



Langley Field Naturalists



To encourage nature appreciation, conservation and education

C/o Secretary, 203-9018 208th Street, Langley, BC, V1M 2Y8

www.langleyfieldnaturalists.org

e-mail: langleyfieldnaturalists@shaw.ca

Newsletter

December 2015

THE "HONEY MUSHROOM"

One of the most common mushrooms in the Langley woods is the "honey mushroom" (*Armillaria mellea*). J.D. Sept (2014) notes the *Armillaria* complex "formerly applied to approximately 10 closely related species - -".



Honey Mushroom (*A. Mellea* sp.)

Photo: Al Grass

Our local species is listed as *A. ostoyae* (the brown honey). However, it is interesting to note that in some recent field guides the fungus is still listed as *A. mellea*.

The honey mushroom gets its name from its amber (honey-like) colour. It usually grows in clusters, often on rotting stumps (like big-leaf maple). The stem has a ring and if you look carefully where it is growing, you'll discover black strands called rhizomorphs.

The brown honey is an amazing organism. In the Blue Mountains of Oregon one is said to be 2400 years old covering an area of 2,200 acres (880 hectares).

Al Grass

Reference: Sept. J.D. 2014. Common Mushrooms of the Northwest. Calypso Publishing, Sechelt. A must have for anyone interested in our local Mushrooms.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Below are the dates for all Christmas Bird Counts around our area - whether or not you are an expert birder, you can help - drivers, spotters and recorders are always needed. Contact the coordinator in the area if you wish to participate, to learn where and when to meet.

Count Name	Date	Compiler/Contact	Phone #	Email
Abbotsford				
Mission	02-Jan	Stan Olson	604 853 6454	smkd@shaw.ca
Chilliwack	19-Dec	Denis Knopp	604 858 5141	bcwilddenis@uniserve.com
Harrison River	14-Dec	Denis Knopp	604 858 5141	bcwilddenis@uniserve.com
Ladner	27-Dec	Jude Grass	604 538 8774	judegrass@shaw.ca
Lower Howe Sound	02-Jan	Marja de Jong Westman	604 921 3382	mdjw@telus.net
Pitt Meadows	02-Jan	Larry Cowan	604 465 1402	lawrencecowan@shaw.ca
Squamish	20-Dec	Heather Baines	604 938 1738	birdbaines@gmail.com
Vancouver	20-Dec	Adrian Grant Duff	604 263 7957	angrantduff@gmail.com
White Rock	03-Jan	Viveka Ohman	604 531 3401	vohman@shaw.ca

For the Langley section of the White Rock/Langley count, contact Kathy Masse, wmasse@telus.net

LANGLEY FIELD NATURALISTS 2014-2015 DIRECTORS

President: Bob Puls
604-856-7534 ~ bob@puls.ca

Vice President: Sharon McVeigh
604-308-6975 ~ bcbirder@gmail.com

Past President: Jude Grass
604-538-8774 ~ judegrass@shaw.ca

Secretary: Joan Taylor
604-868 6417 ~ lfnsecretary@shaw.ca

Treasurer: Ian Taylor
604-868 0107 ~ ist0909@shaw.ca

Conservation: Bob Puls
604-856-7534 ~ bob@puls.ca

Membership:
& Newsletter: Sheila Puls
604-604-856-7534 ~ sheila@puls.ca

Education: Vacant

Programmes: Jude Grass
604-538-8774 ~ judegrass@shaw.ca

Field Trips: Gareth Pugh
604-576-6831 ~ gareth@intergate.ca

Publicity: Lilianne Fuller
604-533-0638 ~lilianne101@shaw.ca

FBCN Director: Kathy Masse
604-513-8927 ~ wmasse@telus.net

Webmaster: Lisa Dreves/Joan Taylor

REPRESENTATIVES & CONVENORS

Historian & Librarian: Toots Tucker
604-532-6398 ~ llyod@telus.net

Meeting Greeters: Tessie Copeman / Rebecca Tin Tun

Refreshments: Cecily Isler / Monica Newman
604-514-9697 ~ pcangus@telus.net

Forslund-Watson: Ryan Usenik
604-530-3257~ jrusenik@telus.net

Parks & Environment (City): Lisa Dreves
604-532-0081 ~ lisabob2@yahoo.com

Campbell Valley Park Association: Jude Grass

Derby Reach Brae Island: Anne Gosse

Nature Kids: Anthea Farr
604-576-7731~ YNCNicomekl@gmail.com

Member Participation Committee: Joanne Rosenthal
604-455-0116 ~ jrrose77@yahoo.com

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month from September to June, starting at 7.15 pm at the Langley Community Music School, 4899 207 St. Langley
Executive meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month Sept - June at the LEPS office or at Executive members' homes.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As I write there is not a cloud in the sky, the wind has calmed, there is fresh snow on the mountains, the grass is green, the temperature is just above freezing and there are lots of birds at the feeders. So what am I doing inside, sitting at the computer, on a gorgeous fall day like this?

Well the Newsletter editor keeps muttering 'Presidents Report', 'Presidents Report', deadline today----. So here it is!

We enjoyed the Eagle Fest last Saturday with several LFN members travelling in convoy. I had never been to the Inch Creek Hatchery before, our first stop, where we learnt that this year's salmon run has been particularly low. It will be interesting to see if de-muzzling of our federal scientists by the new government will lead to new explanations for these mysterious and unpredictable variations in salmon returns to their spawning grounds.

I am being kept busy with conservation issues at the local level as well as other historical, Township, City, and wildlife projects. I have had meetings regarding three of our local watersheds recently; Nicomekl, West Creek and Little Campbell River, all of which have issues largely related to ongoing development.

So with winter on the horizon, and possible snow predicted for the near future, it is time to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Looking forward to seeing you at our December Christmas meeting and the Christmas Bird Counts in Langley on January 2nd and 3rd.

Bob

Bob Puls, President.



Merry Christmas!

Photo: Bob Puls

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 5TH CHEAM WETLANDS



Photo: Gareth Pugh

Nine participants joined Josh Inman on a sunny Fall morning to walk the trails around Cheam Wetlands. Setting off from the parking lot, we saw Yellow-rumped Warblers in the trees and could hear Canada Geese on the lake. During the morning, we heard more of them flying in and honking loudly until there were over a hundred on the water. Very few other waterbirds were out there, but twelve Pied-bill Grebes was an unusually high number.

As we followed the trail through the woods, we saw a few small birds, including three Red Crossbills and also three Kingfishers chasing each other around a small pond. Al Grass pointed out different species of trees and told us how hybrid cottonwoods occur in that area. Although the recent storm did not appear to have caused any damage, we did see evidence of the damage caused by an ice storm earlier in the year. We walked on to the floating bridge which leads to the observation platform on the island, from where we could scan the lake and do a count of the birds for inputting to e-bird (thanks to David Truman for doing that).

Walking back, we saw four Flycatchers feeding around the brambles around the outlet from the lake and also a Black-throated Gray Warbler which was a first for some of us. As we were working out which species of Flycatchers we were seeing, a Common Yellowthroat and a Yellow Warbler appeared, all very close to us for everyone to see. We returned to the parking lot to have lunch at the picnic tables overlooking the lake and were entertained by a Brown

Creeper feeding low down on the trees around us. After lunch, we walked the trail along the creek where we saw very few birds, of which a Red-breasted Sapsucker was the highlight. Many thanks to Josh for leading the walk.

Bird species:

Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Mallard, Pied-bill Grebe, Great Blue Heron, American Robin, Common Raven, Northwestern Crow, Steller's Jay, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Turkey Vulture, Black-capped Chickadee, Bushtit, Tree Swallow, Belted Kingfisher, Anna's Hummingbird, Cedar Waxwing, Northern Flicker, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Brown Creeper, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Willow Flycatcher, Western Wood Pewee, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Spotted Towhee, Red Crossbill.

Gareth Pugh

SATURDAY OCTOBER 3RD APPLE DAY AT DERBY REACH



Having fun at Apple Day

Photo: Anne Gosse

We had a fantastic Apple Day this year! The weather was warm and sunny with lots of visitors dropping by to sample the many different apples and to have fun with all the displays. We had fiddlers playing, Fort Langley did a hands-on demonstration of French Canadian Voyagers paddling, and the hay pile and cow milking was great fun for toddlers. My thanks to all the fantastic LFN ladies who volunteered in the Apple Tent!

Anne Gosse

FRIDAY OCTOBER 16TH FALL IN THE SKAGIT VALLEY

Our group gathered at the Hope – Flood Bridge where we were entertained by a couple of American Dippers. After introductions, we headed for the Canada /US border and Ross Lake. Our route took us past Silver Lake where we checked it out for waterfowl. Our next stop was at the Skagit Valley Provincial Park entrance (comfort station!).



Lungwort lichen

Photo: Al Grass

Continuing on, we arrived near noon at Ross Lake at the border, with its large field picnic area, spectacular scenery, and lovely fall colours. Two interesting bird sightings were Sandhill Crane and Western Meadowlark. We then headed back up the valley where we hiked along the trail to Chittenden Meadows. Nice mushrooms, including beautiful *Hericiums* decorated several logs. Chittenden Meadows is noted for its beautiful Ponderosa Pines – trees usually associated with the dry interior.



Gathering at Skagit Valley

Photo: Gerda Peachey

Further up the road, we walked the trail to Whitworth Meadows, an area rich in fungi and lichens (and we were not disappointed). On the way out, several Ruffed Grouse, chipmunks and squirrels were sighted.

Thanks to all for a wonderful day.

Al Grass

FRIDAY OCTOBER 23RD REIFEL BIRD SANCTUARY

They are back! - from Russia with love! Fourteen eager birders joined Al Grass at the bird sanctuary to enjoy the noisy arrival of many huge flocks of beautiful white Snow Geese. Each year these wondrous geese make the long journey from Wrangel Island (in northern Siberia, Russia) to winter in our area. On this day we were treated to a fantastic display of many waves of thousands and thousands of Snow Geese overhead. We watched in awe as they called, glided, flapped; landing on the foreshore, then rising up again in huge noisy masses.



Copyright © John Gordon Photography

Peregrine Falcom

Photo: John Gordon

Also seen were Bald Eagles, a Peregrine Falcon and a Rough-legged Hawk, along with several Northern Harriers along the shoreline. Of note, we found a Western Meadowlark, many Cedar Waxwings and several Sandhill Cranes.

An excited discussion ensued about a Sandpiper but sorry I did not hear the result. However, one of the highlights was Bob Puls's photo, (which he didn't notice until he downloaded it at home) – of a Snow Goose with a neck band. So Al and Jude are busy passing the picture to experts to determine where the bird was banded. It would be interesting to find out just where. We looked for the White-throated Sparrow but did not find him. Only one Black-crowned Night-Heron had returned so far - with lots of waterfowl floating everywhere, giving us a bird count of 57 species.

the planting protocol and away they went.



Students planting trees

Photo: Bob Puls

We all enjoyed this great invigorating day outside in dry fairly warm weather. Some of us enjoyed the sunshine sitting on the picnic tables while we ate lunch. Thanks to Al and Gareth for leading and for organizing this trip.

The pond is right beside 200th Street and scooped out from a wet area that does not have running water and therefore, hopefully, no beavers to thwart the best laid plans of man and beast. It should fill with rainwater from the surrounding grassland and then, like our new Forslund pond, it will remain to be seen whether it dries up in the summer.

Anne Gosse

CAMPBELL VALLEY PARK ECOBLITZ



The project

Photo: Bob Puls

The LFN had an event scheduled for October 24th, meeting at the East Area office at 10 am, but when I got there the gates were shut with no one in sight.

Janice mentioned that she would like the bird life monitored at the site - so any LFN members are invited to participate. The site is very easy to access right beside the road.

G.C. REIFEL MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY FRIDAY OCTOBER 23rd

So I drove up 200th Street and found some cars parked beside the road with a volunteer tree planting sign. Roy and Janice from MV were there and Roy told me the LFN event had been rescheduled for last Saturday - news to me, but a bus load of UBC students were on their way to do a planting here at the site of a newly excavated and contoured ephemeral pond - also news to me.

Wonderful weather and spectacular birding sums up the day – it is always very special to be at Reifel.



Black-crowned Night-Heron

Photo: Al Grass

So I took the opportunity for a photo op. and, rather than plant trees and shrubs, for once watched others do the work. Janice showed the students maps of the park and of the new pond, explaining the project and Roy demonstrated

We began by checking out the Black-crowned Night-Herons and got some excellent views. Next, we noted waterfowl in the slough, including mergansers, Gadwall and Wood Ducks.

We were treated to skeins of Snow Geese – in the thousands - a sight and sound never to be forgotten.

We had a good raptor count which included Peregrine, Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Northern Harrier and Cooper's Hawk.

Proceeding along the east dyke we observed Golden-crowned, Fox, and Song Sparrows, Red-breasted Nuthatch and a Chestnut-backed Chickadee (not common at Reifel). Along the dyke, and near the tower, were several Virginia Rails. In one of the flocks of Red-winged Blackbirds, a Yellow-headed Blackbird was spotted (late record). We checked out the waders and noted Greater Yellowlegs, Long-billed Dowitchers and what "consensus" concluded was the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper that had been reported (K. Fry, Manager).

Thank you Gareth and cheers to all.

Al Grass

IONA BEACH REGIONAL PARK OCTOBER 31ST, 2015

Three LFN members joined Gareth Pugh at Iona on a mild, breezy but dry Fall morning. We walked to the beach, hoping to see some shorebirds there, but with the tide almost full, all we saw were a few Mallards and some Glaucous-winged Gulls. There were very few birds on the first pond but we did see a small flock of Dowitchers resting on the far side.

At the second pond we found a number of ducks and Coots but did not see or hear any Rails or the hoped-for Bittern. As we walked along the trail, we found a variety of songbirds in the brambles and bushes and could see that the Wild Research bird banding operation had finished for the season as all the nets had been taken down. As we passed by the banding hut, Gareth told the group about the school field trips hosted by Wild Research, which hopefully will eventually lead to a more environmentally aware public.

Arriving at the sewage ponds, we were fortunate to find a Peregrine sitting in a tree above the trail, which gave us great photo opportunities. Despite its presence, there were lots of ducks on the ponds and also a large number of

Hérons relaxing until low tide. In addition to the ducks, there were large numbers of sparrows and towhees in the bushes at the edge of the ponds. Several Marsh Wrens were also spotted.



Great Blue Heron

Photo: Bob Puls

Walking along the North side of the ponds, we scanned the log booms as otters often use them as resting places, but had no luck. No more shorebirds were seen, possibly due to the Peregrine being in residence, but we still saw a good number of birds. We ended the morning being treated to a fly-by of Snow Geese while we ate lunch overlooking the main pond and compiled our species count list.

We ended up with a total of 36 species as follows:

Black-capped Chickadee, Great Blue Heron, Barn Swallow, Canada Goose, House Finch, Starling, Red-tailed Hawk, Spotted Towhee, Marsh Wren, Downy Woodpecker, Northwestern Crow, American Robin, Peregrine Falcon, Northern Harrier, Golden-crowned, White-crowned, Fox, Song and Lincoln's Sparrows, Snow Goose, Red-winged Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, American Wigeon, Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Ring-necked Duck, Glaucous-winged Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Long-billed Dowitcher, Pied-billed Grebe, American Coot, Gadwall, Anna's Hummingbird, Northern Flicker.

Gareth Pugh

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 14TH POINT ROBERTS

Eight LFN and White Rock members joined Josh Inman at Lighthouse Park. We arrived in heavy rain and a strong on-shore wind, so we retreated to the Cabana Coffee shop nearby until the rain eased off.



Double-crested Cormorant

Web photo

Back at the Park, we were able, despite the waves, to see a good variety of species such as Double-crested and Pelagic Cormorants, Red-breasted Mergansers, Surf and White-winged Scoters, and Common Murre. As we scanned the ocean, a flock of about forty Black Turnstones landed in front of us to feed and bathe at the edge of the tide. Eventually we left the shore and walked back along the road to the parking lot, finding sparrows and an Anna's Hummingbird in the bushes as we went. On our way to Lily Point, we stopped at a lake which Josh told us always has Wilson's Snipe and, sure enough, about thirty of them flew away as we approached the water. As we scoped the ducks on the lake, the snipe kept flying over us, waiting to return to their preferred spot.

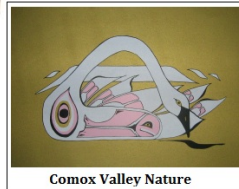
On the way to Lily Point, we stopped to look for Sapsuckers but instead found Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker and Killdeer while a Bald Eagle flew past. We walked the trail around Lily Point Park but only found Chickadees and Kinglets. But for most of us it was a new area to explore and worth the walk, despite the continuing light rain. We all agreed that Al Grass' expertise would have been very useful as we found a number of mushrooms that we were unfamiliar with.

Due to the poor weather, we saw a limited

number of birds as follows:

Black-capped Chickadee, Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose, Downy Woodpecker, Northwestern Crow, American Robin, Golden-crowned, White-crowned, Fox and Song Sparrows, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, American Wigeon, Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Glaucous-winged Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Gadwall, Anna's Hummingbird, Northern Flicker, Bald Eagle, Surf Scoter, White-winged Scoter, Red-breasted Merganser, Horned Grebe, Red-necked Grebe, Long-tailed Duck, Double-crested Cormorant, Pelagic Cormorant, Black Turnstone, Western Grebe, Eurasian Collared Dove, Wilson's Snipe, Red-throated Loon, Common Loon, Trumpeter Swans, Harlequin Ducks, Killdeer and Common Murre.

Gareth Pugh



BC NATURE CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

May 12 to May 15, 2016

Hosted by the Comox Valley Nature

*"Celebrating Nature for 50 Years
and 100 Years of Conservation"*

Thursday workshops: Child nature, birding,
photography, watershed restoration

Extra Cost Field trips include:

VIU Research Station
Mitlenatch Bird Sanctuary
Innisfree Farm Botanical Garden
Tree Island Sand Dunes
Environmental Poetry Tour
Quadra Island Museum & BBQ
Mount Helliwell & Hornby Island

Registration is open now.

For changes/updates visit
[www.comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca/
bc-nature-agm](http://www.comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca/bc-nature-agm)

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 21ST
FRASER VALLEY
BALD EAGLE FESTIVAL**



Looking for dinner

Photo: Anne Gosse



David Hancock

Web photo

Ten LFN members joined Gareth Pugh on a cold sunny day to visit the Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival. We started at the Inch Creek Hatchery, where we saw lots of Chum and some Coho in the netting pond, awaiting their turn to be caught and stripped of their valuable cargo of eggs. We also had good views of a large sturgeon which is kept in a pond on the property.

Our next stop was at the Leq'a:mel Hall where we toured the exhibits and met some old friends from O.W.L, BSC and other organizations. Then it was on to the Kilby Historic Site for a cup of coffee and a walk down to the river where we met people coming off the Eagle-watching boat who were enthusing about the number of eagles they had seen.

The main stop of the day was Tapadera Estates, where a number of spotting scopes were set up on the river bank to allow visitors excellent views of the large number of eagles present there, in addition to an assortment of ducks and Trumpeter Swans. There were eagles everywhere, perched in the trees, soaring overhead or feeding in the river. We were told that the numbers were much lower than in past years due to salmon numbers having plummeted to about 12% of what had been expected (has DFO allowed overfishing of depleted stocks?).

After lunch we made our way to the club house to listen to David Hancock (of Hancock Wildlife Foundation) and his very entertaining talk on "The Wondrous Bald Eagle Recovery" - a recovery from the time when there was a bounty

on a pair of eagle feet, to the current protected status. He told us that fishermen had netted most of the Harrison and Chehalis River Chum run at the mouth of the Fraser River, leaving a very small salmon run to come up. So there were only about 1,000 Bald Eagles this year at Chehalis Flats Bald Eagle Reserve. We also learned the distances Bald Eagles can commute in order to find dinner - apparently they are happy to fly from Chehalis to Brackendale for a good meal!

The talk was an excellent and informative way to complete a very enjoyable outing.

Gareth Pugh

**NATURE VANCOUVER'S - - SPRING 2016
PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS
WITH RON LONG**

- #1 Digital Photography Workshop
SATURDAY JANUARY 30
9:30 AM - 3:30 PM
- #2 Photography Seminar (Composition)
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 20
9:30 AM - 3:30 PM
- #3 Photography Seminar (Lighting)
SATURDAY MARCH 19
9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Burnaby Lake Regional Park - Nature House
Cost: \$40.00 for members of Nature Vancouver
and other BC Nature Clubs.

Non-members: \$50.00 Limit 15 students

Register by phoning or emailing Jude Grass at
604-538-8774 judegrass@shaw.ca
then mailing a cheque

VOLUNTEER LEADER NEEDED FOR FUTURE LFN CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS!

The Surrey/White Rock/Langley 2015 Christmas Bird Count happens this year on January 3rd, 2016, and preparations are already under way. Our wonderful leaders have committed again, to guide us around our 5 designated areas. The clipboard was passed around at our last general meeting for sign up of members, to place themselves on a team. Ricky's Restaurant (formerly the ABC Restaurant) has been reserved for our meeting for pre-and post-count. Next I will phone people who weren't at the meeting and are normally part of this exciting event to see if they can participate again this year. The last part is the Bird Count Day itself when all the eager participants congregate to get started on their mission of counting the birds. Last minute adjustments of team members are usually needed due to illness or unexpected family situations and are quickly made. The post count meeting at Ricky's will see Sheila post each team's results in her computer, amidst the excited chatter of participants recounting their adventures of the day, friendly competition of the teams and noted changes from the previous year.

So there you have it: the duties of the Christmas Bird Count Leader that I have been doing for many years. I have enjoyed this role but it is time for me to step down and allow another enthusiastic person to take the reins. As you can see from above, the duties are enjoyable and not onerous. The biggest reward is the final result of tracking the bird populations in our count area year over year. The computer records of our count day show important trends and changes for our part in the overall North America-wide Audubon Christmas Bird Count. The leader helps this happen.

So if you are a regular or new participant in the Christmas Bird Count, please consider taking on this important role. You don't have to be an expert birder, but if you know you would enjoy organizing people who all love nature, please consider this leadership. It would be a great job for a newly retired active person. And it can be handled even by a working person in the evenings, especially since it is time limited. And I will be there as a helper and mentor. I have all the spread sheets from past years to hand on to help with your responsibilities. For more

information please email me at wmasse@telus.net or call at (604)513-8927. To keep the Langley Field Naturalists a thriving club, we need new people to begin taking over positions long held by existing volunteers!

Kathy Masse

ANNE MURRAY'S AWARD



Anne Murray

Web photo

Tsawwassen's Anne Murray was presented with Nature Canada's highest honour last month. She received the 2015 Douglas H. Pimlott Award, which is awarded to an individual whose outstanding contributions to Canadian conservation serve as an example to all, at a meeting in Sidney, B.C.

Anne is an author, columnist and volunteer with various nature organizations.

Anne is involved with the Important Bird Areas Program in B.C., a program designed to ensure the 82 important bird areas around the province are protected, monitored and conserved. Anne is also working with the Delta Naturalists' Society on getting the birds of Delta better known. The group has released the pamphlet *Birds in Delta* and is working on other materials.

She is the author of *A Nature Guide to Boundary Bay and Tracing Our Past - A Heritage Guide to Boundary Bay* and a major contributing author to the *Georgia Basin Habitat Atlas: Boundary Bay*. She also writes a column for the *Delta Optimist* and the *Georgia Straight*. Congratulations, Anne!

PROGRAMMES

Check our website for updates! Meetings are held commencing at 7.15 pm at the Langley Community Music School, 4899 207th Street, Langley. Unless otherwise indicated, they consist of a brief monthly business meeting, followed by the feature presentation (approximately one hour), followed by refreshments.

THURSDAY DECEMBER 17TH MEMBERS NIGHT

Special evening consisting of a short business meeting followed by members' favourites (bring 10-12 slides, photos, a collection).

Finger food, pot luck, social hour

THURSDAY JANUARY 21ST MYSTERIES OF THE BOG: BIOPHYSICAL INVESTIGATIONS OF THE LANGLEY BOG SPEAKER: DAVID JORDAN

Bogs are mysterious, often misunderstood, and commonly undervalued components of the ecosphere. In the Lower Fraser Valley, Langley Bog is one of the few bog habitats remaining and, though it has experienced substantial ecosystem degradation, is fortuitously protected by park status as part of Metro Vancouver's Derby Reach/Brae Island Regional Park. The original bog ecosystem is estimated to have once covered an area greater than 525 hectares. However, during the 20th century significant negative human impact, including draining, conversion to cranberry cultivation and mining of peat moss, have reduced it to approximately 28 hectares of undisturbed bog forest and 80 hectares of highly disturbed mined bog. This presentation highlights some of the fascinating discoveries that emerged from Langley Bog as part of a multidisciplinary study investigating the environmental history and ecological health of the bog.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 18TH ATTACK OF THE KILLER WEEDS: FORECASTING A NEW WAVE OF WEED INVASION WITH CLIMATE CHANGE AND GLOBAL TRADE SPEAKER: DAVID CLEMENTS

I will talk about some of the mechanisms that make weeds highly adaptable; some weeds are capable of rapid genetic change while others

rely on high levels of phenotypic plasticity, and even clonal weeds have ways of transforming themselves to fit their environment. Some of the "killer weeds" are found right here in the Lower Mainland. Why are weeds so successful? It is partly because they are innately adaptable but also because they have co-evolved with us. We have created ecosystems where they thrive, and as we continue on our path of world domination, the weeds are happy to dominate along with us. When we look at weeds we are, in many ways, looking at a mirror. This unhappy partnership (for us) is getting worse. We are making it easier for the weeds to travel via accelerated global trade (e.g., the Trans-Pacific Partnership just announced). One of the weeds I am studying is mile-a-minute which has travelled from the Americas to China, and I get to follow its trans-Pacific pathway every year to try to catch up with mile-a-minute. Along with global trade, we create avenues for weed evolution and spread via global climate change, facilitating further adaptation by organisms that thrive in a changing environment. I will detail cases of weeds invading poleward, thanks to their adaptability and co-evolution with humans who are changing the climate. We ourselves must adapt to this challenge of weed evolution or suffer the consequences.

THURSDAY MARCH 17, 2016 A NATURAL HISTORY OF TEXAS RON LONG

The size of Texas is legendary and with size comes diversity. The wildlife diversity of Texas is massive but little known in Canada. This talk will include birds, plants and animals of Big Bend Desert National Park, the famous spring bloom of the Hill Country, birds, plants and animals of the Gulf Coast and the Whooping Cranes of Aransas. Texas is a fascinating State with something for every naturalist, no matter what their specific area of interest.

FIELD TRIPS

We meet at Douglas Park Recreation Centre on Douglas Crescent between 204 and 206 Street for car pooling. If you prefer to meet at the walk site, please phone so we can watch for you. Please Note: anyone wishing to carpool should phone in to make arrangements beforehand, otherwise please meet at the designated meeting place. The walks are about two hours long and are open to all Naturalist Clubs & members of the public (adults & children, but no pets please). Please wear good walking shoes and dress warmly. Bring water, snacks or packed lunch, binoculars and bug spray (in season).

For more information, to make comments, suggest walks or to let us know you are coming, please phone Gareth Pugh, 604-576-6831. **Please reimburse your carpool driver at \$3.50 per hour of driving time.**

FRIDAY DECEMBER 4TH

BRUNSWICK POINT, LADNER

LEADER: VIVEKA OHMAN

Time: 9:00 am

Join Viveka Ohman to search for returning seabirds and raptors and we will keep our fingers crossed for decent (but possibly windy, cold weather) so please dress appropriately and bring lunch. Expect to see Buteos; Rough-legged and Red-tailed Hawks, possibly the charming Short-eared Owl (with its floppy moth-like flight) and Northern Harriers (with their characteristic slow tilting flight). Sparrows may be numerous and of several species, always a joy to find and watch! Please phone Viveka at 604-531-3401. We will meet at 09:00 am at west end of River Road, (past the Westham Island Bridge) at end of the road.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 12TH

BLAINE & DRAYTON HARBOUR

LEADER: GARETH PUGH

Time: 9:00 am at Blaine Marine Park

(see web site below for directions)

<https://www.google.ca/maps/place/Blaine+Harbor/@48.9947109,-122.7592769,15z/data=!4m2!3m1!1s0x0:0x6757baa2c029fcdf>

Come join the Langley Field Naturalists as we visit Blaine and Drayton Harbour which is an important over-wintering area for shorebirds and waterfowl. We will also drive around to the West side of the Harbour to visit Semiahmoo Park and have lunch at the cafe in the Semiahmoo Resort.

Please dress warmly and wear proper footwear. Bring lunch, snacks and refreshments and of course your passports. Please phone 604-576-6831 to let us know to expect you and to arrange car-pooling.

THURSDAY JANUARY 7TH

MOUNTAIN VIEW SPOTTED OWL

BREEDING FACILITY

Leader: Gareth Pugh

Time: 10:00 am at the Centre, 23898 Rawlison Crescent, Langley.

Join us for a visit to an important breeding facility and learn how the owls are paired off and cared for. Phone 604-576-6831 to let us know to expect you - please note that they want to restrict the numbers to eight people, so the first seven to sign up will be able to go. If we get a greater response we will organise another visit that same week.

SATURDAY JANUARY 16TH

TERRA NOVA RURAL PARK, RICHMOND

LEADER: JOSH INMAN

Time: 9:00 am in the parking lot at the end of River Road (NW corner of Richmond)

Join Josh to walk along the dike looking for raptors, snow geese and other birds that spend the winter in the marshes on the West side of Richmond. We will also walk through the park and the community gardens checking out the ponds along the way. Phone 604-532-0455 to let us know to expect you.

THURSDAY - JANUARY 21ST

BOUNDARY BAY REGIONAL PARK

LEADER: ANNE MURRAY

Time: 9:00 am in the parking lot at Boundary Bay Regional Park, Boundary Bay Road, Tsawwassen

Join Anne to walk through the sand dunes of the park and back along the shore of one of BC's most important IBA's where thousands of birds come to spend the winter. This is one of the best locations in the Lower Mainland to see several species of raptors including Peregrine Falcon and Merlin. Phone 604-576-6831 to let us know to expect you.

SATURDAY JANUARY 30TH

DERBY REACH/BRAE ISLAND BIRD COUNT

LEADER: PHIL HENDERSON

Time: 8:00 am to Noon, meet 7:30 at St. George's Church, Fort Langley, lower south entrance. Birders of all levels are needed to help with the count. Call 604-888-1571 for more information.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 6TH

WINTER BIRDS, COLONY FARM REG'L PARK

LEADER: GARETH PUGH

Join us to walk the dikes and woodlands of this popular Metro Vancouver park to search out the many waterfowl, raptors, and other birds that call this area their home in winter. Meet at the parking lot at the end of the road by the community gardens in Colony Farm Regional Park off Lougheed Highway at 9 am. Call 604-576-6831 for more information and to arrange car-pooling.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 11TH

SURREY LAKE PARK

LEADER: GARETH PUGH

Time: 9:00 am in the parking lot at 73rd and 152nd Street (East side). Note this parking lot can only be accessed heading north on 152nd.

A variety of waterfowl overwinter on the lake which is one of the few locations where Canvasbacks and Redheads can be found. We will walk along the lake, through the marsh area and back through the woods. Phone 604-576-6831 to let us know to expect you.

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 17TH

SUMAS PRAIRIE RAPTOR SEARCH!

LEADER: JOHN GORDON

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

The beautiful pastoral Fraser Valley is an overwintering location for many raptors! We will be looking for birds of prey - such as the Red-tailed Hawk, Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Rough-legged Hawk plus any surprises we find along the way! Meet at 8:00 am at Douglas Crescent in Langley or at McDonalds at 9:00 am at 34618 Delair Road, Abbotsford, off exit no.92 from Highway 1 East, off Sumas Way North. Phone 604-576-6831 or 604-533-7171 for information.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 27TH

WINTER BIRDS OF BRYDON LAGOON

LEADERS: AL GRASS & ANNABEL GRIFFITHS

10am – 12noon.

Search out the many waterfowl, raptors, and other birds that call this wetland their home in winter. Meet at the 53rd Avenue parking lot near 198A Street, Langley. For info contact 604-538-8774 or 604-530-2778.

SATURDAY MARCH 5TH

HOUSTON TRAIL,

DERBY REACH REGIONAL PARK.

BIRDS & BRYOPHYTES!

LEADER: BIOLOGIST PHIL HENDERSON

Time: 9:00 am to 12:00 am

Join biologist Phil Henderson in search of any early spring bird migrants - plus bryophytes which include mosses and their relatives; tiny but beautiful plants that flourish in moist, shady sites. We will also drop down to the wetland water edge to look for waterfowl. Bring hand lenses and binoculars if you have them. Meet at Houston Trail parking lot on Allard Crescent, Langley 9:00 am. Phone

604-576-6831 or 604-888-1571 to let us know to expect you.

FRIDAY MARCH 11TH

MOUNTAIN VIEW CROWN LANDS

LEADER: BOB PULS

Time: 9:00 am to 12:00 noon

Join Bob to walk the trails through the woods to see the work started by Glenn Ryder and now being carried on by Langley Field Naturalists, in collaboration with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources. We will look for salamanders and frogs and hear about the incredible variety of insects and vegetation to be found in this richly diverse environment. Meet at 9:00 am at the railway overpass on Rawlinson between 232nd & 240th Streets. Phone 604-576-6831 or 604-856-7534 to let us know to expect you.

WEDNESDAY MARCH 16TH

NORTHERN SLOUGHS -

CHILLIWACK TO CHEHALIS FLATS!

LEADER: GARETH PUGH

Time 8:00 am at Douglas Crescent or

9:00 am at Deroche Bridge

We will take a "birding drive" from Mission to the Chehalis Bald Eagle & Salmon Preserve to view the majestic Bald Eagles, Salmon, Tundra and Trumpeter Swans - plus the many other species of raptors and waterfowl in the area, making stops at the Deroche Bridge, Eagle Point Park, Kilby Historic Site and other spots as we go. Weather Permitting. Meet at Douglas Cres at 8:00 am or at Deroche Bridge, on the right side before you go over bridge, at 9:00 am. From Langley take Hwy 1 to Abbotsford and Hwy 11 to Mission then East on Hwy 7. Please call 604-576-6831 to let us know to expect you.

SATURDAY MARCH 26TH

SEMIAHMOO FISH AND GAME CLUB

LEADER: AL GRASS

Time 9:00 am at Semiahmoo Fish and Game Club, 1284 184th Street, Surrey. Join us to walk the interpretive trails along the Little Campbell River to look for the plants and shrubs as they sprout new vegetation and flowers, as well as any early bird migrants. While it might be early spring, it can still be a little cool, so please dress warmly and wear proper footwear. There will be a guided tour of the hatchery following the walk. Meet at 9:00 am at the Club; please park in the upper parking lot by the Hall. Phone 604-538-8774 to let us know to expect you.

NOTE: If you have not renewed your membership in Langley Field Naturalists by December 31st, you will no longer receive the BC Nature quarterly magazine.