1991, the Ministry of Environment – "Wildlife Watch Program" produced a new brochure on *Wildlife Viewing in BC*. The brochure listed wildlife viewing areas, species expected by season, and a short list of other types of wildlife expected at each site. General habitat information, conservation through responsible and ethical viewing, tips for wildlife watching and safety, and contact details for the regional Wildlife Branch offices were the types of information included in the brochure.

As a result of the FBCN's membership on the Ministry of Environment's Wildlife Viewing Tourism Advisory Committee, the FBCN Education Committee decided to raise the profile of the Wildlife Watch Program in the form of a workshop at the 1991 FGM in Courtenay, BC. The workshop was facilitated by April and Jude. The FBCN had sponsored some of the contracts for Regional Wildlife Viewing Plans and Specific Site Plans, including the sites at Salmon Arm, the Brant Festival, and signs for Eagle Viewing at Kilby Provincial Park. The workshop provided background and updated information on the Wildlife Watch Program; as well as providing a discussion session, led by Bert Brink, on FBCN's role in education and how to make it a more effective tool within the FBCN, the Regions and perhaps more importantly, the Clubs.

Jude recalled that the Williams Lake Field Naturalists set up a committee to gather information for a wildlife viewing kiosk to be constructed at the Scout Island Nature Centre by the Ministry of Environment, as part of the Wildlife Watch Program in 1993.

FBCN compiled and produced Wildlife Viewing brochures for regions of the province in the 1990s. These were distributed to tourist information officers, clubs and others. More recently BC Nature launched the website, BC Nature Guide around 2012. This program, to "Harness Nature Knowledge", provides website description of local natural areas, together with local map and other details, compiled through BC Nature contractors working together with local naturalist clubs. (See BC Nature website under Know Nature/BC Nature Guide.)

Young Naturalists and the Stanley Park Nature House

Most die-hard naturalists are aware of the necessity of educating young people about the beauty and value of nature and the many benefits of protecting 'her'. Through the years, the FBCN had always endeavoured to include young people in their outreach programs and camps, although not always as successfully as had been hoped. One consistent endeavour, however, was started by Al Grass. Fed by his BC Parks naturalist's background, Al had been writing insightful articles in his

"Close-Up On Nature" for 'grown-up naturalists' in the *BC Naturalist* newsletter since at least 1987, introducing many natural history facts and stories about many different species in nature. In 1991, Al decided to start speaking for 'Jerry the Moose' who introduced subjects specifically for children. Al encouraged *Earth Explorers* to join "Jerry's Rangers". Al and Jude's son, Danny who would have been about seven at the time, no doubt discovered many interesting tiny creatures to delight his parents and to feed ideas that could be included in the Jerry's Rangers column.

By 1992, a "young naturalists group" had been formed in Revelstoke by Debby Robinson. Jude, in her position as Editor of *BC Naturalist*, began advertising for young naturalists to submit articles, stories, activities, games, artwork, etc., to publish in the newsletter. During Jude's second term as President (1991-1993), the FBCN had a Young Naturalist Committee and Jude was a member. The FBCN Vice-President Daphne Solecki also served on the Young Naturalist Committee. The connection between the FBCN and the VNHS on this endeavour was obviously very close: Daphne at the time was also the VNHS President and Jude was also the VNHS representative to the FBCN Board. Talk about societal interwoven fabrics! (See Chapter 8. NatureKids Formation for further information on the formation of the Young Naturalists' Club.)

Somewhere in the brainstorming and conversations, the idea of building a better Nature House in Stanley Park arose. One already existed but it was hidden away, out of sight in the Rose Garden in the middle of the Park. The Committee members with the VNHS club taking the lead, pushed towards finding a new location for the Nature House to replace the original one. Hard work paid off in 1993: "After 18 months of preparation the VNHS opened a Nature Centre in the old boat house at Lost Lagoon this spring. This was a cooperative effort of naturalists, teachers, the Aquarium, Stanley Park Zoological Society and the Parks Board, and has been well received by the general public." To this day, both Jude and Daphne have remained closely connected with this society, now called the Stanley Park Ecology Society (SPES).

BC Naturalists' Foundation

During her 1991-1993 BC Nature President's term, Jude sat on the Board of the BC Naturalists' Foundation (initially named the Federation of British Columbia Naturalists' Foundation). The Foundation was established in 1990 by members of the FBCN for the purpose of building a strong capital base, the future income from which would provide a steady source of funds for conservation and nature education projects. Jude served as President of the BC Naturalists' Foundation 1994 - 1997.

CONFERENCES, SYMPOSIA, WORKSHOPS AND ROUNDTABLES

Jude was passionate about organizing educational sessions for the benefit of club members. From her experience, these sessions (in whatever format) had been very

successful from the start and always greatly appreciated by those participating. The FBCN Education and Recreation Committee had begun offering roundtables at the general meetings and Jude was totally in favour of the idea.

The first roundtable, the Minnekhada Roundtable, was offered by the FBCN Education and Recreation Committee in 1987. The second, the Williams Lake Roundtable, was offered at the Williams Lake AGM in 1988. The Committee invited a panel of 10 representatives from the provincial Forestry, Parks, Wildlife, and, Scout Island Nature Sanctuary to answer questions posed by naturalists. The opportunity for naturalists to communicate their wishes, their needs and their knowledge to government, to other naturalists and to the public was enthusiastically received. The Roundtable was well attended and so successful that the FBCN considered incorporating a Roundtable as a regular feature of future AGMs. (See Appendix 10. Roundtables, Conferences and Workshops).

Several conferences and symposia were organized during Jude's two terms as President. FBCN sponsored the symposium, *Bits & Pieces – The Natural Diversity of British Columbia from the Naturalists Perspective*, held at UBC in 1987 in support of the Canadian Wildlife Service celebrations for their Wildlife Centennial 1987 - the 100th Birthday of Wildlife Conservation in Canada. *Bits & Pieces* covered species diversity, the connectivity of wildlife, wildlife corridors, land use and habitat management, etc., questioning whether or not saving small bits of habitat areas was sufficient to sustain wildlife for the long term. FBCN further contributed to the Centennial celebrations with articles in the *BC Naturalist* documenting the scope of wildlife and habitat research in BC (as well as, the Yukon and Alaska).

In 1989 when Jude was serving on the Education and Recreation Committee, a workshop, "Sharing Nature in Your Community", was offered at the Campbell Valley Regional Park FGM, Langley. Jude and April Mol were the Program Coordinators. The emphasis of the workshop was to encourage outdoor nature activities. It was designed to help leaders develop program skills (how to lead a walk or give a talk), how to avoid problems, and most importantly, how to "have fun with the group!" Participants learned new techniques for working with children, adults and special-needs groups and how to make effective and interesting presentations to groups.

As part of the 1990 AGM in Kelowna, the FBCN Education Committee offered a "Sharing Nature in Your Community Level 1" workshop again. But this time, the coordinators April Mol and Jude, upped the ante by introducing a second workshop: "Project Wild: A Workshop for the Naturalist". Project Wild was a newly developed education program that used wildlife-related instructional activities, for teachers and naturalists alike, to use with children from kindergarten through high school age. The Education Committee worked in conjunction with the BC Ministry of Environment to achieve a balanced instructional resource for naturalists to use as part of their resources but also for teachers to incorporate into their own communities where such information on wildlife was not always available. The two programs were designed to complement each other.

Our Common Future – 1988 alert that children will inherit a polluted world

One particularly hot topic in the early 1990s grew out of a global study released in 1988 during Joe Lotzkar's Presidency. The global study hit such a nerve in BC as to create a chain reaction of Roundtable forums that spanned at least four terms of FBCN Presidents that followed Joe Lotzkar: Syd Cannings, Jude Grass, Daphne Solecki and Frances Vyse.

The study was released under the World Commission on Environment and Development. The report compiled by the Commission – *Our Common Future* – finally hit the news media in 1987 under a more common-denominator name: "Environment Disaster Looming, Global Study Warns". The study was led by Norway's Prime Minister Gro Harlem Bruntland and became better known as the Bruntland Report. Canada was one of 21 participating countries involved. In Canada the Bruntland Report worked its way through government levels as *The Report of National Task Force on Environment and Economy* (1986). As Joe remarked:

their report says, today's children will inherit a polluted world stripped of its natural resources.

Does this sound familiar!? Was this what Jude reflected upon as one of those conservation issues that was at the forefront in the 1980s and 1990s (and battled by FBCN naturalists) and is still in the headlines today? Perhaps the massive climate crises rallies held worldwide in 2019, and headlines dominated with concerns regarding global climate change and emergency, are proof in the pudding.

Back in the late 1980s Joe Lotzkar derived two key directives from the Bruntland Report that were areas of concern for the FBCN: 1/ a sustainable resource base; and, 2/ public involvement in the planning process leading to economic development. His specific concern was the revelation through the media that highlighted the devastation and waste in the Queen Charlotte Islands (now Haida Gwaii) by the dominant BC logging companies using the classical "CUT-OUT and GET OUT" policy. Joe attended the conference called Dunsmuir I (the first of three) that focused on developing a sustainable Land Use Strategy. The Environment Minister Bruce Strachan and Regional Development Minister Elwood Vetch announced on December 20, 1988 the appointment of a provincial Environment and Economy Task Force. Dr. Bert Brink represented both the FBCN and the environment on the Task Force. (See Chapter 7. Projects).

The Environment and Economy Task Force's *raison d'être* was to provide recommendations to the provincial government on three key strategies to provide a framework needed to ensure that environmental protection is built into development initiatives at the earliest possible stage.

The Environment and Economy Task Force - 1988
Key Strategies

- 1/ establish a permanent Roundtable of public and private-sector decision makers to advise government on ways to integrate environmental management and economic development
- 2/ develop a provincial conservation strategy to ensure long term environmental protection and effective resource use
- 3/ promote understanding of the links between the environment and the economy through environmental education.

The FBCN quickly got to work when it recognized the significance of this Task Force and the potential for naturalists across the province to influence provincial policy. FBCN's motto "to know nature" (education) and "to keep it worth knowing" (conservation) was right on the mark for the many future nature projects that evolved out of the Task Force. In fact, the very first task relegated to Nora Layard was to organize the FBCN workshop on "Old Growth Forests of the Interior and the Coast of British Columbia" for the 1990 FGM at Salmon Arm: specifically, to involve FBCN members and key individuals outside the Federation in conservation and nature education workshops and Roundtable discussions. The Education and Recreation Committee embraced the need for more Nature Centres, discovery centres, demonstration forests, estuary and wetland appreciation, etc., to promote environmental awareness and conservation – to bring business and industry and environment into harmony.

During Jude's second term, the provincial Roundtable on the Environment and Economy with the prospectus of "A Better Way – Creating a Sustainable Development Strategy for BC" was already seeking public input. Similarly, the Parks Plan 90 involving BC Parks and the Forest Service had already hosted sessions in 105 communities and cities in BC to obtain public input. In 1991, Jude and Bert attended the Dunsmuir II Conference on Land Use Strategy to manage BC's resources. Many other projects and roundtables stemmed out of the provincial Environment and Economy Task Force, such as the Endangered Spaces Project (protected areas system of BC), Endangered Species, Habitat Enhancement, and the many club-related projects through Land for Nature that took on lives of their own. (See Chapter 7. Projects and Appendix 9. Publications, the latter with its annotated list of publications of the Land for Nature project).

Jude remembers well the significance of "A Public Symposium on BC's Threatened and Endangered Species" that was held in Vancouver in 1991. The symposium was organized by the Northwest Wildlife Preservation Society, with support from FBCN, to discuss proposed changes to the Wildlife Act. A broad range of topics were covered and agencies endeavoured to understand the current status of environmental threats, cultural ethics, threatened and endangered species, illegal trade of animal parts, legislative change and litigation of the current situation in BC.

Jude in her role as President continued to support educational workshops, especially those in tune with the sustainable development theme prevalent at the time. For the Fall AGM in Kimberley, a workshop "Land Use in the Kootenays: A Perspective on the Future" was offered. The workshop was developed and facilitated by Jude and April Mol.

PROJECTS AND RESOLUTIONS

A number of projects that Jude was involved with during her terms as President, or, that were of particular interest to her over the years are briefly identified below. The FBCN submitted resolutions to appropriate government agencies on many of these projects and topics to state a position and to seek action. Jude sat on the Resolutions Committee for many years. (See Resolutions on BC Nature's website under Protect Nature).

Waste Management: Jude, as Past President during Joe Lotzkar's term of President, recalls learning a great deal about plastics, chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), packaging products, pesticides, DDT, along with the province's millions of tonnes per year of solid waste and the impacts these are having on wildlife such as herons and falcons. The FBCN was involved with various new 'high tech' solutions. She bemused the 'out of site, out of mind' mentality of moving Vancouver's overflowing landfill waste at the Delta dumpsite to Cache Creek (1989) and the fact that Metro Vancouver is still trying to figure out solutions to our rampant use of material goods.

Wolf Kills: FBCN was one of the organizations represented in the Wolf Working Group brought into existence by the Wildlife Branch of the Ministry of Environment following considerable public outcry over government wolf-kill programs in the early 1980s. Jude took interest in this conservation topic as she saw it persist through both of her tenures as FBCN President.

As might be expected, FBCN clubs in the province and naturalists (pro- versus anti-wolf kills) differed greatly in opinion. One specific topic of concern to all, however, was the proposed intent to use the predacide Compound 1080 to poison the wolves that killed ranchers' cattle. Two options existed to control the wolves: poison (Compound 1080) to kill them; or, shoot them from helicopters. One concern that Jude recalled amidst the multitude of verbal battles was the potential transferral of Compound 1080 from one predator species to another, such as when another animal would feed upon a poisoned wolf. The FBCN submitted a resolution to oppose wolf kills as part of a management plan for wildlife in parks (1989). Use of the poison 1080 was banned in the late 1990s, but some wolf kills continue in BC (2019).

Land for Nature Project: Jude praised the many achievements and benefits of this program in furthering the preservation of sensitive areas throughout the province. The program started small with Nora Layard as the FBCN coordinator, but she was able to take it bigger with the assistance of Rod Silver of the Ministry of

Environment. One of the very first and important proceedings to come out of the LFN Project, *Identifying and Protecting Sensitive Shoreline and Adjacent Wetland Habitat on the East Coast of Vancouver Island*, reported on the discussions and recommendations of a workshop hosted by the Victoria Natural History Society in 1991. (See Chapter 7. Projects for a full description of Land for Nature, and Appendix 9. Publications for an annotated list of the Land for Nature publications.)

Marble Murrelets in Old Growth Forest of the Caren Range, Sunshine Coast: This research struck to the heart of Jude. If it wasn't for the efforts of Paul Jones of the Pacific Seabird Group Committee this small, vulnerable bird species might have slipped into oblivion. Over several years, Paul investigated the murrelet colony and its activities in the old-growth forest of the Caren Range of the Sechelt Peninsula on the Sunshine Coast. Backed by the Canadian Wildlife Service and the provincial Ministry of Forests, the efforts focused on an active search to locate the Marbled Murrelet nesting sites and to determine its feeding and breeding habits. As a result, in 1993 the FBCN tabled a resolution to protect the Caren Range as a valuable old growth forest area park (potentially under the Parks '90 program). The World Wildlife Fund had acknowledged the Caren Range as an Endangered Space because of the Marbled Murrelet; the USA had identified it as an endangered species. In Canada, the Caren Range and Marbled Murrelet habitat was under imminent threat of logging in 1994 and beyond. Wonderfully the area was made a park in 1999, named Spiipiyus Provincial Park (or Caren Range).

Mitlenatch Island Nature Provincial Park: Mitlenatch Island was situated in the Strait of Georgia, south of Quadra Island and northeast of Courtney. Several resolutions were submitted between 1992 and 1994 to restrict trail development to the meadow area and to ban harvesting of all intertidal life at Mitlenatch Nature Park as a means of protecting the important bird colonies on the Island. Jude coordinated promotion for this nature park; Dick Stace-Smith, Rob Butler and Bill Merilees were all involved with the project.

Purple loosestrife – the unwanted immigrant: The flag about *Lythrum salicaria* as a pending, potential disaster in BC and Vancouver Island was first raised in 1991 by Betty Lunam of the Comox-Strathcona Natural History Society after reading an "On the Loose" article by Nature Canada (1988). Purple loosestrife is a Eurasian herbaceous, perennial weed with no biological check in its adoptive land. There was a lack of commitment on the part of BC Agencies to respond to initiatives and proposed studies to manage and control loosestrife (other than through promoting public awareness). The FBCN awarded Betty funds to attend a national workshop on purple loosestrife in Ottawa in 1992. Betty reported back to FBCN on the critical need for an integrated national management approach. In efforts to obtain approval of biological control by insects and to have the "Beautiful Killer" added to the Federal and Provincial Noxious Weed Acts, FBCN resolutions were submitted to the Honourable Bill Barlee, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (first initiated to their governing districts by the Como-Strathcona Natural History Society and Langley Field Naturalists).

BC Wildlife Federation (BCWF; hunters and fishermen): Jude was involved in the efforts to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat around Boundary Bay through better management practices. Jude met once per year from 1991-1993 with the BCWF and found these meetings valuable learning experiences. For example, what were the primary interests and significant issues of the BCWF? Jude discovered that members of the BCWF knew a lot more about nature than she anticipated. Trophy hunting, however, was not open for discussion; or rather, they agreed to disagree on this topic. There was a consensus to agree to save the environment and protect wildlife habitat. Jude's take-home message from this relationship was that people could work together in spite of their differences and join force to approach government for better protection of wildlife. As Jude remarked:

the BCWF were strange bedfellows but they were willing to work with others.

Several resolutions were tabled between 1990 and 1992 concerning Boundary Bay and Mud Bay; in particular, the shooting of Brant Geese and other wildfowl.

CHALLENGES

Jude's greatest challenges during her two terms as FBCN President were communication and management: managing the regions (seven regions from 1983-1987; five from 1991-1993) and their respective clubs; keeping them informed and up-to-date on conservation and education concerns and activities; servicing them; and, keeping the regional clubs unified. (See Appendix 14. Communication and Restructuring to Meet Demand, 1989 to 1996).

Today technological advances such as email and SKYPE have made a tremendous difference in maintaining contact with the clubs. These methods, however, are not as sufficient or as essential as in-person communication. Even with her previous experience as the FBCN Regional Vice-President for the Lower Mainland (1980-1983), Jude sees things from a slightly different perspective nowadays as the Lower Mainland Regional Club Coordinator (2004 to 2019). The communication challenges remain, albeit in a different technological time period. The Lower Mainland Region has 22 clubs to manage and BC Nature is still growing. How do you get 22 clubs together at one location?

Forming more new clubs and getting more young people involved are part of the challenges. Nature Vancouver and the clubs up the Fraser Valley are relatively easy to bring together for a meeting. The logistics and costs of coordinating a meeting with the five clubs up the coast (Bowen Island, Pender Harbour, Squamish, Sunshine Coast, Whistler) in Vancouver is more difficult. In addition, there are nature-oriented clubs (not naturalists *per se*: they don't do field trips) in the Lower Mainland (e.g., Texada Stickleback Group, Friends of Semiahmoo Bay, Surrey Environmental Partners, Stoney Creek Environmental Partners) that are involved in other environmental and recreational activities. Trying to coordinate a meeting with such geographically disparate groups is virtually impossible, physically taxing and

time-consuming for the Lower Mainland Regional Coordinator; but no less so than trying to meet with each individual club.

Jude has proposed subdividing the Lower Mainland Region into sub-regions, e.g., Fraser Valley (including Vancouver and Bowen Island) and Sunshine Coast (Sea to Sky to Whistler). The clubs could meet regionally once per year with the sub-region coordinators managing the clubs on a year-round basis. In the Okanagan and the North, clubs are now involved with conference calls twice a year.

What is she trying to accomplish? As the Lower Mainland Regional Coordinator, Jude tried to better communicate with clubs on a personal level. She has tried to keep in touch with what they are doing (what are their issues, do they have a NatureKids Club, what field trips are they offering) and give them assistance if, and when, they need it. She gets newsletters from some of these clubs but wants to continue the personal contact. Jude thinks that Hope has the potential and interest to form a club. WildResearch is a fairly new club formed and its Board includes several enthusiastic SFU graduate students, keen on covering nature issues. WildResearch focuses on research and has a small bird banding station at Iona Island.

FOCUS FOR BC NATURE INTO THE FUTURE

Jude identified the following as important focus for the future for BC Nature:

- Attract more young people
- Encourage more people to step forward to work on the Board of Directors
- Better marketing of the *BCnature* Magazine to further educate members and non-members alike, in knowing the essence of BC Nature and recognizing that they (and their club) belong to a provincial organization
- Promote technology as a means of facilitating communication between and amongst regions and clubs; it has made a tremendous improvement in the last 20 years. Many clubs now use weekly eNews circulation to members, and BC Nature a monthly eNews circulation. More could be done
- Entice more students to join BC Nature through a local club by engaging them in topical educational and conservation issues through the assistance of grant funding
- Encourage and refresh communication between clubs and BC Nature (ongoing need). Club Representatives must convey news from their clubs to BC Nature. It is a two-way communication; that is, Club Representatives also need to convey BC Nature news to their club.

Jude had one further suggestion. She thought it would be interesting to portray the BC Nature member club history in a graph to show the membership growth transition from day one to the present. Who were the founding clubs and when were they established? How many members did they have? How many clubs exist now and how many members do they have? BC Nature presently has more than 6000 members in 53 clubs (2020), but there have been a lot of ups and downs in membership. A graph could visually portray these changes.

OVER THE YEARS

Jude began her career with an 18-year position with BC Tel. Subsequently, she followed her passion for nature by spending four years with BC Parks as a naturalist and senior interpreter. From there, Jude committed 20 years (1984-2004) to the Greater Vancouver Regional District Parks (now Metro Vancouver) with their interpretation team for about half of that time before moving into the Parks Planning and Research Department. In the latter position, she provided support to park planners, GPS mapping specialists and resource inventory specialists (Becker, 2002). Her positions with GVRD provided Jude ample opportunity to maintain and promote good communication (...about conserving nature...) between naturalists and the government agencies that should be serving them (McNicholl 2009). Jude was very active with Scouts Canada from the early 1980s into 2000s as the Deputy Area Commissioner for Volunteer Development and Training in Burnaby (Becker 2002).

Over the years, Jude's volunteer service and dedication to birds, and nature in general, has been remarkable and her relationship with VNHS and FBCN is reminiscent of a colourful, textured yet tightly woven fabric meant to last a lifetime. Jude served as the Lower Mainland Regional Club Coordinator from 2004 to 2019 and continues to serve on Nature Vancouver's Board and on its Birding Section.

In several areas of her career, Jude has been the first woman to serve in a position. Her contributions to Citizen Science, to many nature societies, to BC Nature, and in support of countless participants to enjoy nature, Jude is truly fostering a *healthy by nature society* (Neville, 2012). Jude is a woman of terrific dynamism and organization, not to mention an extraordinary naturalist (Hanna, 2003).

She has been the recipient of many awards:

- 1989 – FBCN Elton Anderson Award for 'outstanding service to FBCN in field of conservation'
- 1996 – VNHS Kay Beamish Award for Nature Education (shared with Al Grass)
- 1998 – FBCN Outstanding Service Award
- 2000s – Scouts Canada Silver Acorn Award for "encouraging youth to get outdoors in nature"
- 2000 – Honorary Life Members of the Langley Field Naturalists (both Jude and Al)
- 2000 – City of Burnaby environmental Education Awards (both Jude and Al)
- 2003 – The Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal (both Jude and Al)
- 2009 – VNHS Kaye and Charles Ney Award for Exemplary Service
- 2012 – YWCA Metro Vancouver Women of Distinction Awards

Positions

VNHS (VanNHS, now Nature Vancouver)

Member: 1968 to present – Life Member
Monthly Raptor Counts: 1975-1980; 1998 to present
Wandering Tattler Editor: 1977-1991,
2005 to 2019
Director: 1977-1985, 2005 to present
President: 1978-1980
VNHS representative to BOD of FBCN: 1982-1993
Chair of Bird and Mammal Section: 1982
Chair of Birding Section Committee: 1982-1991
1985, 2004-2019
Conservation Committee: 1993-2002
Director and Board liaison to Birding Section: 2001,
2004 to present
Chair of Education Committee: 1994-1995
VNHS Secretary: 2000-2005
Vancouver Bird Records Committee: 2005 to present
General Program Speakers Coordinator: 2005-2019
Education Workshops Coordinator: 1980s

Burke Mountain Naturalists

President: 1990s

Other Societies and Positions

Canadian Nature Federation (now Nature Canada): 1990s
Ladner Coordinator for Christmas Bird Counts: 1976 to present
BC Waterfowl Society
Birds on the Bay
Wild Bird Trust of BC
Bird Studies Canada: BC Breeding Bird Atlas Project
Board of Directors, Biodiversity Centre for Wildlife Studies: 2004 to 2015
Stanley Park Ecology Society member
Board of Directors, BC Field Ornithologists: 2006

FBCN (now BC Nature)

Member: 1974 to present
First involvement with BC Naturalists Newsletter: 1970s
Corresponding Secretary: 1980-1981
Lower Mainland Regional Vice-President: 1980-1982
Vice-President: 1981-1983
Editor of *BC Naturalists* Newsletter: 1982-1983
President: 1983-1987
Past President: 1987-1989
Editor of *BC Naturalists* Newsletter: 1985-1998
Resolutions Committee: 1990s
President: 1991-1993
Past President: 1993
Chair of Education and Recreation Committee: 1993-1995
President of BC Naturalists' Foundation 1994-1997
Lower Mainland Regional Club Coordinator: 2004-2019
Chair of Education & Publications Committee 1980s & 1990s

Langley Field Naturalists

President: 2009-2012 and presently on Board

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Daphne Solecki, President 1993 - 1994

Daphne joined the Vancouver Natural History Society (VNHS, now Nature Vancouver) in 1985. She served as Membership Secretary and joined the Board as a Director in 1987. She served as VNHS President from 1990 -1992.

During her term as VNHS President she initiated a project to create a Nature House in the old boathouse beside Lost Lagoon and served as chair of the steering committee that saw the project to fruition in 1992. The steering committee included naturalists, teachers, and representatives of the Vancouver Aquarium, Stanley Park Zoological Society and the Vancouver Parks Board. The new Nature House was well received by the general public. Management of the Nature House was turned over to the Stanley Park Zoological Society (now Stanley Park Ecology Society (SPES)); thereafter, Daphne remained an advisor to the SPES Board of Directors for over 10 years.

During this same period and in partnership with GVRD Parks (now Metro Vancouver Parks), Daphne oversaw two rehabilitation projects: one to reclaim the marsh adjacent to the Iona Island Regional Park (advised by Patrick Mooney); and, the other to restore Camosun Bog in Pacific Spirit Regional Park (advised by Dr. Val Shaefer, then VNHS Vice-President). The latter ecosystem located on the UBC Endowment Lands had been partially destroyed from dumping earth-fill in 1970 during the UBC expansion and VNHS had to fight for years to prevent further damage (Peacock, 1993). Both projects were largely funded by Environment Canada.

THE RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE

In 1992, concurrent with her term as VNHS President and at the invitation of Dr. Bert Brink, Daphne became a VNHS Director to the Federation of BC Naturalists (FBCN, now BC Nature) and took on the position of First Vice-President, with Frances Vyse as Second Vice-President and Jude Grass as President.

At this time, considerable discussions evolved around the possibility of restructuring the Federation both in the form of roles and responsibilities of the Directors, Executive and Member Clubs; as well as those of the various committees. The huge size, complex geography and inclement weather of BC, all posed great challenges to the effectiveness of the FBCN, both internally and externally. A Restructuring Committee was struck consisting of Past-President Syd Cannings (Chair), Daphne and Frances. They were tasked with improving the structural organization of the Federation. Constructive suggestions, ideas and proposals were solicited and received from club members at workshops held at the Maple Ridge AGM and Kimberley FGM (1992). (See Appendix 14. Communication and Restructuring to Meet Demand 1989 to 1996).

During her one-year tenure as the FBCN President, Daphne continued to pursue the recommendations from the VNHS Restructuring Committee. In her report to the members at the Kamloops FGM in 1993, her comments were as follows:

Because I feel that administration, restructuring, and communications are on the top of my list at the moment, I would like to report on and discuss our organizational development goals as summarized in our funding proposals for 1993-1994. These are:

- 1/ Continue the restructuring process begun in 1992, whereby the FBCN becomes more effective and accountable to its members;*
- 2/ Reinforce the existing regional structure and increase the number of new clubs and inter-regional activities;*
- 3/ Explore all possible means by which to increase the participation of outlying clubs in the work of the FBCN's standing committees.*

In contemplating the restructuring task and listening to comments from members near and far, Daphne gave considerable thought to the question most frequently asked during that process – “What is or what should be the relationship of clubs and the Federation, how do they relate, and how do they serve each other?”

I should like to share a thought that came to me when I attended the (1994) Thompson-Okanagan regional meeting – that the clubs are the heart. They are an expression of all we love in the place where we live, a reflection of our personal landscape, the passion we have brought to protecting it. The Federation is the head – we know that as separate entities we cannot be as effective as we can be when we band together, so we make the reasoned decision to join our efforts through belonging to the Federation. With heart and head together, we can be harmonious and strong.”

Daphne considers that her greatest challenge and greatest achievement for the FBCN was working with Syd and Frances to develop and establish a new structural model for the Federation. Most of the groundwork and communication with the club members occurred during Daphne's period as Vice-President (1992/1993). This enabled her to initiate the reorganization from the old pan-provincial-type model to the new regional model during her year of Presidency.

Previously, FBCN Directors meetings were attended by one Director from each club, which created unwieldy meeting attendances of 30+ Directors. The demands on time and travel costs often precluded members in the work force from attending Directors' meetings.

The new model invited clubs to meet regionally, with each region electing a coordinator to represent their region at the newly constituted Executive Committee. Quarterly, regional meetings provided greater opportunity for club Directors and individuals to regularly attend and to express their opinions and ideas about their own local area, issues and concerns. Regional meetings began with the discussion of necessary FBCN business; then, regional issues became the focus for the balance of the meeting. Decisions taken at these meetings were then forwarded to the

Executive Committee. Although changes never come easily with anything, this remodelled structure and relationship of BC Nature with its many regional clubs remains functional and interactive today.

Another important direction that was adopted at that time was to seek Presidents from different regions of the province. Up to this point and because the FBCN office was located in Vancouver, Presidents had come primarily from the Vancouver area. With the advent of email communication, the barriers to having a President living far from Vancouver and ensuring broadly-based leadership were overcome; subsequently, Presidents have been elected from other regions.

Looking back on this time, Daphne considers that becoming involved in administrative roles with VNHS and subsequently FBCN was her third career. Her first career was raising four children, and her second, teaching troubled adolescents. Previous management skills and her ability to enable individuals to run with an idea and see it through to fruition, provided Daphne with important tools for administrative work. Her previous experience, however, did not prepare her for the resistance so often associated with volunteer organizations encountering the idea of change. It could be referred to as growing pains that federations, societies and associations alike must endure in order to reach a better level of function and operation; not unlike those reported by Black (1988) during the transition from the BC Council to the Federation of BC Naturalists. Changes in life are constant, as are the continual need for changes within a society to keep up with the times and to stay relevant to its membership.

After stepping down as President in May 1994, Daphne served as the Chair of the Conservation Committee (1994-1996). A diversity of conservation issues was pursued during this period: Wildlife Strategy (biodiversity, management, protection); Private Land Use Stewardship and Stewardship Pledge Program; CORE (Commission on Resources and Environment) Land Use Plan for Vancouver Island, Cariboo-Chilcotin, East and West Kootenay; BC Endangered Species; Kemano II; Land and Resource Management Plans (LRMP); Naturescape; Nature Legacy; and, Native Plant Society. Subsequently, Daphne became the FBCN Regional Coordinator for the Lower Mainland in May 1996. Daphne laughed in retrospect when considering most individuals would do that sequence in reverse, before ending up in the President's chair! (See Chapter 7. Projects).

YOUNG NATURALISTS' CLUB OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Meanwhile, in 1993, Dr. Rob Butler of the FBCN had proposed the creation of a young naturalist program based on the youth program of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) in the United Kingdom. Daphne immediately became interested in the program and while in England in 1995, went to the RSPB headquarters at Sandy, Bedfordshire, to gather information, materials and encouragement from the Young Ornithologists' Club, now known as the RSPB Wildlife Explorers. Because Daphne was still Chair of the Conservation Committee at the time, she realized that she had to turn her full attention away from the youth program and focus on the Conservation Committee.

For whatever reason, however, the FBCN youth initiative never got off the ground. But passion being what it is, Daphne stepped down from the Conservation Chair position shortly thereafter to refocus on the youth program; this time with the idea of developing it through VNHS on behalf of all FBCN clubs. With the full support of her colleagues on the VNHS Board of Directors, she was head-long into a local family program called “Step into Nature” by 1997. Not unexpectedly, the “Young Naturalists’ Club of British Columbia” was launched in 2000 with Daphne as the Chair of a small but effective working group. (See Chapter 8. NatureKids Formation).

In 2006 the YNC ‘graduated’ from being a program of the VNHS and became an independent, registered charitable organization. Currently (2014) there are 31 regional family-based YNCs and 30 school-based YNCs. The close connection with BC Nature continues as BC Nature offers free office space to NatureKids BC, and involvement with the BC Nature AGMs and FGMs.

Daphne provides a thought-provoking perspective of her experience as an executive of the FBCN:

Naturalists love being out in nature but they hate to be activists.

In the 1970s, there was an enormous growth and interest in the environment. Environmentalists were not necessarily knowledgeable about nature but they knew that if they took public action to help protect nature they could likely achieve a positive result. In the past, the Federated clubs and naturalists in general were reluctant to stand up and become active in promoting conservation. Daphne considered this to be a weakness of naturalists, but under the pressure of the present political and environmental climate, perspectives changed and naturalists gradually become more activist-motivated.

Just as naturalists who were not activists but participated in the Land For Nature projects (because they felt they had to take action to save or share something that they liked and enjoyed), so should naturalists nowadays be prepared to speak up and take action when it becomes essential to protect what we have. Sometimes it is not possible to bridge the gap between different perspectives without taking action. This viewpoint influenced the direction taken when planning the program of the Young Naturalists’ Club of BC, wherein the young members are encouraged both to study nature in all its aspects and be prepared to speak and act on nature’s behalf.

TODAY

Daphne had the pleasure of having the first edition of the FBCN *Cordillera, a Journal of British Columbia Natural History*, published during her presidency, thanks to the dedicated efforts of Frances Vyse, her team of co-editors, and the Cordillera Management Committee. From 1993 - 2009, Daphne was involved with several popular books and field guides published by Nature Vancouver. She was also given the honour of having a new FBCN award created in her name—the Daphne Solecki Award—in recognition by her peers of the work that she has done as founder of

NatureKids BC (originally Young Naturalists' Club of BC). The award recognizes individuals who have contributed to nature education for children in British Columbia.

Daphne is satisfied with her accomplishments as president of BC Nature. The fact that the structural reorganization is still holding strong after some 22 years of practice is a testament to the FBCN being more effective and accountable to its members. The essential reorganization has remained, although some legal adjustments and renaming of the Board of Directors and Council of Representatives have been made over the years. Now, Daphne is quite content to enjoy her time with NatureKids. She served as its Honorary President until February 2019 and continues to contribute as the Content Editor of NatureKids' *NatureWILD* Magazine.

The following was extracted from Coope (2012):

Daphne is an initiator, one who perceives a need in the community which, by dint of persuasion, managerial ability and sheer hard work, she succeeds in actualizing to the great benefit of her fellow citizens. As well as setting up the Young Naturalists' Club, now on its way to becoming a Canadian institution..... Not surprisingly, she has received numerous awards for her work.....:

- 1996 – VNHS Davidson Award for Conservation
- 2001 – FBCN Elton Anderson Award
- 2002 – Queen’s Golden Jubilee Medal Award
- 2007 – BC Arbor Vitae Environmental Award
- 2008 – VNHS Kay Beamish Award for Nature Education
- 2008 – VNHS Kaye and Charles Ney Award for Exemplary Service
- 2012 – BC Community Achievement Award.

Positions

VNHS (VanNHS, now Nature Vancouver)	FBCN (now BC Nature)
Member: 1985	
Membership Secretary:	
Director: 1987- 2008	Vice-President: 1992-1993
President: 1990-1992	Young Naturalist Committee: 1992-1995
VNHS Nature House Steering Committee: 1992-2002	Restructuring Committee: 1992-1994
YNC of BC Volunteer Coordinator: 2000-2008	President: May 1993- May 1994
President, YNC of BC Board of Directors: 2006-2011	Past-President: 1994-1996
Honorary President of YNC of BC: 2012	Conservation Chair: 1994-1996
	Lower Mainland Regional Coordinator: 1996-1998
	Strategic Planning Committee: 1998- 2003

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Frances Vyse, President 1994 - 1996

Frances is a geographer by training and while living in Victoria, she was involved with a number of nature-oriented groups such as ENQUAL (Environmental Quality), unaware at the time of the Victoria Natural History Society. Frances moved to Williams Lake in 1974 where she became a member of the FBCN after joining the Williams Lake Field Naturalists Society in 1975. Her keen interest in exploring the outdoors, along with the Tuesday morning Club walks with experts in their field, soon led her down a long and interesting career in natural history.

To this day, the FBCN Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in Williams Lake in 1978 stands out in Frances' mind as an influential turning-point for her long-term involvement in the FBCN, primarily because of the opportunity to meet and befriend many members of the Executive and other clubs that were of such a similar mindset.

She remembers, with fondness, driving with Bert Brink and his wife Ruth in their car across Becher's Prairie, west of Williams Lake, to the next stop on the AGM field trip at the Junction Range. Bert talked with excitement about the grasslands that they were passing through; but on several occasions, he would come to a screeching halt. Ruth would jump out of the car and run to pick up a bunch of carelessly discarded beer bottles from the ditches. Frances was awe-struck. It immediately took her back a few years when she lived in Victoria and used to go with her own son to help sort bottles and cans at the recycling depot. Bert had talked about the need to recycle bottles and how FBCN had taken action to make bottle refund legislation a reality (achieved 1970). As supporting evidence of one of the benefits of recycling, Bert explained to Frances that Ruth used the money from cashed-in bottles that they had accumulated through their travels around the province to purchase antiques. Now that's some positive action taken as a result of a guiding principle!

AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT A VISION CAN ACCOMPLISH

In some regards, Frances got on the 'right' trail because she was in the right place at the right time; or, perhaps because she was a *Jenny on the spot*. Almost immediately after moving to Williams Lake, Frances got her feet very wet with a project that involved the opening and running of the Nature House at Scout Island Nature Centre.

The Town of Williams Lake primarily occupies land north and south of Williams Lake Creek. To the southeast of the Town, and in the lake itself, is Scout Island. Scout Island is comprised of three islands at the outflow into the Creek on the west end of Williams Lake. An industrial site and two busy highways separate the Nature Centre from the Town core. The island features a variety of natural habitats including lakeshore, marsh, islands, treed areas and grasslands.

In 1968, the town council had decided to fill in the marsh as they felt it was of no value. Concerned citizens wanted to protect the marsh as a sensitive wildlife habitat (migratory birds, spiders, snakes, marmots, bluebunch wheatgrass, etc.). In the meantime, however, the Town had already built a causeway along the lake edge of the marsh to Scout Island to access their campground on the island, and they wanted to expand the camping area into the marsh. The causeway – as causeways are now known to do - blocked the natural movement of water through the marsh and was changing the ecosystem.

The Regional District and the Town of Williams Lake made a request to the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) to conduct a study of the ecological significance of the west end of Williams Lake, with a special emphasis on the marsh. The CWS assigned one of their wildlife biologists, RD (Bob) Harris, to do a study. Bob's 1972 report identified the significance of, and the need to protect, the marsh and surrounding areas. He recommended enhancement of the marsh and encouraged development of the area into a valuable nature education place for the community.

After the Harris Report was received, the Regional District and the Town approached the newly formed National Second Century Fund of BC (now The Nature Trust of BC) to purchase the property. The property was purchased from the Town and then a lease was signed between the National Second Century Fund of BC and the Town in 1973. The lease outlined the conditions under which the land would be protected as an ecological area and in turn be developed into a nature education facility. The money that the Town received from the National Second Century Fund of BC was to be used specifically for the development of the area.

Was the Town, however, prepared to manage the property as a nature centre? Ducks Unlimited came to the short-term rescue and installed two culverts in the causeway to re-establish movement and flow of water through the marsh. They also built a log building with a rooftop viewing area, but the organization had no intentions of running the facility. After much soul-searching the Williams Lake Field Naturalists decided that they would offer to manage the area, centred on a Nature House in the new log building. The Naturalists made a presentation to the Town Council and their offer was accepted. Bert Hoffmeister, Chairman of The National Second Century Fund of BC, informed the Town that the Williams Lake Naturalists Club would sublease and manage the Nature Centre property. A Scout Island Nature Centre Committee was set up within the Naturalists Club.

Frances took on the role of volunteer administrator for the new Nature Centre. Many lessons were learned from the Williams Lake Field Naturalists' project and Frances is still very proud of both her, and the Club's, accomplishments. She recalls how the members of the Club worked together and matured as a team under the leadership of their President, Fred McMechan, while all the time knowing that the Federation stood steadfastly behind them to provide a helping voice or hand when necessary. While a member of the Williams Lake Field Naturalists Club, Frances served as the FBCN Regional Vice-President for the Cariboo Region from 1975-1980; as well as representing the Williams Lake Field Naturalists Club as their Director to the FBCN from 1981-1985.

The Vyse family moved to Kamloops in 1985 where both she and her husband joined the Kamloops Naturalists Club. Speaking of family affairs, her husband Alan held down the Director's position with the Kamloops Club for several years along with several other roles to assist the Club. It was not long before they were both involved in local activities and projects.

One activity that Frances had been very familiar with in Williams Lake also grated on the minds of the Kamloops Naturalist Club, to such an extent that it prompted them to submit a resolution to the FBCN AGM in 1981: be it resolved that "the FBCN urge the provincial Minister of Environment to enact legislation that would govern licensing and use of ATVs as a priority issue". In 1976, area had been designated for ATV use in the Lac du Bois grasslands, north of a parcel of private land, with no formally designated ATV access to it. ATVs were playing havoc on the private land and damaging grassland and forested ecosystems.

The challenge of ATV use and environmental damage was not news to Frances. She had been involved with similar endeavours with motor bikers in Williams Lake, prior to moving to Kamloops. Through the FBCN, she advocated that the provincial government introduce ATV Legislation to govern licensing and use. After 15 years of lobbying by FBCN and several other concerned provincial organisations, the Ministry of Environment transferred the responsibility for ATV Legislation to the Solicitor General: a draft amendment was introduced to the Motor Vehicle Act (1992) to enact the necessary legislation that would require the licensing of all-terrain vehicles and the prominent display of a license number. Finally, there was some progress; however, the ATV users were still not sticking to the designated area. So the lobbying continued.

The ATV Legislation did not become law until 2014: all Off-Road Vehicles are now required to have a visible license plate or registration decal. Almost 40 years to get this legislation in place! For Frances - that's called 'staying power' to make sure the job gets done. Now imagine the amount of damage already done to the Kamloops grassland and forested ecosystems during the same time frame. How many other ecosystems throughout the province of BC are caught in similar predicaments?

In 1986 the Ministry of Forests initiated a Local Resource Use Planning Committee to oversee activities in the larger Lac du Bois – Dewdrop area and Frances was asked to be the Club representative. Through regular meetings of a wide variety of stakeholders, a draft plan was created that pulled together as much knowledge as possible about the area on the northern boundary of the City of Kamloops. Cattle management was of particular concern to many participants, especially in sensitive ecosystem areas. Seasonal movement of cattle was already controlled by use of pasture fencing and was regularly refined to ensure that the special natural values of the grasslands were protected as much as possible.

Evolving out of the ATV challenge, the Kamloops Naturalists Club and FBCN's Land for Nature project co-hosted a very successful workshop in 1991 titled "Endangered Spaces Project: Land for Nature in the Kamloops Area." Frances co-coordinated the workshop, with the help of Nora Layard, Project Coordinator of the larger FBCN

Land for Nature Project. 'Spaces' were identified as landscape, grassland, forest, or riparian areas in and around Kamloops. The purpose of the workshop was to identify natural areas that were ecologically sensitive and then determine ways to protect them from the thousands of recreational users. Initially, 110 endangered spaces had been listed by the Club but workshop participants identified an additional 27; bringing the total to 137 spaces in need of protection. A follow-up report was created and a community public meeting on Endangered Spaces was held in Kamloops in 1992. (See Chapter 7. Projects).

Because the Lac du Bois grasslands are so close to the city it has always been an area of interest, especially for the more environmentally friendly residents of Kamloops. In 1981, Karen McLaren and Kenna Cartwright, both members of the Kamloops Naturalists Club, co-authored the book entitled *Treasures of Lac du Bois* (edited by Alistair McLean). Dr. Bert Brink wrote a précis of the book:

Lac du Bois range is adjacent to urban Kamloops. It embraces some of the most varied grassland, forest and animal life in our Province. Man's use of the range is recorded, much of it by personal comment and anecdotes from old timers. Geology, climate, soil, vegetation and wildlife are presented in easy terms..... (1981).

With this early publication, The Kamloops Naturalists Club was obviously well-ahead of many other clubs in its awareness of the local, ecologically sensitive landscapes.

Through attendance at many of the FBCN AGMs and FGMs, Frances' circle of friends and influence began to grow. And change was on the horizon – both at the FBCN and in the provincial government. As it happens (does anyone see it coming?), Frances was soon nominated for the position of FBCN Vice-President. She served as Vice-President from 1992-1994, first along side of Vice-President Daphne Solecki when Jude Grass was President and again along side of Sandra Kinsey when Daphne became President (1993). Frances followed Daphne, stepping into the position of FBCN President from 1994-1996. As she surmised in the early days of her Presidency, the Vice-President position provided her with invaluable experience that taught her the intricacies of the operation of the FBCN but as she noted:

was not sure that anything prepares a person for the job of President – except the experience gained on the job.

Frances saw her job as President being analogous to a 'Director of the Fleet' while knowing full well that a lot of other hands were needed to keep the HMCS FBCN afloat. On several occasions in her communication to the Club members, Frances noted the struggle to find people to fill the needed Executive positions. Yet, there was plenty of work to be done. Having worked with Daphne Solecki and Syd Cannings on the FBCN Restructuring Committee, it was now her turn to act on the many recommendations from feedback solicited from Club members. Her primary goal in the President's role was to

build on the changes that Daphne has initiated to create an organization that is responsive to the needs of its member Clubs while also serving in our provincial conservation and education roles.

(See Appendix 14. Communication and Restructuring to Meet Demand, 1989 - 1996).

Firstly, Frances and the reconstituted Executive Committee took steps to bring the Federation to the Clubs by moving towards Regional Directors' Meetings, rather than the Club Directors and Regional Coordinators from all over the province travelling great distances to meet at one location in Vancouver. By instigating this transition, the FBCN strived to help Clubs feel included in FBCN activities and decision-making, to give Clubs a more direct way of getting help for local issues and to assist in facilitating communication and networking amongst Clubs. Regional Directors' Meetings would be held on the same weekend in each Region. Each Region would receive the same FBCN Agenda for each meeting, as well as planning a portion of the meeting time to discuss regional and local issues. Regional Coordinators would then report back to the Executive Committee with minutes, reports, local concerns, etc., from the meeting. The Regional Meetings would be open to all Club members but only Club Directors could vote on FBCN issues.

Frances anticipated that there would be some teething problems with the transition. The long-term expectation, however, was that Clubs and members would feel more in touch with what their Federation was doing on their behalf and, as the regions grew stronger the well-organized Clubs would be able to work together to solve their own problems. The savings in travel costs and Directors' time alone were well worth the restructuring effort. Ironing out the kinks in the Regional Meeting system took time. It was well into 1996 when Audrey Hoeg became President that a more smoothly functioning Regional Meeting system was developed, with policies in place, and with proper support from the FBCN Office and the Executive Committee.

CORDILLERA, A JOURNAL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA NATURAL HISTORY

The Restructuring Committee recommendations highlighted communication as an area needing work. Frances focused on another aspect of the short fall in communication:

the FBCN doesn't blow its horn enough, doesn't inform the public at large about the Federation, or endeavour to make itself more visible.

To help remedy and improve communication, Frances proposed FBCN go ahead with the publication of *Cordillera, A Journal of British Columbia Natural History*, as an excellent showpiece for the Federation. The idea for the journal was seeded by Syd Cannings in 1990. Rick Howie of the Kamloops Naturalists Club worked for several years collecting articles until in late 1992, the journal production was put on hold until sufficient funding could be secured to cover printing costs.

Frances became involved with the production of the first edition of the journal in 1992. In 1993, she was asked by the Executive Committee to revitalize the project and became the Managing Editor with an Editorial Committee in Kamloops. Frances took naturally to the challenge of this position. Her genuine interests in nature and writing were nicely complemented by working with naturalists as potential contributors to the journal who were literally seething with knowledge and experience. Writing was already a large part of Frances' life in her position as a contract Park Planner for BC Parks and creator of interpretive signage, as well as the editor of the *Outdoors* column for the Kamloops Daily News. Frances even contributed her own article to *Cordillera*, *Water Smartweed and the Bluets*, *A Psychedelic Display of Nature*.

Although one issue of the journal was fully prepared and ready to go, printing costs were still an issue. The first edition of *Cordillera* finally 'hatched' in March 1994 with the intent to produce two issues per year. *Cordillera* was a well-received journal rich in information about British Columbia's lavish natural history with articles authored by individuals (scientists and amateurs, alike) from all over the province. Naturalists tend to be generous people but it would seem that there is a definite limit when talking about money. Sadly, the enthusiasm for the journal dwindled and without sufficient subscription numbers or funds to cover costs, the last issue of *Cordillera* was published in 1999.

Perhaps worth noting, however, is that there may have been external factors involved in the demise of the journal. *Cordillera* was facing stiff competition for articles and authors from the expanded *BC Naturalist* Magazine and the new *British Columbia* Magazine. Regardless, *Cordillera* had great potential that unknowingly was destined for a short life.

PROJECTS

During the period of BC's history between 1992 and 1998 when Frances was in the FBCN Vice-President, President and Past President positions, she found it an exciting time to be a naturalist. There was a lot happening on the conservation front with inter-organization cooperation and collaboration that included both government agencies and non-government organizations. As an example, FBCN's flagship project – Land for Nature (LFN) – was already in high gear in Kamloops. The Kamloops Naturalists Club was one of the earlier FBCN clubs to contribute to the LFN information bases about wildlife species and habitat requirements in BC. Frances was already coordinating the Kamloops LFN project, developing lists for important environmentally sensitive areas (ESA) in their region. The Club continued to develop profiles of these ESAs and to prepare base maps showing current protected areas, proposed parks and wilderness areas and ESAs identified by Ducks Unlimited and the Ministry of Environment (MOE).

Conversations on conservation-versus-industry topics were not new but rather had begun in 1988 with a conference known as Dunsmuir I, named for the Dunsmuir Lodge conference centre north of Victoria where the meetings were held. Dunsmuir

I was one of many projects that stemmed out of the provincial Environment and Economy Task Force (the international Bruntland Commission Report). (See Chapter 7. Projects). Dunsmuir I, II and III, attended by a group of some 38 organizations, was a grass-roots province-wide movement interested in the development of a provincial Land Use Strategy to manage BC's resources in a sustainable manner (i.e., reducing clear-cut size, retaining natural values, protecting water bodies, etc.) while minimizing conflict with industry by resolving the many land use battles. The FBCN was a member of the organizing committee for the Dunsmuir conferences and the 1992 conference. In 1996, Frances received funding from the FBCN Foundation (now BC Naturalists' Foundation) to attend the Dunsmuir III conference along with three other FBCN representatives: Audrey Hoeg, Tony Embleton and Greg Ross. Frances also served on the Dunsmuir III Steering Committee.

Frances made a passionate plea for the recognition of the special natural values throughout the province, and the need for protecting them into the future. Dunsmuir III set the stage for the creation of the Commission on Resources and Environment (CORE; also known as The Stephen Owen Commission) that developed land use plans in three of the most contentious areas of the province – Vancouver Island, the Cariboo and the Kootenays.

In 1993, Frances gave a presentation at the annual meeting of the BC Cattlemen's Association that promoted the understanding and co-operation between naturalists and the ranching community. The Kamloops Naturalists Club, with assistance from the new FBCN LFN Project Manager, Bob Purdy, worked with the City of Kamloops Parks and Recreation Commission on environmentally sensitive areas within the City limits.

Somehow, Frances found herself smack in the middle of major discussions to develop and establish land use strategies for the province. She clearly remembers the many conflicts throughout the province that arose in the 1980s and 1990s over land use and protection of resources. If the Kamloops LFN projects were at all contentious, they were user-friendly compared to what was going on elsewhere in the province. Those conflicts often resulted in vicious conversations between naturalists, other concerned conservation-oriented groups, and industry. Frances recollects that many of the conversations were filled with

viscerally horrible accusations coming from forest companies, especially on the coast.

Closer to home, the Kamloops Land Resource Management Plan (LRMP) negotiations were somewhat more polite. A consensus on boundaries for areas designated for logging combined with areas designated for protected areas was finally reached in a far more civil manner thanks to the many skills of Dr. Tom Dickinson of Thompson Rivers University, President of Kamloops Naturalists Club at that time.

Frances spoke of credit where credit is due when it came to the "The Mod Squad". The Mod Squad was an inter-organization team of representatives of the Federation of British Columbia Naturalists, British Columbia Wildlife Federation, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Earthlife Canada Foundation, East Kootenay Environmental Society and the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC. The Mod Squad, on behalf of 200,000 members of conservation and outdoor recreation organizations throughout BC made a presentation to the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks in 1994 to endorse the establishment of a system of protected areas throughout BC, stating that a minimum of 12% was required to protect "viable, representative examples of natural diversity in the province". The Mod Squad supported the new land-use classification—Regionally Significant Lands (RSL)—and recommended that a system of protected areas should be based on regional representation of both conservation and recreation values with conservation receiving priority.

The Mod Squad went on to offer solutions for various problems that included Fisheries, Wildlife and Habitat Protection; Ecosystem Stewardship; The Role of Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources in the Protected Areas Strategy; Marine Protected Areas; Commission on Resources and Environment (CORE); Vancouver Island Land Use Plan; and, Kamloops Region Protected Areas Strategy (PAS). It is staggering, if not depressing, to see similar topics still being debated, discussed, and some delayed 20 years later. Nonetheless, the groundwork was set for a while at least, and a conservation ethic was more commonplace.

Another project of interest to Frances was that of Naturescape British Columbia. This project grew out of the Stewardship '94 Conference in Vancouver that was co-sponsored by FBCN when Daphne Solecki was the Conservation Chair. A partnership agreement was signed by BC Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, Wildlife Habitat Canada, the Habitat Conservation Fund and Environment Canada (Canadian Wildlife Service) to support a three-year Stewardship Pledge Program. The goal of the Stewardship Pledge Program was to protect biodiversity values through voluntary private land stewardship.

One of the associated pilot programs was the Backyard Habitat Stewardship Project established in 1995 to address the needs of wildlife in the urban landscape. The Backyard Habitat Stewardship Project morphed into Naturescape and the FBCN representatives on the Naturescape Development Committee were Sylvia Pincott (Central Valley Naturalists Club, now Abbotsford-Mission Naturalists) and Paulette Anderson (Central Okanagan Naturalists Club). Naturescape was a program that took the name of the Federation and its goals of conservation into everyone's homes. It provided the more active gardening members of FBCN an opportunity to spread the message about the joys of developing backyard habitat for wildlife. Training Kits were developed that provided helpful information on establishing a naturescape garden that might include orchard mason bees, butterflies and moths, amphibians and birds.

Frances has continued to be active in the FBCN and Kamloops Naturalists' Club. As recently as 2003, she coordinated the Dry Forest Ecosystems Symposium that was held at the FBCN AGM in Kamloops. The symposium was hosted by the FBCN, the

Kamloops Naturalists' Club and the Biology Department of the University College of the Cariboo (now Thompson Rivers University) and sponsored by the FBCN and Forrex (Forest Research Extension Partnership). The symposium addressed the processes that influence dry forest ecosystems of the BC southern interior, issues faced by managers of these forest ecosystems, and management options available to address the issues. Coincidentally, the Symposium was succeeded by several major fires north of Kamloops, near Chase, near Cache Creek and near Boston Bar that occurred in the summer of 2003: what several symposium speakers had referred to as the one-in-150-year events. (See Appendix 10. Roundtables, Conferences and Workshops).

THE NATURALIST GEOGRAPHER

Frances feels privileged to have been a part of the FBCN and all of the great work that had been done by the many Presidents before her. She greatly enjoyed the camaraderie of the members – the FBCN was like a big family. Her geography background and interests were always refreshed and enhanced just by travelling around the province to attend the many AGMs and FGMs. What could be more exciting than to learn about nature, natural history of species and protecting our natural resources so that everyone could enjoy them?!

AWARDS

In 1986, Frances was presented with a FBCN Club Service Award as one of the driving forces behind the Scout Island Nature House project while a member of the Williams Lake Field Naturalists Club. In 1996, Frances received the Elton Anderson Award. Frances has *served the Federation with energy, dedication, and devotion in order to further its aims*. The Awards Committee commended her leadership of the FBCN as President, her efforts to protect the Lac du Bois Grasslands and to establish ATV Legislation, and her contributions as Managing Editor of *Cordillera*.

After her term as FBCN President, Frances became a Director of the BC Naturalists Foundation in 1996. She was Foundation Chair from 1997-2003, returning to the Foundation Board as a Director in 2009 to 2014. In her 1997 FBCN Foundation Report regarding 1996 initiatives supported by the Foundation, Frances iterated the phrase - *Defend the beachheads of success and move forward*.

In private conversations, the Foundation Directors had been told that the present government had three items on their agenda: health, education and personal safety and that urban sustainability planning was about a year away. The Directors were also informed:

that the FBCN continues to have the respect of government, to keep up the work we are doing throughout the province and be prepared to have to keep working for years to come.

It seemed that the work of the FBCN would never end.

As the Past President, Frances continued to work on sustaining Parks and Protected Areas, well into 1997 and 1998. Frances steadfastly pursued government officials to at least license ATV vehicles such that even with the continuous reduction in government enforcement, stewards of the land could still report and photograph ATV activity that causes so much undue damage to sensitive environments. That pursuit was finally realized in 2014 after some 37 years of effort!! As the final touches were being made to this article, Frances received word through a monthly newsletter from an interior bank, of the licensing requirements for ATVs (March 2015).

Frances was a member of the Forest Practices Board from 1996-98, the independent body that receives complaints from the public, does audits of compliance and enforcement of the Forest Practices Code, reports the findings of these and other special reports and investigations to the public. While not specifically representing naturalists on the Board, she took every opportunity to encourage foresters to appreciate the natural values of the forests that they were managing, to have a lighter touch on our forest lands, and to initiate efforts to minimise disturbance in forestry operations.

In retrospect, Frances appreciates that her work at the Scout Island Nature Centre gave her a special insight into the importance and challenges of protecting special natural areas in the province. She joined the Board of The Nature Trust of BC in 1998 and served until 2008. She was involved in decisions regarding property purchases, land transfers, and, especially, management decisions of some very exciting and precious areas: the South Okanagan grasslands, Cowichan River estuary, Englishman River estuary, the Hoodoos property in the east Kootenays, and Roderick Haig-Brown Park, to name only a few.

Closer to home, Frances is a member of the Board of her local Valleyview Community Association. The community includes the large area of silt cliffs on the south side of the South Thompson valley east of Kamloops, an area that has been declared a hazard zone in City plans. Frances has applied her knowledge and experience in managing natural areas to assist the community and the City in planning and protecting this amazing area of Kamloops.

Positions

Williams Lake Field Naturalists, Kamloops Field Naturalists and FBCN

Williams Lake Field Naturalists

1975-1980 FBCN Regional Vice-President for Cariboo Region
1981-1985 FBCN Director for the Williams Lake Field Naturalists
1975-1985 Coordinator of many projects for Williams Lake including Scout Island Nature Centre

Kamloops Field Naturalists

1985 to present Member and coordinator of many projects

FBCN (now BC Nature)

1992-1994 FBCN Vice-President
1994-1996 FBCN President
1996-1999 Dunsmuir III Steering Committee
1994-1999 Managing Editor, *Cordillera, A Journal of British Columbia Natural History*

BC Naturalists Foundation

1996-1997 BC Naturalists Foundation Director
1997-2003 BC Naturalists Foundation Chair
2009-2015 BC Naturalists Foundation Director

Other Board Positions

1996-1998 Forest Practices Board
1998-2008 Nature Trust of BC Board

REFERENCES

BC Naturalist Newsletter. 1994-1996. Vol, 32, No 4 through Vol 34, No 3. FBCN.

Audrey Hoeg, President 1996 - 1998

Audrey Hoeg brought extensive experience with her when she accepted the FBCN President's position. She had almost 30 years of practice chairing meetings, organizing agendas, obtaining speakers, working with both the Thompson-Okanagan and Vancouver Island Regions, meeting with and working with, various government people. She had attended the FBCN Annual General Meetings (AGM) every year, as well as the Fall General Meetings (FGM). As an FBCN Regional Coordinator, she attended Directors meetings and then also Executive meetings. These experiences provided her with a broad foundation of how the FBCN operated, with the added benefit of meeting many like-minded naturalists from all over the province; but let's start at the beginning.

Audrey joined the North Okanagan Naturalists Club (NONC) in Vernon in 1967. Shortly after joining the club, she was asked to become an FBCN 'Delegate'. As such she attended the June 3, 1969 milestone meeting in Kamloops, with Elton Anderson as Chair, where the BC Nature Council was formally incorporated under the Societies Act as the Federation of British Columbia Naturalists (FBCN). For several years after that notable event, the FBCN AGM meetings continued to be held in Kamloops (1973, 1974, 1975, 1976). It was Elton Anderson's idea to have the meetings in a more central location in the province so that a broader representation of members could attend. Audrey usually attended these meetings as a Delegate from NONC.

While a member of NONC, Audrey served as Chair of the Conservation Committee, later as Vice-President, and eventually became the President of the Club. In 1975 when the Environment and Land Use Committee of the BC Government decided to set up Regional offices for Forestry, Fish and Wildlife, etc., the FBCN decided to adopt a similar Regional approach to its operations. The seven regions were Omineca-Peace, Skeena, Caribou, Kootenay, Thompson-Okanagan, Lower Mainland, and Vancouver Island. The FBCN leaders of these Regions were called Regional Vice-Presidents; the term Regional Coordinator came later. Audrey was asked to be the Regional Vice-President for the Thompson-Okanagan from approximately 1975-1979 and as such she set up a Regional Council comprised of members of all seven clubs in that region.

The Regional Council held regular meetings and organized the first Regional FGM that was a great success (after having been on a brief hiatus in the late 1970s). These clubs continued to host the FGMs well into the 1980s (e.g., Naramata, Grand Forks, Vernon, Oliver, Kamloops). Audrey recalls that her "partners-in-crime" when the FBCN transitioned to the Regional organization, included Frances Vyse, serving as the Regional Coordinator for the Cariboo Region, Bill Merilees for the Kootenay Region, Madelon Schouten for the Lower Mainland, and Neil Dawe for the Vancouver Island Region.

Audrey moved from Vernon to Duncan on Vancouver Island in 1986 where she joined the Cowichan Valley Naturalists Club. Once again, she served as Chair of the Conservation Committee, then Vice-President before moving on up to the

President's position. From 1993-1996, she became the Regional Coordinator for Vancouver Island and chaired regular meetings for the Regional Council that were held in Nanaimo. She stepped down from the Regional Coordinator position when she was asked to stand for President of the FBCN in 1996.

CHALLENGES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As is so often the case with difficult challenges they can, through steadfast perseverance, lead to important accomplishments. Right from the get-go, Audrey had her share of administrative challenges, what with vacancies in several key positions including Recording Secretary, Chair of the Conservation Committee, Chair of the Education Committee, and Camp Coordinator. Those vacancies posed obstacles, but the Federation's finances were what raised the greatest concern and attention. Money does not grow on trees, there is only so much of it to go around, and whether it involves an individual, family, business or society, it can at times be a struggle to stay afloat.

In that regard, and undoubtedly, the greatest and most time-consuming challenge for Audrey centered on the Land for Nature (LFN) Program. The LFN Program had established its roots in 1991 with one Coordinator and one project. By 1996 when Audrey came to office, the LFN Program was in full swing with one Director, six Coordinators and one Project Assistant for several dozen projects. The LFN initiative was designed to work with clubs and community groups to establish programs and projects to identify and protect critical habitat that was increasingly threatened by urban growth and development.

Over this five-year period, significant progress and results were achieved. All LFN activities, including the contracted positions, were financed through grants that were funded by various government agencies, both Provincial and Federal, and in some cases, private foundations. Although the management of these projects was for the most part successful, by the mid 1990s, its scale had grown very large and its budget was larger than the FBCN budget. Some projects were mismanaged and financially some grants were overspent before even being received. The situation forced the ending of all province-wide projects under the LFN Program umbrella in 1997 and the local projects were eventually completed over the next few years, some by volunteers.

In this regard, the main accomplishment for Audrey during her tenure was keeping the FBCN afloat through the significant financial losses incurred from the LFN projects. In 1997, the LFN Management Advisory Committee (MAC) was established to administer the LFN funds and new software was purchased to facilitate the accounting and auditing of the many projects. FBCN's reputation, however, had suffered and Audrey had to placate and re-establish trustful working relationships with not only club members but also with individual funding agencies around the province. At the end of the day, most grant conditions were fulfilled for the projects.

A second challenge for Audrey in 1996 arose with the realization that there were insufficient funds to carry the FBCN through to the end of the year. Various actions were taken to cut back on operational expenses. Publication of the *BC Naturalist* that cost \$20,000/year to publish and mail, was reduced from six issues to four issues for 1997. Several fund-raising measures were put in place, such as a Mohawk credit card that provided a 3% return to FBCN; raffles; and formation of a Ways and Means Committee that could raise money to support Directors expenses and administration, etc. These efforts, however, did not solve the problem and the dreaded issue of raising membership fees surfaced once again. It had just been a short while back, in 1992, when the membership fees had been increased by \$4 per adult member, raising the membership fee to \$10 per adult member during the presidency of Syd Cannings.

Audrey found herself with few options but to increase the FBCN fees by another \$2 per member. Although this increase seemed small and did not even cover the cost of a cup of coffee, Audrey faced a terrible dilemma. Several clubs, the Vancouver Natural History Society, the Victoria Natural History Society and the Nanaimo Field Naturalists threatened to drop out of the FBCN because of the proposed \$2 fee increase. If these clubs had dropped out of the FBCN, its membership of 5000 would have dropped by about 1800 members – approximately 1000 from Vancouver and 800 from Victoria. Audrey was greatly concerned that such a large loss of members would cause the FBCN to fold.

The argument of Vancouver's club was that it would cost them \$2000, which was true, but each member only had to pay \$2 more as did every member in the whole province. Audrey recognized, however, that the \$2 may have been more of a hardship for the smaller clubs in small towns where it represented a higher percentage of their total income.

Audrey attended meetings of all three clubs and worked hard to convince the members that the increase in fees was necessary and that it was important to keep the FBCN strong so as to benefit all the clubs in the province. Fortunately, in 1997 the majority of FBCN members voted for the proposed increase in membership fee from \$10 to \$12, settling the dispute and providing the finances necessary to run the FBCN Office and ensuring continued communication with the Directors and Clubs. As unpleasant as these experiences may be, and as demoralizing as they can be to the hardworking people who are dedicated and committed to the FBCN, fund-raising for most non-profit organizations is a necessary, long-term priority.

Another challenge for Audrey, and perhaps a sign of the times in the mid-1990s, was identified at a BC Forum on Parks in 1997. Co-sponsored by CPAWS-BC Chapter and the Greater Vancouver Regional District, the Forum registered >200 participants including some 50 naturalists and conservation groups, as well as various levels of government. At the centre of the matter was funding! BC Parks was diminishing its funding support for park services and visitor enjoyment. BC Parks had a 50% increase in area and 6% cut in budget; GVRD Parks had a 25% increase in area, 23% increase in public use, and no increases in tax-based funding in the preceding three years.

Community-based partnering initiatives were underway in many parts of BC to assist with addressing the concerns about adequate interpretation and education, ecological integrity, and conservation and recreational challenges. As one of the registrants, Parks approached the FBCN to participate in a "Memorandum of Understanding" that unfortunately sounded as though Parks was going to use the Naturalist Clubs around the province to do most of the work in the Parks for free to compensate for the diminishing funds available for Parks' staff. When Audrey approached the FBCN Clubs, their response was clear. The Clubs all had members who were willing to do some volunteer work for Parks, but they expected the Parks Branch to pay for Naturalist Interpreters, for Park Rangers, and for maintenance staff, etc. When brought to a vote, the Clubs voted down the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding, but not before Audrey had a personal visit at home by Parks staff who were intent on encouraging the FBCN Clubs to become involved!

CHANGES

At the beginning of her term in 1996, Audrey mentioned that

One of our first tasks will be to develop the regional meeting system so that it is functioning smoothly, with policies in place and with the proper support from the Office and the Executive Committee. As each region becomes strong and well organized the clubs will be able to work together to solve their own problems. In addition, the regions should be generating ideas and suggestions for actions to be taken by the Federation.

(See Appendix 14. Communication and Restructuring to Meet Demand, 1989 to 1996).

In January of 1997, a proposal was put forth to the FBCN clubs and members to amend the FBCN Constitution and Bylaws on items governing the Board of Directors, responsibilities of the Board, Officers of the Society, vacancies, financial benefits and fiduciary responsibilities of Directors, and responsibilities of the Executive Committee of the Board. As Vice-President Nils Hoeg had noted, some extensive re-structuring of the Federation had been implemented over the previous two-year period and this had instigated the need for changes in the way the Federation conducted its business. Previously, the Executive Committee made recommendations to the Board for decisions to be made; the proposed amendments essentially reversed the process thereby increasing efficiency, etc. For example, the status of Regional Coordinators had changed over the years from initially only giving reports at the FGMs, to participating in Directors' meetings, and then to actually being included in the Executive Committee.

To this end, one amendment allowed elected or designated Regional Coordinators (who were not FBCN Directors) to have the same rights and privileges as the elected or designated FBCN Directors. Having been a Regional Coordinator for several clubs, Audrey appreciated that the amendments gave the Regional Coordinators more influence. This was important as it was the Coordinators who

were running their regions and had a good handle on what the main issues were therein.

Amendments to Bylaws by Special Resolutions in 1998 resolved several perceived inequities in the FBCN voting system (including proxy voting), membership dues, and quorums that had been raised previously by the Vancouver Natural History Society and Victoria Natural History Society.

Using the *BC Naturalist* Newsletter as another information vehicle, Audrey worked hard to inform the Federated Clubs and members of the many Federation activities undertaken by the Executive and the progress that was being made on their behalf (e.g., "The Federation is Working for You"). During her last year in office, she began including a Wish List for 1998; goals for which the Federated Clubs could strive.

One such goal was a Strategic Plan that had concrete action steps to guide the Federation forward. Thanks to the capable, hard-working team of Anne Murray, Daphne Solecki, Frances Vyse and John Brady, a draft paper was provided before Audrey's term ended.

During her term and with her dedicated team, Audrey felt that the FBCN had made a number of important contributions to reviews and development of many government strategies (e.g., BC Parks Memorandum of Understanding; BC Parks Legacy workshops; Land Resource Management Plans (LRMP) projects; development of Private Land Stewardship and Land Trusts, etc.); preparation of plans to develop the Important Bird Area Projects in conjunction with the Canadian Nature Federation; and, the BC Naturescape Ambassador Project, to name a few. The latter program interested Audrey, as it involved a networking process that was designed to ensure that naturalists, educators, and people with a variety of talents and interests received the benefit of training in exchange for a 'commitment' to pass the Naturescape message on to the community. (See Chapter 7. Projects).

There were two people during Audrey's Presidency whom she could not thank enough for all of the hard work that they did for the Federation, and that made her life easier: Leslie-Ann Drummond, the "Oh So Magnificent" Office Manager, and Ross McCutcheon, the FBCN lawyer.

PERSPECTIVE

Audrey sees the FBCN as being very important to the many clubs in the province. It provides a unifying force, a source of information on things such as grants, a wonderful newsletter that is loaded with information and best of all, the AGMs and FGMs at a variety of locations around the province that provide the opportunity for naturalists to get together to discuss issues and make new friends.

A hard-earned experience that Audrey gained from funding received from grants, was learning the details (what was covered, what was not) and how to best manage

them effectively and efficiently so that the programs for which they were obtained, received the most benefit.

What Audrey enjoyed most about her involvement with the FBCN was the chance to meet so many really wonderful people and the chance to visit other parts of the province and to be shown special places with local guides who are willing to share their delight.

How appropriate that Audrey Hoeg was awarded the Elton Anderson Award for outstanding service to the FBCN in 1998; 31 years after joining the NONC and 29 years after first meeting and working with Elton as a NONC Delegate. Prior to her work with the FBCN, Audrey obtained a degree in math and physics, and worked with radioisotopes in the Cancer research clinic in Vernon.

Positions

NONC, CVNC and FBCN

NONC (North Okanagan Naturalists Club)

1967-1986: Chair of Conservation Committee

Vice-President

President

1969-1976: NONC Delegate to FBCN

1975-1979: FBCN Regional Vice-President for Thompson-Okanagan Region
(now called Regional Coordinator)

CVNC (Cowichan Valley Naturalists Club)

1986 to 1998: Chair of the Conservation Committee

Vice-President

President

1993-1996: FBCN Regional Coordinator for Vancouver Island

FBCN (now BC Nature)

1996-1998 FBCN President

BC Naturalists' Foundation

1999-2002 Treasurer

REFERENCES

BC Naturalist Newsletter. 1996-1998. Vol 34, No 4 through Vol 36, No 2. FBCN.

Appendix 14. Communication and Restructuring to Meet Demand 1989 - 1996

Written by Sheila Byers, based on interviews with five former presidents and review of BC Naturalist Newsletters.

A mere twenty years after the transition of the BC Nature Council to the Federation of BC Naturalists (FBCN) in 1989, more big changes were in the works. But no matter how you look at it, changes are constant in our own personal lives, in Nature, as well as in the societies, federations, or whatever volunteer organization might be formed to protect and conserve Nature.

At this time in the life of FBCN, questions were being raised including: "What does the relationship between the FBCN and the clubs look like? How can that relationship best serve both entities?" These were important questions for the membership to ask and for FBCN to answer; part of a continual relationship-building effort necessary for FBCN and its clubs to survive over the long-term. What was different about this moment-in-time, however, was the need to simultaneously build a strong relationship with the government agencies.

On many fronts, Nature was increasingly being pitted against the economy. The need to establish wilderness areas was becoming urgent amidst the battles, advocacy and vigilance to protect the environment against the constant onslaught and destruction of so many habitats. The government agencies were crying out to naturalists to acquire knowledge on local flora, fauna and their habitats. Knowledge was in big demand. As noted by Syd Cannings in 1989,

Never before has the work of naturalists been so respected by society at large. The government ministries need our help – they have asked us for it repeatedly. So let's put all of our knowledge of natural British Columbia to work!

This was definitely NOT the time for "well-meaning ineffectiveness" in our organization (Malcolm Martin of the North Okanagan Naturalists club).

But everyone knew that the crux of the questions brought forward by its members was communication, or lack thereof. The FBCN needed to do a better job at reaching out to the clubs to get them more involved, assist the clubs in building and sharing their knowledge so as to attain greater effectiveness as an organization, and enable that transferal of member expertise to local, regional and provincial government agencies alike. Who else would better know their local flora and fauna and environmental concerns than club members in their own regions of the Province? There had to be a way to tap into this knowledge resource for the benefit of the FBCN (both as distinct club entities and the Federation as a whole).

THE RUMBLINGS FROM THE FBCN MEMBERS

As a sign of the times and during Syd's first year as President, Bert Brink came to the Education Committee with the suggestion that a statement of identity and goals be drawn up for the Federation. His concern was that the FBCN was getting lost in a sea of other environmental groups. As a consequence, the "public did not really know who we were or what we stood for - why have we naturalists banded together in this way and who are naturalists, anyway?"

The FBCN's simple motto says it all: "to know the outdoors, and to keep it worth knowing". By adopting a clear statement of identity and goals, Bert thought that it would enable the Federation to set priorities on both short and long-term goals. Bert's idea essentially amounted to the early beginnings of a mini Strategic Plan for the Federation. Bert's Statement of Purpose was formally adopted at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Victoria on May 5, 1989.

The Statement of Purpose was the first step in the effort to increase communications between the members and the Federation Board. Acknowledging that without the members there would be no Federation, the Board focused on improving communication to ensure effectiveness of the organization and its ultimate goals. And.... the government agencies kept asking for the assistance of the FBCN!

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

To know the outdoors – and to keep it worth knowing
BC Naturalist Magazine 1989, Volume 27, No 3: 5
by Bert Brink

The Federation of British Columbia Naturalists is a family of naturalist organizations whose twin goals are voiced in its motto. The goals of education and conservation are inextricably bound to one another – we are dedicated to fostering an appreciation and understanding of our natural environment so that it may be wisely used and maintained for future generations. The following is a statement of identity: what we are and what we are not, what we as naturalists in British Columbia believe is important, and how we should further our aims.

Although we recognize that human existence depends upon use of the earth's resources, we also recognize the natural world's inherent values and enjoy and appreciate it for its own sake. Our goals, therefore, have a different and broader perspective than the goals of organizations involved in the consumptive use of nature.

We believe that negotiation and consensus are ways to build a lasting conservation strategy in British Columbia. We therefore believe that, where possible, it is valuable to cooperate with other organizations and the government to further conservation and natural history education in the Province. We will, however, petition governments at all levels to achieve our goals.

As a provincial organization, we are specifically concerned with the natural environments and wild flora and fauna of British Columbia. We acknowledge the paramount role of the Canadian Nature Federation in issues in the national and international domains.

Our membership is open without prejudice to all who share our goals. More specifically, our goals are:

1. to promote the enjoyment and understanding of nature by our members and the public at large by:
 - a) education through field trips, camps, lectures, symposia, publications, and other activities:

- b) fostering the creation of nature centres and nature education programs and defending the integrity of existing facilities and programs.
- 2. to encourage the establishment of protected natural areas, as represented in parks, ecological reserves, wilderness areas, wildlife management areas, wild and scenic rivers, and other such protected areas.
- 3. to defend the integrity of existing sanctuaries by:
 - a) opposing resource extraction in parks and other protected areas;
 - b) exercising constant vigilance against pollution and habitat destruction.
- 4. to promote and engage in the funding and research needed for protecting the integrity of all natural ecosystems.
- 5. to encourage and engage in the protection and restoration of threatened and endangered species, with special attention to the preservation of essential habitats by:
 - a) working for the inclusion of all major habitats in the park or ecological reserve system;
 - b) encouraging and facilitating the reintroduction, where appropriate, of extirpated flora and fauna to their former ranges in the Province;
 - c) encouraging and facilitating the restoration and enhancement of essential habitat.

The next step by the Board to improve communication was to increase the number of volumes of the *BC Naturalist* newsletter printed, from 4 to 6 per year. As editor of the newsletter, Jude Grass was thrilled with this idea and a new section called "RavenTalk" was introduced in the middle pages of the newsletter. It highlighted what the Federation was actively accomplishing. The first entry in the new RavenTalk section of the newsletter (1990) was written by Bert to bring club members up to speed and literally, have all members starting from the same page: "What is the Federation of BC Naturalists?" If the Federation Board wanted more collaboration and knowledge sharing from its member clubs, this was the time to pull the ranks together.

Raven Talk – Your Federation in Action: information, committee reports, projects and concerns.
What is the Federation of BC Naturalists?
By Bert Brink, July 1990

The Federation is a family of some 40 clubs in BC. Its motto is: "To know the outdoors and to keep it worth knowing". That is, there are two foci:

- to learn and to teach about the world about us
- to conserve and to manage our world with wisdom

We have an interest in the education (and recreation) of our members and also, of the larger BC public.

We have an interest in the wise use of our habitat – man and the wide range of animals and plants of BC.....

A little history - about natural history in BC

Naturalists were attached to many of the early exploratory expeditions to our province, naturalists who, then and now, have an interest in, a curiosity bent if you wish, to know more about the land we live in – its rocks, its plants, its animals - and who place a value on knowing and conserving.

The first formal organization was formed in Victoria in 1890. Around the same time clubs were forming in Vancouver and in Vernon.....

The Nature Council was formed in 1963 and soon evolved into the Federation of British Columbia Naturalists.....

A few statistics

- Depending on how membership is determined (family, associates) our membership stands around 5-7,000 persons.
- The FBCN is primarily a family of clubs and the democratic structure is based upon club representation.

-The FBCN has one full time employee – an executive secretary. Our office (small and without a window!)

Some general policy items

What has the FBCN done and what is it doing?

Some Difficulties

(The full text of *What is the Federation of BC Naturalists?* can be found at the end of this Appendix, p.227).

Pressure from the members for more assistance from the Federation was tangible at the biannual AGM and FGM meetings of the clubs from 1989 through 1992. Clubs wanted more assistance with workshops and skill-building, and how to run their clubs if they were to effectively advocate for the environment, conservation and education. Communication is NOT just talking to or at each other, but rather listening and DOING the kinds of things the clubs want and expect from the Federation. Syd decided to increase the length of the AGMs and FGMs from 1 day to 1.5 days.

During these years, pressure in the form of pushback from the members was constant with the announcement from Syd in 1990 that an increase in membership fees was necessary. It was not until 1992 when Jude was in the President's position that the FBCN Directors, who are appointed by the clubs, approved the membership fee increase. It took a lot of myth-busting, however, to convince the members. As Jude pointed out:

Like taxes and death in our lives fee increases are inevitable to any growing society that is trying to serve its clubs or individuals, and that is also developing a public profile showing it to be a responsible and knowledgeable citizen within the community.

The culmination of these communications resulted in a discussion at the 1992 Loon Lake AGM by Syd on a possible restructuring of the Federation, both in the form of Roles and Responsibilities of the Directors, Executive and Member Clubs, as well as the roles of the various committees, and the need for the new committees. To that end, a Restructuring Committee was struck.

THE RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE

The FBCN Directors appointed the Past President Syd Cannings to chair the Restructuring Committee; Syd asked Daphne Solecki and Frances Vyse (the two Vice-Presidents) to assist with developing a workshop for the 1992 Loon Lake AGM.

Why was this necessary? In addition to the communication components identified above, the FBCN membership was continuing to grow, as were the number of associated club activities. The province's size and complex geography and inclement weather also continued to pose great challenges to the FBCN organization and function. For the Federation to remain effective, both internally and externally, it needed to either adapt the present structure to new situations or adopt a new structure.

In 1975, the Provincial Environment and Land Use Committee created seven Resource Management Areas: Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island, Thompson-Okanagan, Peace, Cariboo, North Central, Kootenay. FBCN adopted this new government regional organization by establishing seven Regional Committees to better manage club representation rather than representation from all the individual clubs. Bringing directors from 32 clubs from all over the province into Vancouver for a meeting, once or twice a year, was an expensive and time-consuming endeavour. Each of the Regional Committees had a Regional Coordinator (initially called Regional Vice-President). Regional Coordinators from the seven Regions then became the FBCN contacts, meeting with the Executive Committee whenever necessary. Club Directors, on the other hand, met only once a year at the AGM each Spring (the FGMs became more consistent by 1980).

The seven-region FBCN management system operated between 1983-1987. The regional boundaries were redefined by the Federation several times over the next several decades to best suit locations of regional clubs and landed at five regional areas around 2000.

Substantial constructive feedback from as many members as possible from across the province, solicited directly or through attendance at Loon Lake AGM and Kimberley FGM, addressed wide-ranging topics: communications, directors, executive director, focus of activities, priorities, annual work plan, budget and accountability, executive and directors meetings, regional activities, public relations, raising the FBCN profile, fund-raising, finances and the FBCN Foundation, conservation and education, publications, etc. Daphne and Frances compiled a basic position paper from the suggestions and recommendations. There was a lot of work to be done!

Jude noted that the changes would be phased in gradually over the next year: most of the changes would occur at the committee level with a restructuring of their terms of reference, membership and projects. At the time, no change in constitution was deemed necessary.

FBCN Restructuring Committee

Update by Daphne Solecki and Frances Vyse

BC Nature newsletter 1992 September/October Vol 30 No 5: 13

Mandate: to prepare a position paper on restructuring the FBCN.

Requests for comments and input from club members announced in July/August Newsletter formed a draft paper brought to the Executive on September 2 and then sent to the Club Directors for comment; follow-up discussion to occur at Kimberley FGM and again at Vancouver AGM in 1993.

Summary of main points for discussion:

- 1/ Leadership – How do we make sure we do the right thing?
- 2/ Communication – How do we involve everyone and ensure that our members know about the actions and accomplishments of the Federation and its member clubs?
- 3/ Management – How do we do things right? How do we achieve our goals?

(The full text of the *FBCN Restructuring Committee* can be found at the end of this Appendix, p.230).

With Daphne now in the President's seat, she emphasized her thoughts on the efforts over the previous few years to improve the FBCN administration, restructuring, and communications. Daphne identified the FBCN organizational development goals as summarized in the funding proposals for 1993-1994:

- 1) Continue restructuring process begun in 1992, whereby the FBCN becomes more effective and accountable to its members.
- 2) reinforce the existing regional structure and increase the number of new clubs and inter-regional activities.
- 3) Explore all possible means to increase the participation of outlying clubs in the work of the FBCN's standing committees.

Daphne considered a primary aim of the Federation was to support the efforts and endeavours of individuals and clubs who were accomplishing great strides with important projects, both locally and regionally. She wanted to see all the regions meet twice a year to keep the communication channels wide open. She also encouraged clubs to work on standing committees and to think of communicating as networks.

The persistent questions that arose during the restructuring review and feedback process were "What is or what should be the relationship of clubs and the Federation, how do they relate, how do they serve each other?" Daphne shared this thought-provoking comment at the Thompson-Okanagan regional meeting in 1994:

the clubs are the heart. They are an expression of all we love in the place where we live, a reflection of our personal landscape, the passion we have brought to protecting it. The Federation is the head – we know that as separate entities we cannot be as effective as we can be when we band together, so we make the reasoned decision to join our efforts through belonging to the Federation. With heart and head together we can be harmonious and strong.

Daphne was impressed and inspired by the level of dedication on the part of members of the clubs that she visited over the period encompassing the Restructuring Committee's work. There was no question that protecting Nature was a big job and sometimes overwhelming, especially with what seemed like only a few members or 'activists' willing to take action. As always, Daphne's commitment to Nature was steadfast and her response provocative:

I believe this is changing. For most of the time that the FBCN has been in existence we have concentrated on the first part of our motto 'To Know the Outdoors'. Through field trips and study we have accumulated much knowledge. Now it is imperative that we use that knowledge in service of the second part of the motto and 'keep it worth knowing'. We have a window of opportunity during these next 3-5 years to protect critical habitat in and around areas where we live. All of us know that this opportunity must be seized – or it will never come again. To a great or lesser extent every one of us must become activists.

Although changes never come easily with anything, the remodelled structure and relationship of BC Nature with its many regional clubs was more functional and interactive. The new structural model invited clubs to meet regionally, with each region electing a Regional Coordinator to represent their region at the newly constituted Executive Committee. Quarterly regional meetings provided greater opportunity for club Directors and individuals to regularly attend and to express their opinions and ideas about their own local area, issues and concerns. Regional meetings began with the discussion of necessary FBCN business; then, regional issues became the focus for the balance of the meeting. Decisions taken at these meetings were then forwarded to the Executive Committee.

Daphne's partner in crime on the Restructuring Committee, Frances, fully intended to build on the changes initiated by Daphne to create an organization that is responsive to the needs of its member clubs while still serving the FBCN provincial conservation and education roles. Keeping Director attendance high, especially those from the interior, at the biannual Director's Meetings was a challenge. Frances was hopeful that the restructuring endeavours would help to increase that attendance.

Frances' expectation for the long-term was that clubs and members would feel more in touch with what their Federation was doing on their behalf and, as the regions grew stronger the well-organized clubs would be able to work together to solve their own problems. The savings in travel costs and Directors' time alone were well worth the restructuring effort; but ironing out the kinks in the Regional Meeting system took time.

Regional Directors' Meetings would be held on the same weekend in each Region. Each Region would receive the same FBCN Agenda for each meeting, as well as planning a portion of the meeting time to discuss regional and local issues. Regional Coordinators would then report back to the Executive Committee with minutes, reports, local concerns, etc. from the meeting. The Regional Meetings would be open to all club members but only Club Directors could vote on FBCN issues.

As a result of the restructuring changes, Frances presented a revised version of the FBCN Constitution and Bylaw document at the 1995 AGM. Her take-away from the Restructuring process:

was that the FBCN doesn't blow their horn enough, doesn't inform the public at large about the Federation, or endeavour to make itself more visible.

Frances pushed hard as President to launch the publication of the *Cordillera, A Journal of British Columbia Natural History*, thinking that it was an excellent showpiece for the Federation. In 1996, Frances incorporated the FBCN motto on the front cover the BC Naturalist – the first time it appeared there - to promote the goals of the Federation.

The 1990s also saw strides to meet the demands of clubs for more assistance with workshops and skill-building, and specifically how to be more effective advocates

for the environment, conservation and education. This was well addressed through the active Education and Recreation Committee and the Conservation Committee, as well as the Land for Nature project which saw several workshops beginning in 1990 and held regionally throughout the province over the decade of the 1990s. (See Chapter 7. Projects; Appendix 9. Publications with descriptions of those sixteen workshop publications; and Appendix 10. Roundtables, Conferences and Workshops, many held in the 1990s).

Audrey Hoeg became President in 1996 and by then the Regional Meeting system was functioning smoothly with policies in place, and with proper support from the FBCN Office and the Executive Committee. In January of 1997, Audrey put forth a proposal to the FBCN clubs and members to amend the FBCN Constitution and Bylaws on items governing the Board of Directors, responsibilities of the Board, Officers of the Society, vacancies, financial benefits and fiduciary responsibilities of Directors, and responsibilities of the Executive Committee of the Board. Previously, the Executive Committee made recommendations to the Board of Club Directors for decisions to be made; the proposed amendments essentially reversed the process thereby increasing efficiency, etc.

For example, the status of Regional Coordinators had changed over the years from initially only giving reports at the FGMs, to participating in Directors meetings, and then to actually being included in the Executive Committee. To this end, one amendment allowed elected or designated Regional Coordinators (who were not FBCN Directors) to have the same rights and privileges as the elected or designated FBCN Directors. Having been a Regional Coordinator for several clubs, Audrey appreciated that the amendments gave the Regional Coordinators more influence. This was important as it was the Coordinators who were coordinating their regions and had a good handle on what the main issues were therein.

In the 2010s further changes were made to the Bylaws to rename the Club Directors as Club Representatives and the Executive was renamed the Board of Directors. The Board is now made up of the Officers, Regional Coordinators and Committee Chairs, plus two Directors-at-large. The Club Representatives meet as a Council at the AGM and the FGM and keep in touch with the BC Nature office by regularly reporting their club news, while BC Nature conveys its news to the clubs through monthly emails. Regional meetings continue to be encouraged with clubs - usually two per year are held - with some regions achieving this through phone conference calls. BC Nature now has 53 member clubs (2020).

The process of Restructuring the FBCN was a great deal of work over a period of at least seven years and involving five Presidents. Was it worthwhile? Absolutely! The channels of communication between the Board of Directors and Executive Committee with the clubs and members improved greatly. The regional clubs were better supported in their endeavours to conserve and protect Nature locally and regionally, while enabling better communication and sharing of that knowledge and experience provincially, to meet the demand of government agencies in support of their decision-making.

Did all the work end there? Emphatically NO! Nor did it start there. The transition from the BC Nature Council to the Federation of British Columbia Naturalist was no small feat. Similarly, restructuring the Federation is a complex and ongoing focus. Every President and every Board and every Club Representative has, and will have, their part to play in continuing and maintaining an open line of communication and support to keep the FBCN members and clubs engaged and active, and supporting BC Nature's present-day motto:

Know Nature and Keep It Worth Knowing.

REFERENCES

BC Naturalist Newsletter. 1989-1998. Vol 27, No 1 through Vol 36, No 2. FBCN.

The following reprints are the two full articles from *BC Naturalist* newsletters that were condensed in the preceding account on Communications and Restructuring.

Raven Talk – Your Federation in Action: information, committee reports, projects and concerns.

**What is the Federation of BC Naturalists? By Bert Brink
BC Naturalist Summer, July 1990 Vol 28, No 2: 13-14**

The Federation is a family of some 40 clubs in BC. Its motto is: "To know the outdoors and to keep it worth knowing". That is, there are two foci

- to learn and to teach about the world about us
- to conserve and to manage our world with wisdom

We have an interest in the education (and recreation) of our members and also, of the larger BC public.

We have an interest in the wise use of our habitat – man and the wide range of animals and plants of BC (the most diversified provincial biota in Canada); the physical world of the provincial geology and soils; our climate and weather; and, astronomy, too.

A little history - about natural history in BC

Naturalists were attached to many of the early exploratory expeditions to our province, naturalists who, then and now, have an interest in, a curiosity bent if you wish, to know more about the land we live in – its rocks, its plants, its animals - and who place a value on knowing and conserving.

The first formal organization was formed in Victoria in 1890. Around the same time clubs were forming in Vancouver and in Vernon. Occasionally these clubs would meet to discuss common objectives such as provincial and federal park systems, arbor days, etc.

The Nature Council was formed in 1963 and soon evolving into the Federation of British Columbia Naturalists. The FBCN in turn was part of the evolution and designation of the Canadian Nature Federation soon after. International relationships with the Audubon Society of America were close during those times.

A few statistics

Depending on how membership is determined (family, associates) our membership stands around 5-7,000 person who are directly associated with the FBCN. The FBCN is primarily a family of clubs and the democratic structure is based upon club representation. Every club has at least one Director on a Board which meets 11 times a year; larger clubs have a Director for every 200 members.

The FBCN has one full time employee – an executive secretary. Our office (small and without a window!) is located in the Sport BC building in Vancouver, which is supported by the Provincial Government and to whom we pay rent. Some services such as Xeroxing, print shop, mailing, etc. are available to the FBCN there. The FBCN is organized under the Societies Act and is a registered charitable organization which allows us to issue tax receipts for certain donations. The Executive Committee meets occasionally on matters of urgency when it is difficult to call a Directors Meeting, and to plan future meetings.

There is a Management Advisory Committee whose main role relates to matters of office management and staffing.

There are several active working committees that have open membership: that is any member that is interested in a particular area of endeavour will be encouraged to participate in these groups. They include:

- Conservation committee
- education and recreation committee
- publication committee, and
- regional committees.

These major committees also have many sub-committees reporting to them on specific subjects, issues and concerns.

Some general policy items

The FBCN is a democratic body with proper elections and uses parliamentary procedure and rules of order (it is not an oligarchy as some conceive it to be; and it must be noted that some issues call for continuity over many years and volunteers who interact in provincial, as well as local issues, are hard to come by).

There are no barriers to membership by creed, colour, race, or political affiliation. Each new executive tends to leave their mark.

The Federation attempts to stress political issues and to assist in local issues.

The FBCN works with elected governments at all levels; it seeks to influence the decision-making process by legal means, perhaps to challenge, but not to break the law – roughly stated. The FBCN where, in the interests of direction, there is common ground, will work with other non-government organizations (NGOs), agencies, etc.; in short, there is an effort to support certain coalitions and other NGOs with environmental interests by networking, coalition, etc. Since natural

history is recognized as the handmaiden of the modern science of ecology, the FBCN seeks deliberately to associate with scientific and technical organizations.

What has the FBCN done and what is it doing?

'Accomplishment' is a difficult term with which to deal because in no sense does a naturalist 'accomplish' in singularity terms. The FBCN is involved, it persuades, it may try to modify decisions, perceptions, etc., through its volunteers, its briefs, its interviews with political bodies, etc.

a/ it offers summer camp, in cooperation with a local club, particularly for the attendance from small clubs who cannot run their own, members get to know their province better.

b/ holds two general meetings a year.

c/ offers symposia, e.g., on endangered species and habitat, wetlands, lands use, etc.

d/ supports and develops publications and posters on naturalist history and conservation topics.

e/ supports wardenships for ecologically sensitive areas.

f/ writes briefs regarding forestry, parks, pollution issues, on government policy (wolf kill, wildlife management, etc.).

g/ participates in public hearings on many issues.

h/ FBCN is represented by volunteers, unpaid but sometimes with expenses, directly or indirectly, on many boards and committees such as

- BC Roundtable on the Environment and the Economy
- The Nature Trust of BC
- Habitat Conservation Board of BC
- Outdoor Recreation Council
- Old Growth Strategy Committee
- BC Public Conservation Assistance Fund
- Federal Environmental Partner Fund
- Provincial Problem Animal Control Board
- Provincial Wildlife Viewing Tourism Advisory Committee
- Government task forces
- Endless meetings to get reserves and new agencies established, e.g., Fraser River Estuary Management Program (FREMP)

i/ distributes on-going white papers on FBCN policies and attitudes – developed on energy, land use, forest harvesting, parks, biotechnology, public education, etc., to give others a clear idea of the naturalists' point of view, and to assist clubs in responding to local issues.

j/ organizes roundtables to assist in the determination of direction naturalists of BC can usefully take in the different regions of the province.

Some difficulties

BC is a difficult province for a NGO to maintain a provincial overview and outlook; it is topographically difficult, human populations tend to be in pockets, there is great

diversity and more than half its people are in the Lower Mainland; there is a strong tendency, therefore, to centralize in the Lower Mainland.

There are large disparities in the attitude of people in the service sector of the BC economy, which is strongly urbanized, and the resource-based economy (forest, fish, crops, wildlife, and tourism).

The costs of intercommunication in BC are high and therefore contacts between clubs and regions are quite limited, but improving.

AND, WE HAVE FUN!!

Second Full Article:

**FBCN Restructuring Committee
Update by Daphne Solecki and Frances Vyse
BC Naturalist 1992 September/October Vol 30, No 5: 13**

Mandate: to prepare a position paper on restructuring the FBCN.

Requests for comments and input from club members announced in July/August Newsletter formed a draft paper brought to the Executive on September 2 and then sent to the Club Directors for comment; follow-up discussion to occur at Kimberley FGM and again at Vancouver AGM in 1993. Summary of main points for discussion:

1/ Leadership: How do we make sure we do the right thing?

- A. Focus: draw up a 3 to 5-year long-term plan that includes an Annual Work Plan & budget.
- B. Evaluation: progress reports on the Annual Work Plan are evaluated at each Director's meeting before new Plan is presented.
- C. Leadership Continuity – Vice Presidents: Vice-Presidents must commit to becoming President.
 - Lower Mainland Presidents alternate with those from other regions.
 - Specific duties are proposed for the First and Second Vice-Presidents as initiation to the President tenure. Commitment for elected members is 4 years: 1 year as Vice-President, 2 years as President, 1 year as Past President.

2/ Communication: How do we involve everyone and ensure that our members know about the actions and accomplishments of the Federation and its member clubs?

- A. Directors: Directors must be members of their clubs' executive if proper, two-way communication is to exist between the club and the Federation Board. Directors should receive an agenda at least a week before the board meetings.

- B. Meetings and other communications with clubs: Executive meetings should be held monthly.
- Increase budget allocations for telephone and fax communication while decreasing the number of Directors meetings, e.g., 4 weekend meetings per year.
 - More Regional Meetings of Directors should be held. Meetings should be streamlined to allow more time to discuss new ideas, policies and stubborn problems (see details in Newsletter Vol 30 No 5, page 13).
 - Make greater use of electronic mail facilities in future to increase coverage and speed of communication.
- C. Communication with members: Increase coverage of club and Federation activities in BC Naturalist; include minutes from Directors' meetings, motions passed, decisions made.

3/ Management: How do we do things right? How do we achieve our goals?

- A. Office Manager: an essential position to a functioning Federation, communicating with the clubs, responding to their requests, managing membership files, attending to correspondence and maintaining the accounts.
- B. Executive Director: a new position to organize day-to-day activities of the Federation, liaise with and support clubs, act as a knowledgeable spokesperson, raise funds, and be able to act quickly when needed. This person would take direction from and assist the members to accomplish the goals they have set.
- C. Standing Committees: should set terms of reference and goals within the Annual Work Plan. Reports from Committee minutes should be included in BC Naturalist. Chairpersons should be on the Executive.
- 1) Each club should have a member on the Conservation and Education Committees.
 - 2) Financial Advisory Committee should be established to develop a long range financial plan, investigate fund-raising in the private and government sectors, and work in conjunction with the FBCN Foundation.
 - 3) Editorial Board should be set up for both Cordilleran and the BC Naturalist.
 - 4) A Public Relations/Membership Committee should be established to seek a higher profile for the Federation.

Appendix 15. Recollections from Former Presidents 1998 - 2020

The Fifty-Year History of BC Nature (Federation of BC Naturalists) encompasses 10 Chapters and 15 Appendices, including personal interviews with five former presidents who held office from 1989 to 1998 (Appendix 13). Appendix 15 encompasses presidents from 1998 to 2020 and was compiled by presidents' responses to a series of written questions. For Jeremy McCall (deceased 2018), his section was prepared by Bev Ramey, with assistance from Anne Murray and from Jeremy's wife, Ruth Foley, including accounts of Jeremy's published president's reports and other articles in the BC Naturalist Magazine (BC Nature Magazine as of 2007). In the introduction to the questions provided to past presidents, it was noted that following the proposed format was not essential and that if preferred, presidents had the option to write their own description or use a bullet point format. Sheila Byers provided review and edits to these accounts.

The following questions were presented to these past presidents:

- 1. Your Background:** What was your involvement with nature clubs and/or BC Nature prior to becoming president? And if you would like to, also describe involvement that continued on after being president.
How did your experiences and/skill set in this or other organizations prepare you for this role?
If possible, please identify the timeframes held for the different leadership or committee roles that you had while involved with BC Nature and your local club.
E.g.,
2000-2004 BC Nature President
1998-2000 role with local natural history club or other organizations
- 2. Accomplishments:** During your term as President of the FBCN/BC Nature, what did you see as major accomplishments and/or focus? Or it could simply be the smooth running of the organization.
Did you receive any BC Nature, club or other non-club, awards for your efforts? (BC Nature Award recipients are listed in Appendix 3).
- 3. Projects:** During your term as President, what did you see as major projects and undertakings? Please highlight major projects with only a brief overview as projects are described in Chapter 7 and publications in Appendix 9.
- 4. Conservation and Education:** Any significant activities and accomplishments or efforts to describe?
- 5. Challenges:** What did you see as the major challenges in the Federation during your term as President – both internal and external?
Were there specific environmental concerns, issues that were needing continued attention; or new issues needing immediate attention?

6. Changes: What changes did the FBCN undergo during your term? What initiatives were started, what were discontinued? Were there changes in the structure or function of the Federation and how were those resolved?

7. Stories: Historical accounts are best enriched with anecdotes – what stories can you recall about people, places, or events that exemplify a trend or situation for BC Nature? Which particular camps, meetings, correspondences, etc., had significance?

8. Perspective: Why do you think FBCN is important to the province? Looking back over your involvement with FBCN, what concerns, predictions, or advice can you give to future presidents, executives, Board of Directors and nature clubs?

9. What have you enjoyed most about BC Nature, as President or member? Describe your most memorable recollection.

Past Presidents’ Recollections follow:

Anne Murray, President 1998 – 2002	p.235
Jeremy McCall, President 2002 – 2006	p.239
Bev Ramey, President 2006 – 2010	p.244
John Neville, President 2010 – 2014	p.262
Kees Visser, President 2014 – 2016; 2019 – 202	p.265
Alan Burger, President 2016 – 2019	p.269

Anne Murray, President 1998 – 2002

To begin, I am not mentioning names in this summary as there are far too many wonderful people that were involved; also, I don't want to forget anyone, which I surely would do. If you were a staff person or member during my Presidency years, then thank you for everything you did to make our Federation of BC Naturalists such a wonderful group!

1. Background

In 1988, I was a founder Board member of the Delta Naturalists Society, becoming active in that group and the Boundary Bay Conservation Society shortly after I moved to BC. I have been involved with many educational and conservation activities associated with the promotion and protection of the Fraser River Estuary and Boundary Bay, from that time onwards. I also became active with Bird Studies Canada programs in the 1990s, doing Christmas Bird Counts and 'Beached Bird' surveys. When my terms as Vice-President (1996-1998) and President of BC Nature (1998-2002) were completed, I stayed on the Board as the Conservation Chair, later sharing that role.

Currently, I remain a member of the Conservation Committee. My main involvement has been as BC Nature's continuing liaison for the national Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas Program (IBA) since the late 1990s, when this program began in Canada. This role has involved ensuring that the Program Manager staff position is filled and financially supported, while acting as an ongoing liaison between the Program Manager, BC Nature Board, BCN members and partner organizations—Birds Canada (previously Birds Studies Canada) and Nature Canada—to ensure the continuity and smooth-running of the IBA Program and the IBA Caretaker Program. I continue to be a member of Delta Naturalists Society and Nature Vancouver.

2. Accomplishments

When I stepped into the President's position, the organization was in a very tough financial situation due to mismanagement of some serious project-overrun costs in previous years. The challenge to confront the shortage of funds characterized the first couple of years of my Presidency (I served two terms: four years in total). Expenses had to be cut, volunteer work increased, and new sources of funding had to be found. With the help of supportive volunteers and Staff Managers, we were able to refresh the Camp Program into a strong and popular income-source, move the IBA Program forward under the guidance of excellent Program Managers and volunteers, run an extremely successful multiyear Living by Water Project that attracted numerous grants, campaign for Species at Risk laws, the protection of the Fraser River Estuary, run the Help MELP campaign to increase BC government funding for the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, support the designation and protection of Provincial Parks and Ecological Reserves, and many other

conservation initiatives.

3. Projects

As mentioned above, Important Bird Areas, Living by Water Project, Parks and Protected Areas including the Help MELP campaign; the BC Endangered Species Campaign, the conservation of grasslands, and protection of Boundary Bay and Fraser River Estuary wetlands, are all activities that I was pleased to be involved with over a period of years. We also reinvigorated the Camp Program to become a profit-making enterprise. Camps became a great success, very much valued and enjoyed by members and a good source of finances for BC Nature.

4. Conservation and Education

I consider the work done to reinvigorate the Conservation Committee and develop a more extensive network of Conservation activities around the Province, to be a significant accomplishment at the time. The Living by Water Project started as a BC Nature project and went nationwide. The Important Bird Area Program has continued in BC for over 20 years and the IBA Caretaker Program we initiated became a model for other provinces. The designation of habitat as parks and protected areas is another memorable achievement of BC Nature during the 2000-2010 period. None of these achievements could have been accomplished without the dedication of a multitude of member volunteers, a committed Board and Executive, and supportive staff.

I was also happy to be one of those involved in getting the Young Naturalists' Club of BC Society started, as this was a program that was long recognized as critical to BC Nature's goals. The Society is independent of BC Nature but well supported by BC Nature members and clubs.

5. Challenges

Finding the funds for the Office Manager salary and rent for the office (at that time on West Broadway), organizing conservation campaigns in the early days of email and the internet, and struggling with environmental destruction in many areas of the province were all front and centre issues that were very demanding for a volunteer President and Board. I was able to work part-time hours and evenings, but it could be overwhelming, especially as online communications were only getting underway at that time.

There were dozens of specific environmental concerns, issues that were needing continued attention, new issues needing immediate attention – continuously!

6. Changes

See above. The Board also formulated a Strategic Plan for the Federation that laid out a road map of where we were headed and what we wanted to achieve. This was a helpful exercise, though not everything came to fruition. The Board has continued to use Strategic Plans to guide its activities.

7. Stories

I very much enjoyed the company of other naturalists and there were dozens of wonderful people involved in the years I was active on the BC Nature Board. Many good friendships were made with happy times enjoyed at camps and general meeting weekends. I got to see every part of beautiful BC in the company of knowledgeable members, for which I am very grateful.

8. Perspective

The cumulative knowledge of naturalists in the province is priceless. The opportunity to meet and exchange knowledge and enjoy nature together is very special. We are also a respected voice for nature and have the power to do much to protect nature within our province and beyond.

My main concern is that we are not changing with the times. I became Vice-President then President at a time when the world was rapidly changing its means of communication. Our family were early adopters of the personal computer and online technology; now that is commonplace. Children of my generation grew up playing outside; now far fewer children know anything about nature. It was common for the older generation to volunteer for the Federation, on retirement or earlier, but now there seem to be many other options, like continuing to work, looking after grandchildren, travelling, or other types of volunteerism. There are many more nature and environment-related organizations that employ more staff and have more presence in the media and in online spaces. Grants are competitive and the more visible organizations get the money.

I believe that BC Nature will need to change its organizational structure somewhat, to be able to survive in the changing world and to attract younger members. While clubs are a mainstay of the organization, a strong core is essential to hold the network together. We need full-time paid Executive and Conservation Directors to help steer our ship forward into the new decades.

9. Most enjoyable recollection BC Nature, as President or member

I very much enjoyed the camps. Returning from the first Bamfield Camp I led, we had an evening meal at Port Alberni dock. Sitting around the table, as the sun went down, I was blown away by the life stories of our group. They had climbed high

mountains, ridden motor bikes across Canada, sailed the oceans, and knew their plants, animals, birds and every other creature! And then we went outside the café and danced spontaneously to a string band that was playing in the courtyard. It was a lovely evening with great people, that I will never forget.

Written by Anne Murray, May 20, 2020 (updated April 2021)

Anne Murray is an independent writer, naturalist, and author of nature, natural history, and conservation related articles and books.

Publication Highlights

Books:

2006. *A Nature Guide to Boundary Bay*. 224pp.

2007. *Community Mapping Network Atlas. Georgia Basin Habitat Atlas: Boundary Bay*. Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society & Community Mapping Network. 89pp.

2008. *Tracing Our Past: A Heritage Guide to Boundary Bay*. 240pp.

Georgia Straight Opinion Columns from 2011 onwards, together with several other articles can be read on Anne's website: [natureguidesbc](http://natureguidesbc.com)

Nature Vancouver:

Conserving Wildlife Congregations in the Fraser Estuary. *Discovery* 2018. Vol 46:109-111.

Awards

BC Nature Club Service 1992 (with Delta Naturalists)

BC Nature Elton Anderson Award 2002

Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal Award for Conservation (2002),

VNHS (Nature Vancouver) Davidson Award for Nature Conservation 2010

Douglas H. Pimlott Award for Conservation from Nature Canada (2015)

Long Service Award from Sierra Legal Defence Fund (now Ecojustice)

Canada 150 Medal from the MP for Delta

BC Nature Merit Award 2020

Delta Municipality's Friend of Heritage Award 2021 (for book, *Tracing Our Past*)

Jeremy McCall, President 2002 – 2006

This record was prepared posthumously by Bev Ramey, as Jeremy passed away in July 2018. Details are from Jeremy's President's Reports in the quarterly BC Naturalist Magazine, over his four years as President, plus several other articles and reports that Jeremy wrote for the magazine during his years as President and shortly afterwards. Anne Murray also helped with the content. In addition, some material is included from Jeremy's tribute, written by his wife, Ruth Foley, and published in Nature Vancouver's Discovery Journal 2018, Volume 46, and Ruth's review is appreciated.

Jeremy had a deep love of the British Columbia landscape and habitats and devoted many hours to ensuring its protection for future generations. His good organizational capacity, strong writing skills, and clear thinking were a huge asset to BC Nature as he volunteered in a variety of roles for over fifteen years.

Jeremy's first President's Message, summer 2002, describes his vision as President:

- To serve the Federation's member clubs
- To preserve the present system of parks and protected areas in BC.

Jeremy's term as President began a year or two after a new BC government made major cuts to staffing for parks, fish and wildlife, including ending the BC Park Naturalist program.

Jeremy participated in workshops organized by the Recreation Stewardship Panel, although he pointed out its dysfunctional name: "surely habitat needs stewardship but not recreation". He participated in meetings to reinstate the Provincial Park Naturalist programs and to urge the government to confirm the status of the South Chilcotin Provincial Park. He wrote several letters and made presentations to government to reinstate funding for parks, fish and wildlife. These were also topics for the annual meetings with government ministers and senior staff in Victoria.

Although funding and staffing for provincial parks and fish and wildlife were at an all-time low, two positive events did happen at the federal level:

- Passing of the Federal Species at Risk Act, December 2002
- Announcement May 2003 of the Southern Gulf Islands National Park Reserve as Canada's 40th National Park.

A leading member of the White Rock and Surrey Naturalists, Rene Savenye, died unexpectedly in July 2002, killed by lightning when checking out routes for a club trip. When donations arrived in memory of Rene, Jeremy worked to set up a scholarship in his name. The scholarship was first awarded at the AGM in 2006, when Jeremy retired as President.

In 2003, under Jeremy's term as President, FBCN began contributing annually to cash prizes to recognize student science fair projects focused on nature. These

Regional Science Fair prizes are awarded in 13 regions around the province. Both the Savenye Scholarship and Science Fair awards continue to the present day.

Throughout his term as President, Jeremy appreciated and recognized the efforts of the member clubs hosting AGMs and FGMs: FGM 2002 Whistler Naturalist Club, AGM 2003 Kamloops Naturalist Club, FGM 2003 Rocky Mountain Naturalists, AGM 2004 Vancouver Natural History Society, FGM 2004 Central Okanagan Naturalists, AGM 2005 Shuswap Naturalists, FGM 2005 Lillooet Naturalists, and AGM 2006 Comox Valley Naturalists. In his President's messages, Jeremy wrote a warm thanks to each of these host clubs and also paid tribute to all the FBCN Club Directors contributing at the meetings. He noted the importance of Regional Coordinators and the Regional Meetings which the five coordinators organized for FBCN clubs throughout the province.

In May 2004 Jeremy led a group of Nature Vancouver volunteers to host the BC Nature AGM at the UBC Student Union Building in Vancouver. As part of the conference, Jeremy organized a Thursday symposium on Marine Reserves, plus a boat tour of Indian Arm on the Friday. Marine protection was a strong interest for Jeremy.

A memorable trip for Jeremy was summer 2005 when he visited naturalists and their clubs in Quesnel, Dawson Creek, Mackenzie, then along Hwy #16 to visit June and Dennis Wood at their Nechako Retreat, and then on to Smithers, the Skeena Valley, Prince Rupert and Kitimat. He wrote an article on this trip in the Fall issue of the magazine, noting how very much he appreciated the hospitality that naturalists offered to him during his visits around the province. In a report as Past President, he recalled that he visited more than 30 clubs throughout his term as President. Jeremy's wife, Ruth Foley, recalls these were some of Jeremy's most treasured times.

Jeremy participated nationally with the Canadian Nature Federation (now Nature Canada) and supported its partnership with provincial organizations through the Canadian Nature Network. He attended meetings in Ottawa as the FBCN representative.

Jeremy was deeply concerned about the Fraser River Estuary ecosystem and was active for many years with the Boundary Bay Conservation Committee, a group representing BC Nature clubs and other organizations with a concern for the integrity of habitat around Boundary Bay and the Fraser Estuary.

In 2004 Jeremy wrote an article on the importance of making BC bird data available in one location to have it accessible to the public. He noted the long term FBCN volunteer project—the BC Nest Records—which compiled nesting data beginning in 1955. Jeremy became the FBCN's representative in 2002 to discuss with several stakeholders a plan to ensure this data was made publicly available. As Past President, Jeremy continued efforts to make that nest data public and was able to facilitate its reproduction into a 3 CD set, which subsequently was made available

to researchers and Bird Studies Canada (now Birds Canada). (See Jeremy's articles in *BCnature* Magazines, Winter 2007, and Summer and Fall 2008 issues.)

Regarding reinstatement of park naturalists, he credits the work of Bev Ramey who spearheaded this initiative, begun in 2004, when BC Nature hired eight students through the federal government's Job Creation Program. This program continued to grow over the next seven years. In his Past President's message in summer 2006, Jeremy wrote:

the FBCN's greatest accomplishment during his term as President was to make sure the flame of nature interpretation continues to burn in BC's provincial parks.

Another special interest of Jeremy's was the Young Naturalists' Club of BC (YNC now known as NatureKids BC). This organization was formed through Nature Vancouver and with the intention of extending its scope province wide, Jeremy helped YNC founder, Daphne Solecki, establish the provincial YNC as its own society. He provided YNC with office space within the BC Nature office (2005) and helped prepare its constitution and bylaws. Wording was included in the YNC Constitution and Bylaws about the special link between YNC and the FBCN: "The Society is affiliated with the Federation of BC Naturalists [BC Nature] and is committed to supporting the objectives of the Federation."

Jeremy also served on the founding Board of YNC (NatureKids) and provided space in the BC Naturalist Magazine beginning in 2004 for a regular column, a tradition which continues today. In 2005 the FBCN contributed funds to help YNC become an independent society and, in that year as well, the Daphne Solecki Award was established to recognize persons who have contributed to nature education for children in BC.

In 2005, through donations and grants, Jeremy oversaw three special FBCN brochure publications:

- South Chilcotins Trail Map, jointly with Outdoor Recreation Council
- Fraser River Estuary brochure – to publicize this Important Bird Area
- Pocket Field Trip Guide for Naturalists Clubs, as a reference for field trip leaders.

Another project publication that Jeremy supported was Wildlife Viewing. He oversaw FBCN's publication of a series of brochures, with provincial grants from the then Ministry of Water, Land & Air Protection. These brochures described wildlife viewing in six regions of BC to promote public awareness and knowledge of wildlife throughout the province, especially aimed at the 'touring public'. (*In our present day, the online Wildlife Viewing website coordinated by BC Nature provides in depth information and maps on nature viewing sites.*)

Jeremy was elected as President of the BC Naturalists' Foundation in 2003. At that time, he wrote that he harboured some doubt that he could give that role enough

time. He did however contribute considerable time to the Foundation and oversaw publication of two pamphlets for the Foundation:

- Naturalists, Their Legacies and Conservation
- Planned Giving for Naturalists.

He served as the Foundation's President until 2009.

Jeremy continued his focus on the administrative well-being of the FBCN. As example, he wrote an article for the BC Naturalist Magazine which:

- Described the FBCN's liability insurance and the need for well-worded waivers for member participation in club activities,
- Reviewed Canada Revenue Agency's scope of approved activities for a charitable organization and established that the FBCN conservation activities conducted, were in compliance. Jeremy concluded *when FBCN makes representations to elected representatives and public officials advocating that laws, policies or decisions of government be retained, opposed or changed, these activities are within the scope of the FBCN's charitable activities.*

As further support for a well-run organization, Jeremy developed procedures so that grants to FBCN clubs for their conservation and education projects would be considered on an equitable basis.

In 2005 Jeremy began to organize a member survey and then circulated a questionnaire in the Spring 2006 BC Naturalist Magazine. The questionnaire was to be a prelude to a strategic planning workshop, as he noted that it was long past time to review the previous Strategic Plan (1998 – 2003), and to plan for the future. Questions in the survey included:

- Comments on the FBCN societies' objectives,
- Comments on extent of conservation advocacy,
- Comments on nature education and FBCN's role, plus field camps and workshops
- Future structure and funding—should the existing model continue or should we strive for funding for a paid executive director and paid contractors for projects
- Comments on magazine and website
- Clubs – suggestions on how to attract new and/or younger members, as well as retaining members
- Operating name.

The last set of questions focused on whether or not to change the operating name from Federation of BC Nature to BC Nature. At the Lillooet FGM in 2005, Club Directors discussed this possible name change and recommended that the question be put to members. The questionnaire to members noted that the former Canadian Nature Federation changed its legal and marketing name to Nature Canada. The outcome to this name-change question was YES. The new operating name, "BC

Nature", was approved at the Comox AGM in 2006 and Jeremy registered it with the Societies Registrar in Victoria. He also registered the domain name "bcnature.ca" for the website. The legal name remains the Federation of British Columbia Naturalists. The opportunity for a strategic planning workshop did not arise until 2009.

In his final President's Message, Spring 2006 magazine issue, Jeremy thanked the more than 300 members who *responded magnificently and have donated \$30,000 to the fall annual appeal of the FBCN.*

Awards

VNHS (Nature Vancouver) Davidson Award for Conservation 1997

BC Nature Elton Anderson Award 2005

BC Community Achievement Award 2011

VNHS (Nature Vancouver) Kaye and Charles Ney Award for Distinguished Service 2019

Positions

Federation of BC Naturalists (BC Nature):

Treasurer 1993 - 1994

Club Director for Nature Vancouver 1998 - 2002

President 2002 - 2006

Past President 2006 - 2008

BC Naturalists' Foundation:

Director 2002 - 2009 and President 2003 - 2009

Nature Vancouver (Vancouver Natural History Society):

Director 1992 - 2018

Conservation Committee Chair 1995 - 2001

Vice-President 1998 - 1999

President 1999 - 2001

Treasurer 2007 - 2018

Camp Committee 2003-2004

Discovery Journal Editor 1999 - 2001, and again 2010 - 2018

Boundary Bay Conservation Committee:

Director 1995 - 1999

Young Naturalist Club (now NatureKids):

helped to establish as an independent society and on its first Board of Directors 2006

Elders Council for Parks in British Columbia:

Director 2017 - 2018

Outdoor Recreation Council:

Director 2005 - 2009 and Executive Director 2006 - 2018

Bev Ramey, BC Nature President 2006 – 2010

Bev notes that as this account was written during COVID-19 times, it grew in length from short answers to the questions, to a reflection on years leading up to president and time as president. This account also includes mention of several special people who helped along the way; this was done realizing the risk of leaving out some key folks, so my sincere apologies to those missed. Editing by Sheila Byers, August 2020 and March 2021 is much appreciated. Photos: some by Bev and some by unknown AGM and FGM host club photographers.

Background

This account begins with an answer to an additional and formative question. “What path did you take and what prepared you for your role as President?”

My interest in nature was fostered as a child growing up in the then rural area of Saanich on Vancouver Island. As a young adult in the 1970s I became active with the Sierra Club, Lower Mainland Branch, and participated in the Save the Stein Coalition as its secretary. Through that coalition of environmental groups, I became acquainted with active members of the Federation of British Columbia Naturalists, including Adeline Nicol (FBCN Office Manager from 1984 until her untimely death in 1990).

My interest in natural history flourished and I joined the Vancouver Natural History Society (VNHS; now operating as Nature Vancouver) in 1976. I participated in several field trips, including backcountry hikes led by Bob Harris. As a Sierra Club representative, I met Dick Stace-Smith at meetings of the provincial Forest Land Use Liaison Committee, which Dick co-chaired. Dick was also a co-organizer of the Fraser River Estuary conference and chaired that large meeting with skillful, diplomatic abilities. Further, when working in the 1980s as a Park Planner with GVRD (now Metro Vancouver), I met and worked with Bert Brink, as well as Dick. They both volunteered with public advisory committees and provided input on natural areas such as Pitt Wildlife Management Area, Boundary Bay, Minnekhada and Pacific Spirit Regional Park (then the University Endowment Crown Land). I was impressed with this natural history organization, the FBCN (now operating as BC Nature) and especially its members with their great depth of nature knowledge and who communicated in a diplomatic and respectful style, yet firmly presented their views.

Raising a young family, I did not have time for volunteer involvement over the next decade. However, in the 1990s, living near both Bert and Dick, I would occasionally see them and discuss nature matters. Bert talked me into attending a workshop to finalize the naturalists’ identification of important natural areas in the Lower Mainland in the early 1990s. (See Chapter 7. Projects for details on Land for Nature Project). There I met Anne Murray and together we took on the task of compiling the key areas that naturalists had identified into a presentation usable by regional and provincial governments for the Lower Mainland Protected Areas Strategy. We

did this quickly to meet government deadlines and were pleased to see the 'fruits of our labours' included in several of the significant natural areas announced for protection in 1995.

Conservation Chair for FBCN

Bert then encouraged me to join with him as FBCN representatives in 1994 on the Fraser Lowlands Interagency Study (Hope to Mission). The aim of this study was to protect some scattered pockets of important natural habitats, about 1,000 hectares in total. These smaller areas at lower elevation had been overlooked in the big push for large, protected wilderness parks. This was a great learning experience for me, attending these interagency meetings together with Bert, and especially the conversations during the drives to meetings and field trips viewing potential sites to recommend for protection. Bert then encouraged me to become the FBCN Conservation Chair as that position was vacant.

I was acclaimed as Conservation Chair at the 1998 AGM, hosted by the Central Okanagan Naturalists Club in Kelowna. I still remember Pat Westheuser so very warmly welcoming me. The drive to this AGM and accommodation was also an interesting welcoming experience, as I 'hitched' a ride with Dick and Joan Stace-Smith and camped with them (me in tent, they in their Westphalia Van) at Bear Creek Provincial Park near the AGM venue. That was also the AGM where Anne Murray became President. Anne and I then worked closely together over the next four years. We also, together with Ron Speller of Qualicum, had the pleasant task of interviewing prospective Office Managers and hired Maria Hamann in September 2000. Maria worked in this position until her retirement in November 2009. After another candidate search, I hired Betty Davison, with assistance during the interview process by future president John Neville. Betty continues in the Office Manager position through 2021. It was a pleasure working with Maria for her nine-year term, and then with Betty over the next decade. My activities as Conservation Chair are covered in the Chapter 5 (Conservation, A Fifty-Year History), while the record of the many letters sent and received are posted on BC Nature's website. I owe much to the people who helped mentor me in my path to president.

With Anne's four-year term as President nearing an end, she encouraged me to take on the President's role, but as I still had considerable family commitments with young children, I wasn't yet ready. Fortunately, Jeremy McCall stepped up to the President position having finished his term as Nature Vancouver's President, and I continued as Conservation Chair for another four years.

President

By 2006, I was persuaded by Jeremy to take on the role of President as he noted that the organization was running smoothly (which it truly was) and that he agreed to continue to help out as the lead in a few key areas (including BC Nature Magazine, finances, Canadian Nature Network through Nature Canada, and Wildlife

Watch). Convinced by his offer of help, I was elected President at the spring AGM 2006, hosted by the Comox Valley Naturalists Society.

New Logo and Letterhead Design

During Jeremy's term as President, the new operating name—BC Nature—was proposed, considered and approved at the Comox AGM 2006. The Federation of British Columbia Naturalists remains our legal name. My first task as President was to oversee the design of a new logo and letterhead. This process took considerable dialogue and viewing of possibilities by club representatives, to reach broad consensus on the design. After consideration of options, the logo, designed by a Prince George firm, was approved at the FGM 2006 and continues in use today. The design includes both our operating name, BC Nature, and our legal name, Federation of BC Naturalists, to avoid any possible confusion. Approval of the new logo and letterhead was immediately followed by the task to consider and approve a redesign of our website.



Office Relocation

Recalling the persuasion to stand for President given the smooth running of the organization, I was shocked to learn during my first year that our office rental space would be terminated within a year. We had to find new premises.

For the previous 20 years, the FBCN office had been located in rental space within Sport BC premises at 1367 West Broadway, just east of Granville Street in Vancouver. Sport BC supported and provided administrative services to several non-profit organizations focused on sports. Although not a perfect fit for BC Nature's focus, it worked well for us to join with other non-profits for logistics such as office space, common area, kitchen, meeting room, washroom, payroll and print shop. Many Regional meetings for FBCN were held in that building's large meeting room. The news that Sport BC was moving to Richmond in February 2007 to be housed in the newly built BCIT Aerospace Technology Campus, came as a total surprise. The rent at that new location would be higher, so the Board decided to look for other premises.

It was not only the FBCN that needed to find new space, but also NatureKids. The FBCN office also housed the Young Naturalists' Club of BC (now NatureKids). Jeremy, who had helped them form their own organization (See Chapter 8. NatureKids), had offered them free space in our rented office during the time of their formation. It was a good arrangement for both organizations and from the perspective of the FBCN, fostered close communication with the next generation of naturalists. Jeremy was unfortunately no longer available to help BC Nature search for new office space as he had recently become the volunteer Executive Director for the Outdoor Recreation Council. ORC was also renting space from Sport BC and

needed to find new premises. ORC chose to search on their own as Jeremy wanted a central Vancouver location for ORC; FBCN was more flexible.

With the March 2008 deadline looming, I was helped in the search by Dick Stace-Smith, Elaine Golds of Burke Mountain Naturalists, Jude Grass, and Daphne Solecki of NatureKids. Daphne was very appreciative of the office sharing arrangement with FBCN having finally moved most of NatureKids materials out of her home and into the office. Clearly, she wanted the shared office space arrangement to continue. Many members also helped with suggestions and at least ten potential facilities were viewed. Luckily, timing proved opportune. The Elders' Council for Parks in British Columbia had just entered into a five-year agreement with BC Parks to operate the historic ranger station at the base of Mount Seymour to house historical parks materials and provide displays and programs for the public. They were looking for office assistance. The former ranger station had in previous years been used by BC Parks planning staff, but with budget cuts to BC Parks and staff layoffs, it was sitting empty.

Mel Turner, a retired BC Park Planner, was now active with the Elders' Council and spearheaded the lease arrangement. I'd known Mel for years through my work as a Park Planner and hearing of our search for office space, he put forward this possibility for a mutual agreement for BC Nature to share office space and provide assistance to the Elders. Daphne and I toured the facility and thought it a lovely location - so very fitting for BC Nature and NatureKids to be located within a Provincial Park.

BC Parks carefully considered this arrangement and approved the proposal: BC Nature would provide time allotted to administrative assistance for the Elders' Council, as well as keeping the office open for public viewing of displays. We moved in with our office furnishings on a day of light snow and drizzle at the end of March. A celebration of our new premises, together with BC Parks staff and the Elders', was held in May 2008. As the years passed by, BC Nature's time contribution to the Elders' become regularized in our annual work plan with one day a week staff/administrative time for the Elders' as well as keeping the building open. With displays now in place, the number of visitors to the Heritage Centre is gradually increasing.



Daphne Solecki in front of the Park Heritage Centre, Mount Seymour Provincial Park, as we toured these potential premises for our office, early 2008.

Regular Presidential Duties

In addition to the new logo design and office relocation, regular duties as President continued. My first general meeting was the 2006 FGM hosted by Burke Mountain Naturalists in Port Coquitlam. During my President's term and throughout my 22 years on BC Nature's Board, I truly appreciated the host clubs' contributions of organizing AGMs and FGMs. The work involved is huge: making all the arrangements in diverse and special venues, organizing the speakers and field trips, offering interesting events to entice members to attend from all over the province, as well as highlighting local conservation needs, projects and accomplishments.

Presidential duties were made easier for me by the very capable support of Secretary, Sue Loveless, who kept us all organized and on track with careful minutes and records during my four-year term.

As for finances, I have slowly learned that these are the essential component of a non-profit society to ensure it functions well. Most members do not want to spend time looking at the financial statements and typically give quick approval at the AGM. The Treasurer during my term, Elisa Kreller, provided outstanding service not only in keeping our financial statements accurate, but by ensuring that members understood the statements with clear explanations and answering questions at the general meetings.



AGM 2009, Duncan, hosted by Cowichan Valley Naturalists. Bernice (Bunny) Ramsdin of Cowichan Valley Naturalists, seated on photo left front row; on photo right front row, Treasurer Elisa Kreller, Harold King of Oliver-Osoyoos Naturalists and Pamela Jenkins of North Okanagan Naturalists. Secretary Sue Loveless has her back to camera, photo lower right, with laptop open to transcribe minutes.

My understanding of the financials gradually improved under Elisa's guidance! The Operating Budget is fairly easy to grasp - simply put, the income must at least meet the expenditures to provide a year-end balanced budget. It is another step, however, to review the separate tables for the restricted funds that in many ways tell the main story of the organization's activities—funding its projects. For projects to function smoothly the funding must already be in place, generally through grants. In years when the Operating Budget has a surplus, the Executive can vote to transfer some of those surplus funds to support a project or a scholarship. When Elisa's four-year term ended in 2009, we recruited another competent CPA, Kate Prusova.

Our restricted funds for projects were a huge component of our budget with several ongoing projects. In 2008, the year we hired many summer-student Park naturalists, the restricted fund expenditures for projects topped \$330,000. We continued with the annual appeal for funds and many members were very generous with donations. For example, in the Fall of 2008 appeal, 338 members gave generously with over \$26,000 raised. This was in addition to the \$22,000 donated in travel and accommodation expenses by the Executive and Club Representatives.

Another administrative financial task was the need to increase club membership dues. This had not been done for a decade, and when considered ten years previously, had caused a great deal of dissention. This time round, the increase was thoroughly discussed with the Regional Coordinators, at the club director meetings, and at general meetings. Wonderfully, the \$2 membership increase received 100% affirmation at the 2008 AGM, showing strong support for the Federation by members.



AGM 2008, Penticton, hosted by South Okanagan Naturalists. Brenda Balaam of West Kootenays in front, behind her is David Hutchings from Qualicum, and to his right is Annabel and Rees Griffiths, Langley Field Naturalists.

During Anne's term as President, she encouraged BC Nature to once again support clubs to host field camps not only as a means of generating surplus funds but also in contributing to nature education. These camps were (and remain) very popular with members while also enhancing members' knowledge of the many different habitats in our province. During my term as President, about four field camps a year were offered with camp revenues ensuring that BC Nature continued in a fairly good financial position.



2010 Gavin Lake Field Camp hosted by Williams Lake Field Naturalists. Fred McMechan standing on photo right, with Hugh Westheuser behind; on photo left kneeling is Fiona Flook and standing behind her, Pat Westheuser, the key camp assistants.

In addition to field camps, BC Nature took over coordination and sponsorship of the Manning Park Bird Blitz in 2007, its 25th Anniversary year. BC Parks was no longer sponsoring or assisting with the organization so BC Nature continued to sponsor the Manning Bird Blitz for three more years. Then in 2011, the Hope Mountain Centre were welcomed as a joint sponsor through to 2016, as well as the new Skagit Bird Blitz beginning in 2012. In 2017, BC Nature handed over the sponsorship to Hope Mountain Centre, who continue to provide excellent coordination.



2008 FGM, Sorrento, hosted by North Shuswap Naturalists included evening entertainment where club performed humorous musical skits and marshmallow roasting around a campfire. Photo shows host club, with Rudi VerVoort waving on photo right.

The lively character and personalities of host clubs for the AGMs and FGMs provides many pleasant memories.

The Executive positions during my term as President included President, Vice-President (not filled until fall 2009), Past-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Conservation Chair, Protected Areas Chair, Education Chair and five Regional Coordinators. The Executive (now known as Board of Directors) functioned well together. We had about four meetings a year by telephone conference. In addition to regular and ongoing business, policies were prepared and revised regarding BC Nature's acceptance of proposals from a club, or sponsorship of a project by an external organization. A discussion paper was prepared for receiving of grants and recognition of grantors. A revised version of the Directors Guide (Directors are now known as Club Representatives) was prepared and circulated. The Executive was well supported by the Awards Committee, chaired by Joan Best of Kamloops and later by Pat Westheuser of Kelowna. The BC Nature Magazine was ably handled, including layout, by contractor Dawn Hanna. The website was managed by volunteer David Lassmann.

We reaffirmed ties with Nature Canada through the Canadian Nature Network. Facilitated by Nature Canada, clubs participated in three workshops around the province in 2006 to 2007, as did naturalists across Canada, to strengthen the Canadian Nature Network. The Network functioned with monthly conference calls.



Canadian Nature Federation workshop in Vancouver, December 2006.
Back row: Jeremy McCall, Jude Grass, Anne Murray, Maria Hamann, Joan Snyder (partly hidden), Sarah (Weaver) Kipp on contract to Nature Canada, Dana Inibruldt for Nature Canada; Standing Centre: Rosemary Fox; Front row seated: Eva Durance, Betty Collins, Daphne Solecki, Bev Ramey.

Regional Representation

The Executive structure with five Regional Coordinators worked well to ensure an effective voice for BC Nature throughout the province. The regions had in-person meetings once or twice a year (for Vancouver Island, Lower Mainland, Okanagan and Kootenays). For the North, given the distances between clubs in that region, the meetings were by phone conference. For all regional meetings, the BC Nature Executive provided an agenda of its business and areas for regional comment and/or vote. In turn, the region would add their own items to that agenda and then report back to the BC Nature Executive. This reciprocal system worked well, ensuring that the regions had a say in the Executive's business while keeping the Executive updated on regional issues. The AGMs and FGMS also provided regional input as the Club Directors (now known as Council of Club Representatives) met before the general meeting to discuss the issues of the day. The FGMS also had input from all the clubs through their annual reports.

As President, it was a pleasure to work with Regional Coordinators, as follows: Vancouver Island—Ron Speller, Betty Collins and then Donna Monty, ably assisted by Secretary Tom Gillespie of Victoria; Lower Mainland—George Bangham and then Jude Grass; Thompson-Okanagan—Ed McDonald and then Don Guild; Kootenays—

Brenda Balaam; and for the North—Fred McMechan. Thinking of Fred McMechan, it must be noted that my long term on BC Nature’s Board has almost been matched by that of Fred’s service. It seems timely that both Fred and I retired from the Board in May 2020.

Each of the Regional Coordinators took care in organizing their typically day-long meetings. I fondly recall Johanna Saaltink hosting the Lower Mainland meetings at her Bradner home. Johanna was with the Central Valley Naturalists (now Abbotsford-Mission Naturalists) and a lovely example of the dedication and commitment of our member naturalists. It is essential to the wellbeing of BC Nature that the voice of its regions is well recognized and respected. As President, I was able to attend some of the Vancouver Island regional meetings, but unfortunately time did not allow me to travel further afield, given family demands.



2010 AGM hosted by Kamloops Field Naturalists: Rick Howie holding Burrowing Owl, Peter Blokker, North Okanagan Naturalists, behind the owl.

Education

Education is imbedded in most AGMs, FGMs and field camps, as well as our conservation and project initiatives. Education Chair, Joan Snyder, was very involved with Mountain Caribou conservation in the Kootenays and brought significant educational information and updates on this issue to the Board.

The Rene Savenye scholarship was established in 2005 to recognize his untimely death and this scholarship was first awarded at the AGM 2006. The scholarship recognizes Rene at his best as a consummate educator of nature and is available to a BC Nature member who is a post-secondary student enrolled in an undergraduate degree program that contributes to awareness, appreciation and understanding of our natural environment. A scholarship was a new activity for BC Nature to administer, advertise, adjudicate applicants, present and raise funds to support. BC

Nature also began providing annual grants for prizes for BC's Regional Science Fairs in 2008.

Conservation

As President, I continued to work closely with Conservation Chair Anne Murray. Our Executive expanded to include the position of Parks and Protected Areas Chair, filled by Eva Durance. This was especially helpful for our involvement with the many groups promoting dedication of the South Okanagan Similkameen National Park Reserve (as of 2020, more than a decade later, we are still awaiting that announcement). Anne also enlisted a Species at Risk Coordinator, Kathy Wilkinson. This was not an Executive position, but Kathy kept us well informed and attended many meetings on our behalf (again as of 2020, we're still awaiting provincial SAR legislation). We were also pleased when Rosemary Fox of Smithers stepped forward to help with the Conservation Committee. I'd worked closely with Rosemary back in the 1970s with Sierra Club efforts, so it was lovely to enlist her help and work with her again.

Carrying on the long tradition of BC Nature, representatives from the Board would meet with provincial politicians and staff, at least twice a year. I recall trips to Victoria with Anne and Jeremy to meet with Ministers of Environment and senior staff. Ministers were welcomed speakers at AGMs and FGMs and attended at least two meetings during my term as President. Twice a year, the Minister of Environment hosted a gathering of stakeholder groups to discuss issues. These were productive meetings, not only to convey our views to the Minister and senior staff, but also to meet and learn more from other organizations and to work in partnership with them on some issues.

The need for Off-Road Vehicle licensing (also referred to as ATVs or all-terrain vehicles) had been an ongoing issue, dating back as far as the 1960s when FBCN first wrote government on this topic. More letters and at least ten different resolutions followed over the subsequent decades. In the 2000s, the Coalition for Licensing and Registration of Off-Road Vehicles was launched by the Grasslands Conservation Council, in which BC Nature was active along with several other organizations. Representatives Joan Best and Bev attended meetings in Merritt and at the historic Quilchena Hotel on Nicola Lake. Then Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resources Operations took over the lead and finally in 2014, legislation was enacted requiring a visible numbered decal or plate on all Off-Road Vehicles. ICBC now administers these licenses. That 50-year campaign to finally reach legislation, fits neatly within the 50-year history of BC Nature. Conservation achievements do happen, albeit frustratingly slow to come, and often requiring continued vigilance.

Resolutions submitted by members continued to raise conservation topics at AGMs; an average of six resolutions were discussed and approved at each AGM during my Presidency. This required letters to the appropriate government officials, and then for some responses, a follow-up letter.

Another big conservation issue that arose during my term was the Run-of-River independent power projects. At first glance these seemed like they could be beneficial to a green economy, but the enormous scale of the dams and electrical transmission lines identified for most of the proposals, plus the sheer number of proposals throughout the province, was not fitting with a green economy. BC Nature wrote letters, attended meetings, and made presentations such as the meeting to discuss the Upper Pitt, attended by an overflowing crowd.

Yet another demanding issue, was the proposal for "Fixed Roof Accommodation" within BC Parks. Government was looking at ways to save funds and so proposed permitting private lodges to be operated within BC Parks. Several meetings of environmental groups took place, letters written and fortunately this proposal was dampened down, to only a very few backcountry style small huts.

The Wetlands Stewardship Partnership was a very active group of several organizations, together with government staff. At the time, it was chaired by Ian Barnett of Ducks Unlimited. As President, it was a pleasure to speak at the long-awaited announcement of the new Serpentine Wildlife Management Area in August 2009. That was also when Peter Ballin became a representative for BC Nature on the Conservation Committee and a few years later, stepped up as chair!



Announcement of dedication of Serpentine Wildlife Management Area, August 2009: Minister Barry Penner on left, Bev second from right, front row. This WMA was first proposed in 1964 by naturalist Barry Leach!

To see the full range of conservation topics addressed during my years as President, refer to Chapter 5. Conservation, and to BC Nature's website, 'Members Log-in' section, under 'Archives'.

Liability Insurance

Liability Insurance is one topic that most of us would prefer not to discuss, but in our present-day reality of lawsuits, it is essential that waivers, or 'release of liability' and 'informed consent' forms be properly worded and signed. The process to agree upon appropriate forms resulted in lengthy debates at two Club Director meetings. I very much appreciated the help of Frank Dwyer of the Kamloops Naturalist Club who prompted his club to hire a lawyer who specialized in this subject. The lawyer advised on appropriate forms and the advice was followed by BC Nature. The two forms prepared are still used by BC Nature, with only minor modifications. We now have a system in place to ensure that clubs are taking steps to minimize risks in their outings, training trip leaders, and ensuring that members are aware of potential risks by signing an informed consent form.

Projects

As mentioned under discussion of finances, projects were prolific and very active during my term and in 2008 our project expenditures topped \$330,000. (See Chapter 7. Projects). Here is a brief summary:

- Living by Water: continued until 2007, coordinated by volunteer Anne Murray. Originating in BC, this project then expanded to other provinces through Nature Canada. The lead authors subsequently wrote lessons from their experiences as *A Handbook of Conservation Marketing Tools and Techniques*, 2010.
- Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs): caretakers continued and expanded under Anne Murray's volunteer leadership.
- Wildlife Tree Stewardship (WiTS): continued under Jude Grass' leadership and expanded from Vancouver Island and Lower Mainland to the Okanagan Valley.
- Breeding Bird Atlas: Bev assisted Anne on the multi-group organizing committee to compile bird species or sightings for the five-year Breeding Bird Atlas for BC, coordinated by Bird Studies Canada (now Birds Canada), to document breeding bird species number and locations throughout BC. I was keen to combine wilderness backpacking with surveys for breeding birds and so with my husband Bill, we organized weeklong backpacking trips for BC Nature birders over five years to remote high elevation areas during the peak of the breeding season (first week of July), beginning in 2008. By year four, the success of these trips led to two such backpacking trips each year in early July. See listing in Appendix 2. Camps – Field and Exploratory



BC Nature Breeding Bird Atlassing, Big Creek Provincial Park, Graveyard Valley, July 2012.

Park Interpretation Program

The Park Interpretation Program continued through my term as President. It was adopted by BC Nature when the government cut the Park Naturalist program in 2002 and I coordinated over the next seven years. I was ably assisted over three summer periods by summer staff in the office, Lara Tisseur, Sonya Resnitsky and Victoria Alleyne. I also very much appreciated the help and guidance from Gail Ross, BC Parks Visitor Services, who continued to assist with the program even after her retirement.

The reach of this program was tremendous. For example, in 2008 the 37 Park Naturalist interpreters delivered programs in 23 Provincial Parks with an estimated 133,000 people attending. An additional estimated 50,000 people visited Nature Houses at Goldstream, Rathtrevor Beach, and Miracle Beach Provincial Parks on Vancouver Island, Kokanee Creek Provincial Park, Kootenay Lake, and Scotch Creek, Shuswap Lake Provincial Park, Thompson Okanagan. In 2010, the province reduced the amount of funding provided to BC Nature to support this program which unfortunately resulted in the decision at our FGM 2010 by Club Directors (Representatives) to end our program coordination. This decision was a difficult one to reach, but with reduced provincial funding the program was just not financially workable.

Celebration of Life for Bert Brink

Sadly, Bert Brink passed away on November 29, 2007. Yet, it was a pleasure to organize the celebration of his life, together with Dick Stace-Smith and assisted by Jim Hope of The Nature Trust. The celebration was held January 31, 2008 and the reminiscences told by his many colleagues and friends provided a glimpse of his broad influence.

Assistant Deputy Minister of Environment, Nancy Wilkin, was one of the many who spoke. She promised that a fitting protected area or wildlife area would be named in his memory. True to her word, the Bert Brink Wildlife Management Area was announced and dedicated in April 2009.



Dedication of Bert Brink Wildlife Management Area, wetlands adjacent to and extending across the Fraser River, near Sumas Mountain, April 2009. Environment Minister Barry Penner (tallest) and Bert's family in front row.

Five Year Strategic Plan

A Strategic Plan for BC Nature was long overdue, since the 1998-2003 plan, which had been coordinated by Anne Murray in 1998. In 2010, my last year as President, I welcomed Anne's initiative to again lead us in preparing a new plan. She organized a two-day retreat for the Executive and generously hosted us at her home. Anne was assisted by Joan Snyder and Eva Durance, as well as our Executive's active participation. The draft plan was circulated to all clubs and approved at the 2010 AGM in Kamloops. Note that this plan highlighted the need for new staff positions focused on areas of Communication and Projects. It was also noted, however, that the staff position should not detract from our strong volunteer base. Unfortunately, those staff positions have not yet been created. Our current plan (2020) has once again highlighted these additional staffing needs and we hope they will be successful this time round.

Travels through BC with Naturalists

Travel as a topic does not fall directly under the 'duties' of President, but I do want to mention the highlights of the many road trips to AGMs and FGMs; especially with passenger, Bert Brink. He would contribute his encyclopedic knowledge of the 'lay of the land', geologically and botanically speaking, the back road detours of interest, plus stories of the people ranching and farming. I especially remember the

road trip to the East Kootenays for the FGM hosted by the Rocky Mountain Naturalists. Bert, Duanne van den Berg (Alouette Field Naturalists) and Maria Hamann were passengers, so as you can well imagine this was a wonderful, two-day drive, with a stop along the way to visit one of Bert's old friends!



Road trip to Kimberley for FGM 2003, picnic stop at Midway: Bev with Bert Brink and Duanne Van Den Berg of Alouette Field Naturalists. Photo: Maria Hamann

BC Naturalists' Foundation

The Foundation was established in 1991 by BC Nature as a separate society for receiving and handling large bequests and to disperse funds for nature projects. The President and Treasurer of BC Nature are ex officio officers, and so I attended meetings, but was dismayed to learn in late 2007, that due to challenges of attracting new Directors, the Foundation Board wanted to bring on new Directors who were not members of BC Nature and to disburse funds to organizations beyond the member clubs of BC Nature. This approach was being considered by the Foundation's President and some of its Board because the Foundation was no longer able to enlist willing volunteers from within BC Nature to serve on its Board; furthermore, clubs were not applying for Club Support Grants.

There is a strong relationship between the two organizations, not only with the President and Treasurer of BC Nature being ex officio directors, but also because BC Nature established the Foundation and the Foundation's Bylaws state that BC Nature appoints the Foundation's members and nominates its Directors. To bring the Foundation back on track, I was able to encourage one of its Founders, Dick Stace-Smith to again become a Foundation Director. Also, long-time former Foundation Director, Frances Vyse, again agreed to serve on its Board. Together with Harold King of Oliver-Osoyoos Naturalist Club, a strong voice and direction was

provided to get the Foundation back in line as a focused supporter of BC Nature and its Clubs, and to encourage Clubs to apply for Club Support Grants.

There were heated discussions at a couple of meetings, but a set of Working Principles was drafted and then agreed upon by both organizations. (These Working Principles can be found in Appendix 12. BC Naturalists' Foundation, Relationship and Grants). Since then, the Foundation has ably attracted volunteers to its Board and the interest of clubs has increased in applying for Club Support Grants. See the Foundation's sub-page on the BC Nature website and listing of grants disbursed.

Archival Materials and History

To draw this lengthy account to an end, as Past President (2010-2014), I organized all the historical office files to a single copy of minutes arranged chronologically and transported them for storage at the University of Victoria (UVic) Archives. Similarly, I organized the extensive Conservation files, arranged to have them scanned by summer students, posted on our website, and stored with the originals in the UVic Archives. See Appendix 8 for Archival Records, listing of materials.

During my term as President, I had visualized a 40-year history of BC Nature (to be completed in 2009). The writing was to be done through a contractor, but unfortunately that person moved on to another job. Sorting through the historical records took a couple of years, and at that time I had documented many items into the Appendices of this history. Then Sheila Byers was hired on a short contract to write the outline and the first chapter for the history. This gave the project some momentum, and it was also very timely that Sheila was able to interview the five presidents from the decade 1989 – 1998. Sheila's time was limited, due to her job at the UBC Beaty Biodiversity Museum and her volunteer work to further marine protection of glass sponge reefs in Howe Sound. Sheila has, however, provided assistance and support over the past few years, especially with editing, suggestions, and writing up the accounts of former Presidents from the 1989 to 1998 years. Her attention to detail has been very much appreciated.

Wrapping up the entire project for Fall 2019, we then discussed, why not include something on the Presidents for the next decade (1998-2019). Rather than the lengthier process of interviews, each of the Presidents was given free rein to write their account and recollections, with reference to a set of questions that Sheila had prepared for the original interviews. It was a pleasure for me to document this history of naturalists, together with Sheila's help, in time for BC Nature's 50th Anniversary in 2019.

Concluding Remarks

With the example of Anne and Jeremy 'hanging in there' for two two-year terms, it fell to me to continue that tradition as President for four years. With such a supportive Board and Clubs, however, it was my pleasure to do so. Looking back in

past magazines and my last "President's Message" from Spring 2010, my remarks remain fitting today:

Nature inspired me to donate my time as a volunteer and it is the inspiration of you naturalists who have kept me at it - your caring for nature, willingness to share your skills and knowledge, your enthusiasm for projects and your numerous club activities.

The Future

BC Nature does need more staff to handle all the demands, so as I 'retire' from the Board in 2020 after 22 years, I wish all the best to the new President and Board to progress with 'engagement organization' and fundraising to hire staff to promote natural history interests and the need identified a decade ago for additional staff to help with Communications and Projects.

Written by Bev Ramey, August 25, 2020

Awards

Fraser Lowlands Working Group Recognition 1998
Nature Vancouver John Davidson Award for Conservation 2002
BC Nature Elton Anderson Award 2003
Burns Bog Science & Technology Award 2006
BC Nature Merit Award 2020
Nature Vancouver's premier Ney Award 2021

Membership

Nature Vancouver since 1975, and on Board of Nature Vancouver since 2011
BC Nature Conservation Chair 1998 – 2006
BC Nature President 2006 – 2010
BC Nature Past President 2010 - 2014
BC Nature Director-at-Large 2014 to 2020
BC Naturalists' Foundation – ex officio 2006 – 2009
BC Naturalists' Foundation Board 2009 to present:
 President 2012 – 2016
 Secretary 2018- present

John Neville, President 2010 – 2014

Here are some of my previous experiences which brought me to my Presidency position with BC Nature:

- member of Nelson Naturalists (now West Kootenay Naturalists)
- nature audio recordist and partner of Neville Recording
- member of City Council and Mayor of Nelson
- President of Salt Spring Rotary Club
- President of Salt Spring Arts Council
- Treasurer of Assembly of BC Arts Councils

In 2010 as Vice-President, I participated in the Five-Year Strategic Plan for BC Nature. Anne Murray invited the Strategic Planning Committee to stay at her house for the weekend and created the plan. I well recall Fred McMechan, Al and Jude Grass, Bev Ramey, Anne, Heather and myself in attendance. I proposed a novel idea to create a Nature Viewing Guide online. It became clear, however, that the primary goal looking forward was to reverse the declining membership.

As additional experience for my soon role-to-be, then President Bev Ramey, asked me to join her to interview candidates for the office manager's job and we picked a beauty, didn't we! Betty Davison is at the heart of our organization and is the person most of us deal with concerning BC Nature. She is the only permanent member of the BC Nature Board but has no voting rights.

Thus, I entered the President's position with two major goals to achieve that would help to move the organization forward. Firstly, membership had declined to 4,200. It was easy to promote the goal of increasing membership, but harder to plan how to do it!

Planning how to increase the BC Nature membership was the bigger challenge of the two main goals. Nonetheless, I set myself the task of visiting all the clubs in the province to encourage them in their endeavors, including membership. I visited about 42 out of the 48 clubs, falling slightly short of my goal. This was a wonderful experience meeting volunteers who appreciated nature. They valued a visit from the BC Nature President and wanted to talk about nature! I quickly developed birding talks with my recordings and included my wife, Heather's, photos.

I will always remember some of those events: giving a talk on a paddle wheeler near Penticton; presenting in a renovated railway station in Fernie (I had to stop talking for several minutes until the noise of a passing coal train had faded away); members of the Kitimat Club meeting at Walter and Sue Thorne's house-only five of them-but they made up for their numbers with enthusiasm! The Kitimat Club has now expanded into a vibrant club. Another delightful memory of a club visit was standing outside the meeting hall of a club on the Sunshine Coast when a bus suddenly pulled up driven by Michael Jackson, full of naturalists from the neighboring club. It became a great social event!

After two talks in Prince George, a new BC Nature Club was formed which gave me a great deal of satisfaction. Two other clubs were created: Northern Amphibians Naturalists Society (in northwestern BC) and WildResearch based in Richmond. My most valuable experience as President was meeting our naturalists on their own turf and hearing their nature experiences. Imagine my delight when the clubs came up big, and the membership of BC Nature increased to above 6000 for the first time!

For the second goal, we needed to get back to nature! There was too much emphasis on reports and not enough of "know nature and keep it worth knowing". I promoted the plan to create a website that could be used as a guide for viewing wildlife and nature in BC. In my first year, we gradually discovered how to set up the website and Krista Kaptein became the site administrator. We obtained Gaming Grants to support the project and since then, thousands of people have visited the site - BC Nature Guide - and it is still expanding. Fortunately, we were successful in 2010 and every year since, in obtaining a Gaming Grant to create bcnatureguide.ca.

Another idea for promoting nature was to change the content of our *BC Nature Magazine*. This was a little more difficult but received wide support. I have continued that goal of promoting nature in the last few years by writing the series 'North in the Spring' in each issue. Eleven of these articles have been written as of Spring 2020 (Vol 58, No 1).

Within BC Nature, our Executive practices at the time (now Board of Directors) needed some changes. We made changes to the Bylaws and I attempted to rewrite some of our guiding documents. For example, the *Policy and Procedure Manual* was created and made available to the membership in 2013. The 2020 President, Kees Visser, further extended and improved this document.

An issue taken up by the BC Nature Board about half-way through my term was the opposition to the proposal to build the Northern Gateway pipeline. This task was led by our Conservation Chair, Rosemary Fox. After several months into this, Professor Chris Tollefson of Environmental Law from the University of Victoria approached me and offered legal representation for BC Nature at the court hearings. This was ultimately a great success but there were a few heartaches along the road. Although the court case was somewhat beyond our experience, the Board showed a lot of moral fortitude during the ordeal.

In a somewhat lighter vein, I enjoyed recruiting interesting speakers to make the AGMs more palatable to our members and to help improve the brand of BC Nature. Speakers included Steven Price, President of Birds Canada, Elizabeth May, Leader of the Green Party, Lieutenant Governor Honourable Judith Guichon OBC, and Ric Careless who promoted BC Parks. Having the pleasure of introducing Lieutenant Governor Judith Guichon, I was given a series of protocols including "no touching". In a narrow space between the podium and the wall we had to change places several times and our hips and shoulders bumped. She gradually began to chuckle and that soon became infectious (the laughter that is...).

Amongst my errors, I attempted to answer all emails when I was on the road each spring recording bird songs. More recent presidents have delegated that responsibility and I wish I had done likewise.

I sincerely thank the members and the very capable office staff for their support during my Presidential term. After my term as President, I remained active on the BC Nature Board until stepping down in 2021, but I will add a few more wonderful memories that I have gained through my experience with the BC Nature Board and Club members.

The Club Representatives for the Vancouver Island Region have become special friends and acquaintances in recent years: Michael Stebbings working on his club's website; Bruce Coates presenting environmental issues; Sharon Niscak sharing her common-sense approach to life; Kathleen Maser, her genuine enthusiasm; Genevieve Singleton, her willingness to impart knowledge; and Jim Boulter and Loys Maingon contributing their efforts to organize regional conferences. We have attended many polished presentations by Ann Nightingale and others at our Victoria Natural History Society.

There are many individuals that also come to mind: Mel Coulson from Smithers who jointly produced two bird song guides with me, one for BC and another for North America; Pat McAllister introduced me to a Boa Constrictor in Vernon; Doreen Olsen prompted me to handle a tiny Burrowing Owl (when it's alarmed, it gives off the sound of a rattlesnake!) in Okanagan Falls; the Cannings family, starting with Steve and Jean, directed me to many places to record Okanagan birds; Pat Westheuser from Kelowna, was not only Awards Chair for many years but a great camp cook (she once handed me a glass of wine as I started my presentation and things slowly went downhill from there); good times with Marg Cuthbert and Dave and the late Ursula Easterbrook with her dog Farley, where we were together in our campers and motorhomes parked at AGMs around the province; also the late Tom Bearss, a larger than life character, whose birding trip reports we enjoyed for years along with many others.

In recent years, I have worked with three great Presidents—Bev Ramey, Kees Visser and Alan Burger—who have demonstrated great skill, empathy for the members and professional expertise.

I'm sorry I can't mention you all, but I would like to thank BC Nature for enriching my life. Naturalist clubs are really important for their communities to allow everyone to "know nature and keep it worth knowing".

Written by John Neville, August 20, 2020 (updated with additional details on his retirement from Board in 2021)

Naturalist Awards

BC Nature Elton Anderson Award in 2014

Kees Visser, President 2014-2016 and 2019-2020

1. Background with Nature Clubs:

Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club

Member since 2003 to present

2005-2007 Hiking Coordinator

2007-2009 Vice-President

2009-2012 President

2012-2014 Past President

2005 to 2014 trip leader and organized multiday camps for club members

Learned to deal with various government levels, and improved interpersonal skills

2017-2018 Secretary

BC Nature

2013-2014 Vice-President

2014-2016 President

2016-2019 Past President

2019-2020 President

BC Naturalists' Foundation

2014-present Director

2. Accomplishments

During my term as President of the FBCN/BC Nature

- Smooth running of the organization
- Solved a few interpersonal issues within the Board of Directors
- AGM on Salt Spring Island; my spouse Nieke Visser was the Conference Chair. I think this is the first time in the history of BC Nature that the Conference Chair and the President of BC Nature were married (*editor's note: this conference was outstanding and received praise from many participants*)
- The fight (during my term as Vice-President) and win of the cancellation of the proposed building of the Northern Gateway Pipeline in 2016 (as President)

3. Projects:

Learning about, and involvement with, the various BC Nature projects was interesting. As President and a retired Geologist, I gave presentations on geology when I visited clubs around the province. Trips were made to the Northern Region and along the Crowsnest Highway (Hwy #3 from Princeton to Cranbrook). Many members, although interested, have much to learn about geology.

4. Conservation and Education:

As President, I worked extensively with the University of Victoria's Environmental Law Centre to take the Federal Government to court to stop the Northern Gateway proposed project (Enbridge pipeline).

Interviews with radio stations, added to the geology presentations to clubs, and helped to identify the geological concerns associated with the proposed building of the Northern Gateway. Finally, in 2016 BC Nature was successful in stopping the project.

5. Challenges:

- Interpersonal challenges within the Board of Directors to make decisions remained a very strong concern, and especially in my last year as President, 2019 -2020.
- It was difficult to gain interest and support from clubs to organize and host AGMs and FGMs. The COVID-19 crisis, beginning in February 2020 was an additional major challenge – it stopped most club activities, such as camps, the 2020 AGM planned for Princeton and face-to-face meetings
- The ongoing Trans Mountain Pipeline proposal and Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Expansion proposal needed continued attention.

In my last year of Presidency, the functioning of the Board was changed to add Committees to help spread the workload. Although necessary, the specific functions of the Committees added an additional layer of reporting, communication and therefore time demands.

6. Changes:

The change and introduction of Board Committees started in October 2018 and we now have the Governance Committee, Finance Committee, and Human Resources Committee, in addition to the already existing Education and Conservation Committees. We did eliminate the Communication Committee and started the Outreach Committee. BC Nature is still reflecting on which Committees work and which do not. I believe the Finance and Governance Committees work well.

I am part of, and will remain a part of, the Governance Committee. I assisted in the complete re write of the Bylaws and am now focused on the Policies and Procedures.

BC Nature is changing from a volunteer driven 'easygoing' organization to a more rigid and formal organization. The future will tell if that is the right direction in which to go.

7. Stories:

Interactions with my fellow Board members have often been very congenial and hilarious. I cannot give any particular anecdotes although Fred McMechan usually offered materials in a humorous way when needed- good for a laugh! Joan Snyder likes to talk a lot to people next to her, and I had to reprimand her a few times, which usually resulted in a shocked reaction. Margaret provides lengthy commentary, and I had to stop her a few times. But both Joan and Margaret took my interjections well and we all got along wonderfully.

For BC Nature, I led the Provincial Cathedral Lake Park field camp in 2018, and I have very good memories of times with the participants from all over the province, and especially from Kelowna.

I have been working closely with Betty Davison, our Office Manager since 2009. As I was not a native English speaker, but Dutch, she always teasingly made fun of my 'Denglish', given her Dutch connections. So we had a good rapport. I believe that people could mostly understand me at our meetings, Board, Club Directors and AGMs, although occasionally I did see puzzled or surprised faces.

8. Perspective:

The FBCN is a very important organization for the province, because we have a strong membership with a strong scientific background and deep connections with nature. The various government levels know the value of this and tend to listen. We should continue to strengthen this position and relationship.

Our major concern is the lack of younger members (under 60) and I am aware that this is a long-standing problem. We are trying to solve this by more social media platforms, hence the creation of the Outreach Committee. Another opportunity is to focus on particular issues such as the protection of the Southern Resident Killer Whales, the Fraser River Delta or the Flathead Valley. These topics would likely gain more traction with the younger generations than the broader, generalized 'Nature' approach we have been taking over the last 50+ years. I am concerned about BC Nature taking an approach that is too strict and formal and am afraid that this will frighten off potential members. The future will identify this consideration as a problem, or not, but future presidents should be aware of the potential.

9. What have you enjoyed most about BC Nature:

My interactions with my fellow Board members and my trip to visit the Northern Region's clubs. The AGM 2015 on Salt Spring Island was a very positive meeting and we had over 200 attendees. It was a busy, but also a rewarding time.

Written by Kees Visser, May 31, 2020

Naturalist Awards

Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club Trail Blazer Award 2019

BC Nature Elton Anderson Award, May 2019

Alan Burger, President 2016-2019

1. Your Background:

My involvement in nature clubs goes way back to my undergrad student days at the University of Cape Town where I was involved with the nature/wilderness group there. Once I moved to Canada in 1980, I was involved in various nature clubs. In Corner Brook, Newfoundland, where I lived for five years, I was the President of the Tuckamore Wilderness Club. Later when I moved to Victoria in 1988, I immediately joined the Victoria Natural History Society and remained a member for the next 20 years. I was on the Board for several years and organized the evening presentations, as well as giving my own presentations to the Society. Around this time, I attended my first BC Nature AGM.

In 2006 my wife and I moved to a rural property near Merritt. There was no naturalist club in Merritt so a group of us founded the Nicola Naturalist Society in 2010 and the club immediately became part of the BC Nature Federation. I remain the President of the Nicola Naturalists and am responsible for evening meetings, the club website and newsletter and many of the field outings. In 2014 our young club ran a very successful Spring camp for BC Nature in Merritt. This brought me further into the BC Nature realm. Around 2014 I was elected to the BC Nature Board as the regional representative for the Thompson-Okanagan-Shuswap region, taking over from Vivian Birch-Jones. In May 2016 I became President of BC Nature and served three years until May 2019.

As a university professor and wildlife researcher, I focused mainly on seabirds. For 30 years I led research programs on Marbled Murrelets in many parts of BC and Alaska. This work involved both marine and old-growth forest conservation issues. I've also worked on the impacts of oil spills on seabirds and on seabird distribution, diving, foraging ecology and breeding. My lecturing career, as well as more recent gigs as a lecturer/naturalist on small ecotourism vessels in the Antarctic and Arctic, made me realize the tremendous need for scientists to promote science, stewardship and conservation. BC Nature is an excellent platform for this important activity.

2. Accomplishments:

My term as President from 2016-2019 covered a difficult time for BC Nature. It became obvious that we needed to re-structure as an organization and adopt a more professional approach to a range of activities that included fund-raising, increasing our staff capacity, better management of membership records and many other aspects of the organization. With \$8,000 funding from the BC Naturalists' Foundation, we hired an organizational consultant, Valerie Mayes, who did a complete review of our organization and led a workshop for the Board at the 2018 FGM in Kelowna. Based on Valerie Mayes' report and our own deliberations, BC Nature undertook some major changes, including:

- A major revision of the BC Nature Bylaws
- Changing the name of the Executive to the Board of Directors
- Changing the name of the Club Directors to the Council of Club Representatives
- Establishing three new committees to help oversee our operations
 - Governance Committee
 - Finance Committee
 - Human Resources Committee
- Establishing formal Terms of Reference for all our standing committees
- Reviewing the Office Manager's job description
- Establishing an on-line membership database that covers all our clubs and their members
- Appointing a Harassment Officer and an overhaul of our Harassment Policy
- Establishing a Disciplinary Committee consisting of the President, Past-President and Harassment Officer (thankfully not needed during my term)
- Undertaking a major revision of our Policies and Procedures Manual
- Running a workshop on fund-raising
- A renewed agreement with the Elders Council for BC Parks on sharing the office space at the Heritage Centre, Mount Seymour Provincial Park.
- Hiring our first part-time office assistant to assist the Office Manager.

This re-organization was, at times, controversial and revealed some divisions of opinions within our organization. During this process the Vice-President and the Treasurer both resigned, linked to re-organization and financial issues.

Some of the re-organization resulting from the Mayes' report continued after my Presidency. In April 2021 the Board approved the hiring of a part-time Fund-raiser and a part-time Conservation Coordinator. The plan is to have both of these jobs expand to be full-time as funding increases.

Some other achievements/events during my term:

- Establishment of the Bert Brink Scholarship for graduate students;
- Re-establishing the Nanaimo Naturalists (former President John Neville and I both gave presentations to promote the rejuvenation of this important club);
- Close work with the Environmental Law Centre at the University of Victoria (UVic) and its non-profit offshoot - Pacific Centre for Environmental Law and Litigation (CELL) - in several issues of national importance including:
 - Successful litigation to end the Northern Gateway Enbridge crude oil pipeline;
 - Litigation and scientific reports opposing the Trans Mountain crude oil pipeline;
 - Input into the revised Federal Environmental Assessment Act;
- Provision of scientific data, finding funds for expert reports and ongoing opposition against the expansion of the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 container port which threatens globally important wetlands.

3. Projects:

- Major re-organization of BC Nature's operations and committees;
- Work with UVic Environmental Law Centre to oppose nationally critical development projects and help draft federal environmental legislation;
- Expansion of the wildlife and nature viewing website (BC Nature Guide);
- Ongoing support and funding for the BC Important Bird & Biodiversity Areas (IBAs).

4. Conservation and Education:

- Establishment of the Bert Brink Scholarship for graduate students.
- Increased funding for BC Nature scholarships from the BC Naturalists' Foundation.
- Ongoing support for Science Fairs in BC.
- Expansion of the activities of the Conservation Committee (increased letters to governments, increased participation in wildlife management and environmental committees, e.g., Columbia River, caribou, wildlife management workshops).
- Work with Nature Canada, Bird Studies Canada (now Birds Canada) and several local BC Nature clubs on promoting conservation of the Fraser River Delta wetlands, with funding from the Sitka Foundation.
- We collaborated with Nature Canada and naturalist groups across Canada to work with the federal government on their *Pathway to Canada Target* to meet the Aichi Target #11: protect at least 17% of Canada's land and inland waters and 10% of marine and coastal areas by 2020.
- Promotion of the South Okanagan Similkameen National Park Reserve.
- Support for the Ecoforestry Institute in protecting and managing Wildwood Forest (the late Merv Wilkinson's model forest on Vancouver Island).
- In 2018, BC Nature joined many other environmental and wildlife groups to successfully oppose a movement to privatize wildlife management in BC.
- We also joined other groups to successfully push for the end of trophy hunting of Grizzly Bears in BC along with an ongoing push to ban wildlife hunting competitions focused on wolves.
- Our special representatives contributed thousands of volunteer hours on important conservation and management issues: notably, Roger Emsley (Roberts Bank terminal developments), Greg Ferguson (wildlife management consultations), Joan Snyder (caribou conservation), Hilary Miller (Outdoor Recreation Council), and Virginia Rasch and Gerry Warner (Columbia River Basin Environmental Collaborative).
- Our Office Manager, Betty Davison, working with the Communications Committee made major changes to our quarterly BC Nature Magazine, resulting in a more professional and dynamic publication.
- In collaboration with Nature Canada, we ran two workshops at our general meetings on outreach and communication, where use of websites and social media were emphasized to target the public online.

- One particularly pleasant and fruitful endeavour was to work with the Abbotsford-Mission Nature Club in their funding and construction of the viewing platform at Willband Creek Park.



At the Willband Creek opening ceremony, Alan on left (representing BC Nature), Betty Davison in centre (BC Nature Office Manager) and Tom Bearss on right (representing the BC Naturalists' Foundation)

5. Challenges:

Environmental challenges during my term were many. A few of which BC Nature responded included:

- Northern Gateway oil pipeline;
- Trans Mountain oil pipeline;
- Logging in the Manning - Skagit Provincial Parks 'donut hole'" threatening the integrity of those parks and the Skagit River;
- Drastic declines in caribou populations and the failure of BC and federal governments to act effectively on this issue (numerous interventions and letters);
- The Roberts Bank Terminal 2 expansion proposal which threatens the integrity of the important mudflats and shallows of Roberts Bank (appointment of Roger Emsley as BC Nature's special representative on this issue and numerous interventions);

- Predator management and culling of wolves;
- Impacts of neonicotinoid pesticides;
- Proposals to develop Liquid Natural Gas facilities on highly sensitive coastal environments in Prince Rupert;
- Negative impacts of fish farms on native salmon populations;
- Revitalization of the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) and the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC);
- Better protection of the Southern Resident Killer Whales;
- Input on proposed livestock water regulations under BC's Water Sustainability Act;
- And many other issues (see Chapter Five: Conservation, a Fifty Year History).

BC Nature also responded to several regional conservation issues brought to our attention by member clubs. As examples:

- Proposed Fraser River bridge to replace the Massey Tunnel;
- Destruction of important foreshore habitat in the Comox area;
- Impacts of rodenticides on owls in the Fraser River Delta;
- Impacts of a proposed solar power farm in the Kootenays;
- Preservation of a bat colony in the old Burr Villa in Deas Island Park, Delta;
- Importance of the Herrling and Carey Islands gravel reaches on the Fraser River.

6. Changes:

Major organizational changes (covered above in #2).

7. Stories:

During my term as President, I visited and gave presentations at many clubs (Princeton, Kelowna, Penticton, Kamloops, Victoria, Nanaimo, Abbotsford, Merritt, Castlegar, Lillooet). In all cases I was impressed by the enthusiasm and dedication of the small groups of people who were central to the success of each club. Visiting these clubs and being at BC Nature general meetings brought home to me the disproportionate number of older people involved in our clubs – meeting the needs of people under 50 remains a challenge to BC Nature. I also participated as a resource person at a summer camp in the southern Chilcotin near Lillooet.

8. Perspective:

BC Nature is important because it fills a unique niche providing a meeting place for all people who love nature and are interested in preserving our environment. Unlike many mainstream environmental groups, we are not strident activists but are in a good position with our province-wide representation to quietly and strongly push

forward the application of science-based management measures and conservation of our wildlife and environment.

During my term, much of my time and energy, and that of the Board, was focused on our organizational review and renewal. This was a necessary step, but there was some cost to this in that we did not have the capacity to keep expanding BC Nature with new clubs and increased membership. During my term, our federation remained at around 50 clubs and just over 6,000 members. With a more structured and formalized organization in place I hope that we can put more time and energy into building up BC Nature. I would hate to see our Board and management continue to focus on organization at the expense of expansion. During my term, our two primary committees—Conservation and Education—also expanded their activities and continued to do great work.

Our strength is in our clubs and this is where I hope BC Nature will focus much of the future efforts. By expanding our clubs, we give more people opportunities to enjoy nature and learn about nature in their own 'backyard', and at the same time we increase our voice and our influence with governments and other decision-makers.

9. What have you enjoyed

Visiting nature clubs and meeting fellow naturalists from all parts of the province at our general meetings has been a great pleasure. I am also proud to have been involved with some of the major conservation and education initiatives that BC Nature has undertaken. Even though I am not fond of committees and organizational details, I am happy that BC Nature achieved most of what was required during the major organizational renewal that began during my term.

I love attending our AGMs and FGMs. The presentations are nearly all excellent and informative. Best of all, I love the outings to explore new areas in the company of a knowledgeable leader, and to share that experience with fellow naturalists from other clubs.

I am a strong supporter of our sister organization NatureKids BC, and some of my most memorable times were when my wife and I led outings for the local Merritt NatureKids club. The uninhibited exuberance and thirst for information of those kids was just wonderful.

Written by Alan Burger, June 8, 2020 (updated April 2021)

Naturalist Awards

BC Nature Elton Anderson Award, May 2021

Appendix 16. BC Nature Member Clubs Since Formation (Please refer to NOTES at the end of the document)					
<i>This appendix is dedicated to Jude Grass. It was Jude's suggestion to compile a list of clubs when she was interviewed as a Past President.</i>					
BCNC - British Columbia Nature Council FBCN - Federation of British Columbia Naturalists is the legal name BC Nature - new operating name for FBCN branded in 2006	Date Club Founded	Charter Clubs	Founder Clubs	FBCN/ BC Nature Date Clubs Joined FBCN	BC Nature Member Clubs Membership Numbers Dec 2021
<i>The last column provides the number of individual members; family memberships count as two, plus the single members.</i>					
<i>The symbol "0" in the last column indicates that the club is no longer active.</i>					
Member (Federated) Clubs of BC Nature, by geographic region					
Lower Mainland					
Abbotsford-Mission Nature Club (renamed in 2010 from original Central Valley Naturalists club)	1992			1994	63
Alouette Field Naturalists Society, Maple Ridge & Pitt Meadows: disbanded 2021	1972			1972	0
Bowen Nature Club, Bowen Island	1983			1988	21
Burke Mountain Naturalists (BMN), "the TriCities"	1989			1990	228
Cariboo Heights Forest Preservation Society, Burnaby	2015*			2015*	26
Delta Naturalists' Society (DNS)	1988			1990	113
Elders Council for Parks in British Columbia, North Vancouver	2004			2021	22
Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society (FoSBS), White Rock **	2001			2004	12
Great Blue Heron Society **	1988*			2019	3
Langley Field Naturalists Society	1973			1980	94
Little Campbell Watershed Society (LCWS), Langley	2005			2021*	14
Malaspina Naturalist Club, Powell River	1999			2020*	103
Nature Chilliwack (Chilliwack Field Naturalists)	1971			1971	46
Nature Vancouver (Vancouver Natural History Society, VNHS)	1918	Yes	Yes	1969	776

BCNC - British Columbia Nature Council FBCN - Federation of British Columbia Naturalists is the legal name BC Nature - new operating name for FBCN branded in 2006	Date Club Founded	Charter Clubs	Founder Clubs	FBCN/ BC Nature Date Clubs Joined FBCN	BC Nature Member Clubs Membership Numbers Dec 2021
North Shore Urban Bear Club, North Vancouver (renamed in 2004 from original B.E.A.R.S. club)	2003			2010	0
Pender Harbour Wildlife Society, Madeira Park, Sunshine Coast (Supports Ruby Lake Lagoon Society & Iris Griffith Nature Centre)	1979			1989	52
Royal City Naturalist Society, New Westminster: disbanded 2017	1974			2010	0
Squamish Environment Society (SES) (Squamish Environmental Conservation Society)	1982			1987	55
Stoney Creek Environment Committee (SCEC), Burnaby	1994			2001	78
Sunshine Coast Natural History Society (SCNHS), Sechelt	1976			1978	149
Surrey Environmental Partners (SEP), Surrey	2003*			2011	7
Texada Stickleback Group Association, Texada Island	2005			2011	0
Whistler Naturalists Society	1999			2000	28
White Rock and Surrey Naturalists Society (WRSN)	1973			1973	69
WildResearch, Lower Mainland (Operates Iona Island Bird Banding Station and other projects)	2010			2011	161
Yorkson Watershed Enhancement Society (YWES), Langley **	2010s*			2015	4
Kootenay					
Arrow Lakes Naturalist Club, Nakusp: disbanded in late 1990s	1986			1986*	0
Boundary Naturalists, Grand Forks: disbanded in late 2000s	1975*			1976	0
Fernie Nature Club	2006			2007	29
Nelson Naturalists Club: folded into WKNA	1992			1992*	0
Rocky Mountain Naturalists (RMNats), Cranbrook	1986			1990	143
West Kootenay Naturalists Association (WKNA), Castlegar	1972			1980	97
Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation of Canada, Kimberley	2009			2020	12

BCNC - British Columbia Nature Council FBCN - Federation of British Columbia Naturalists is the legal name BC Nature - new operating name for FBCN branded in 2006	Date Club Founded	BCNC 1963 Charter Clubs	FBCN 1969 Founder Clubs	FBCN/ BC Nature Date Clubs Joined FBCN	BC Nature Member Clubs Membership Numbers Dec 2021
Northern BC					
Bella Coola Trail and Nature Club: disbanded in 1990s	1987			1987*	0
Bulkley Valley Naturalists (BVN), Smithers area	1979			1990	45
Delkatla Sanctuary Society, Masset, Haida Gwaii	1994			2021	43
Fort Nelson Trail & Nature Club, Peace River: folded into TT&NC	1974			1974	0
Kitimat Valley Naturalists	1972			2010	38
Mackenzie Nature Observatory (MNO) (Operates Mugaha Marsh Bird Banding Station)	1995			1997	53
Northern Amphibian Naturalists Society, northwest BC	2013			2014	30
North Peace Nature Club, Fort St. John: folded into TT&NC	1975			1975	0
Prince George Naturalists Club (PGNC)	1969		Yes	1969	97
Prince Rupert Naturalists: disbanded by 1990s	1978			1978	0
Quesnel Trail and Nature Club	1985			1989	31
Skeena Valley Naturalists Club (SVN), Terrace: disbanded ~2015	1989			1991	0
Terrace Outdoor Club: folded into SVN Club	1973			1973	0
Timberline Trail and Nature Club (TT&NC), Dawson Creek	1968			1968	15
Williams Lake Field Naturalists Society (Manages Scout Island Nature Centre)	1971			1977	110
Thompson Okanagan Shuswap					
Central Okanagan Naturalists' Club (CONC), Kelowna	1962	Yes	Yes	1969	196
Kamloops Naturalist Club (KNC)	1972			1981	191
Kamloops Thompson Trails Alliance, Kamloops area	2012			2012	8
Lillooet Naturalist Society (LNS), Lillooet area	2000			2002	94
Nicola Naturalist Society, Merritt	2010			2010	92

BCNC - British Columbia Nature Council FBCN - Federation of British Columbia Naturalists is the legal name BC Nature - new operating name for FBCN branded in 2006	Date Club Founded	Charter Clubs	Founder Clubs	FBCN/ BC Nature Date Clubs Joined FBCN	BC Nature Member Clubs Membership Numbers Dec 2021
North Okanagan Naturalists' Club (NONC), Vernon	1951	Yes	Yes	1969	146
North Shuswap Naturalist Club, Chase: disbanded ~2018	1978			1979	0
Oliver-Osoyoos Naturalist Club, Osoyoos	1973			1973	36
Shuswap Naturalists Club, Salmon Arm	1970			1971	97
Similkameen Naturalist Club, Cawston: disbanded 2008	1992*			1996	0
South Okanagan Naturalists Club (SONC), Penticton	1962	Yes	Yes	1969	89
Vermilion Forks Field Naturalists (VFFN), Princeton	1991			1995	23
Vancouver Island					
Alberni Valley Nature Club, Port Alberni	1972			2020	19
Arrowsmith Naturalists, Parksville and Qualicum	1970			1971*	106
Comox Valley Nature (Comox Valley Naturalist Society), Courtney	1966		Yes	1969	195
Cowichan Valley Naturalists Society (Nature Cowichan), Duncan	1915	Yes	Yes	1969	88
Mitlenatch Field Naturalists Society, Quadra Island: disbanded 2010s	1972			1972	0
Nature Nanaimo (Nanaimo Field Naturalists)	1972			1972	111
Nanoose Naturalists, Nanoose Bay: disbanded mid-2010s, members transferred to either Arrowsmith Naturalists or Nanaimo Naturalists	2002			2002	0
Pender Island Naturalists: disbanded ~2019	1977			1993	0
Rithet's Bog Conservation Society, Saanich Peninsula	1990			2004	9
Rocky Point Bird observatory, Metchosin (Operates Rocky Point Bird Observatory)	1994			2001	321
Nature Salt Spring	2021			2021	17
Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club	1973			1974	117
Thetis Park Nature Sanctuary Association, Victoria: disbanded in 1993 following park creation	1963*	Yes	Yes	1969	0
Victoria Natural History Society (VNHS), Victoria	1944	Yes	Yes	1969	629
Total Number of Member (Federated) Clubs 2021		7	9		55

Organizations Associated with BC Nature as 'Associate' or 'Affiliate': from 1980s through to 2010s.					
Alberni Valley Nature Club, Port Alberni: Associate 1993-1998					
Alexander McKenzie Voyageur Route Association, Kelowna					
Allan Brooks Nature Centre Society, Vernon					
BC Spaces for Nature					
BC Watershed Stewardship Alliance, Kelowna					
Biology Cooperation Education Coordinators, University of Victoria					
Boundary Bay Conservation Committee, Delta					
Burns Bog Conservation Society, Delta					
Burnaby Outdoor Education Association					
Campbell River Naturalists, Campbell River					
Central Valley Naturalists, Mount Lehman					
Charlie Lake Conservation Society, Charlie Lake					
Clearwater Naturalists Club					
Columbia Valley Field Naturalists, Golden					
Comox Valley Project Watershed, Courtenay					
Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area, Creston					
Delkatla Sanctuary Society, Masset					
Evergreen Foundation, Vancouver					
Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC, Vancouver					
Francis Point Marine Park Society, Madeira Park					
Fraser Valley Heritage Tree Society, Langley					
Friends of Beacon Hill Park Society, Victoria					
Friends of the Caren, Madeira Park on Sunshine Coast					
Friends of Cortes Island Society, Whaleton					
Friends of Cypress Provincial Park Society, West Vancouver					
Friends of Mount Revelstoke & Glacier Naturalists, Revelstoke					
The Friends of the Rain Shadow, Lillooet					
Friends of the Stikine Society, Gibsons					
Garry Oak Meadows Preservation Society, Victoria					

Organizations Associated with BC Nature as 'Associate' or 'Affiliate': from 1980s through to 2010s.					
Grassy Plains School, Burns Lake					
Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning					
Hornby Island Natural History Exhibition					
Indian Arm Natural History Club, North Vancouver					
Jervis Fjordland Wilderness Committee					
Kitimat Valley Naturalists, Kitimat					
Lake Windermere Naturalists, Invermere					
The Land Conservancy of BC, Victoria					
Land Trust Alliance of BC, Salt Spring Island					
Langley Environmental Partners Society					
Lighthouse Park Preservation Society, West Vancouver					
Lillet Naturalist Society, Lillooet					
Macdonald Wood Park Society, Comox					
Mackenzie Fish and Game Association, Mackenzie					
Marine Life Sanctuaries Society, Vancouver					
Mayne Island Naturalists Association Society, Mayne Island					
Morell Sanctuary Society					
Mount Tolmie Conservancy Association, Victoria					
Nanoose Naturalists, Nanoose					
The Native Plant Society of BC, Vancouver					
Natural History Society of Newfoundland & Labrador, St. John's					
Nature Saskatchewan, Regina					
The Nature Trust of BC, West Vancouver, North Vancouver					
Nelson Naturalists Club, Nelson					
North Kootenay Lake Naturalists, Kaslo					
North Shore Black Bear Network, North Vancouver					
Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society, Summerland					
Osoyoos Desert Society, Osoyoos					
Powell River Naturalists, Powell River					

Organizations Associated with BC Nature as 'Associate' or 'Affiliate': from 1980s through to 2010s.					
Queen Charlotte Islands Museum Society, Masset					
Raincoast Applied Ecology, Vancouver					
Raincoast Education Society, Tofino					
Richmond Field Naturalists, Richmond					
Riverview Horticultural Centre Society, Coquitlam					
Ruby Lake Lagoon Nature Reserve Society, Madeira Park					
Salmon Arm Bay Nature Enhancement Society, Salmon Arm					
Sargeant Bay Society, Sechelt					
Save Our Parkland Association, Vancouver					
Similkameen Parks Society					
Society Promoting Environmental Conservation (SPEC), Vancouver					
Soil and Water Conservation Society, Langley					
Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society, Duncan					
South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program					
Southern Interior Bluebird Society, Oliver					
Stanley Park Ecology Association, Vancouver					
Stoney Creek Environment Committee, Burnaby					
Students for Environmental Awareness, Camosun College, Victoria					
Sunshine Coast Conservation Association, Sechelt					
Swan Lake/Christmas Hill Nature Centre, Victoria					
Trails BC, Vancouver					
Tumbler Ridge Ornithology Group, Tumbler Ridge					
Vermillion Forks Field Naturalists, Princeton					
Whistler Naturalists Society					
West Vancouver Streamkeepers, Vancouver					
Wild Bird Trust of BC, West Vancouver, North Vancouver					
World Wildlife Fund, Toronto					

Notes

* Club dates when formed or joined FBCN, drawn primarily from newsletters and/or contact with members. An asterix * indicates uncertain date.

** Indicates those clubs who are non-membership based. Numbers represent Board of Directors coverage.

Clubs involved in the founding of BC Nature Council and Federation of British Columbia Naturalists are identified with a 'Yes' in Columns C and D.

Club membership numbers (last column) represent the most recent updates effective December 31, 2021 provided by BC Nature Office Manager.

Clubs that disbanded or folded into another local club (as best as could be determined) show a "0" for current membership number.

"Associate" or "Affiliate" meant an organization or club that did not belong as a "Federated" Club.

Associate and Affiliate clubs/organizations received FBCN newsletters, publicity from listing and invitation to send a rep to conferences.

In addition, the "Affiliate" category generally referred to a naturalist club that was considering becoming a full member of the FBCN.

Sources: BC Nature website; Office Manager; Newsletters; personal communication with members; Club websites if available.

Appendix 16 research and compilation by Sheila Byers with assistance from Bev Ramey.