



# Langley Field Naturalists

*To encourage nature appreciation, conservation and education*



[www.langleyfieldnaturalists.org](http://www.langleyfieldnaturalists.org)

c/o 201-4839 221 St, Langley, BC V3A 2P1

e-mail: [langleyfieldnaturalists@gmail.com](mailto:langleyfieldnaturalists@gmail.com)

Newsletter

December 2021



Brydon Lagoon

Photo: John Gordon

## AFTER THE STORM, AT BRYDON LAGOON

Following the catastrophic events happening in BC on November 21st/22nd, John Gordon decided to check Brydon Lagoon. The rain stopped by the Monday afternoon, the retention pond was almost to the car park and this picture shows the floodwater pouring into the Lagoon itself (it needs a good scouring).

*"I have never seen the lagoon or floodplain this high nor has anyone else who I spoke to. Even the electrical boxes were under water. There were only a few coots, a few Common Merganser and Lesser Scaup."*

## WILLBAND CREEK WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>

Six very enthusiastic birders gathered at the northern parking lot of Willband Creek Park and after some of the usual introductions, and a bit of in-depth discussions of the relevant topics of the day, we moved on.

The leader introduced us to some of the early historical points of the park. It is actually considered an Urban Wetland Park, as it is an important part of the Abbotsford Storm Water Retention System. This

would include the runoff from Fish Trap Creek and Mill Lake. The park consists of 3 large retention ponds. Two were dug in 1998 and the final one in 2012. The heights in the ponds are controlled by 2 hydraulic valves. Usually they are opened in May and closed in September.

In November of 2017, the Abbotsford/ Mission Nature Club, along with a generous donation from Otter Farm and Home Co-op, constructed a wildlife viewing platform. This gave the park enthusiasts great access to the ponds, without disturbing the all-important shoreline.

The group moved on, stopping almost every minute for another sighting. It's amazing we completed the walk in 3 hours. Next time we could



At the viewing platform

Photo: Tom Wildeboer

possibly camp out half way. Over the years the claim is that they have sighted in total, 178 different species of birds. This optimistic bunch set that as their goal. However, it was not meant to be. We settled for 43. It was still a great count and a good morning. Amongst the list was a great sighting of 15 Canvasbacks and 3 Redheads. It was a great day out that was enjoyed by all.

Tom Wildeboer



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wow. Okay. And we thought 2020 was a bad year. It is like COVID walked into a bar and said "Hey, look how powerful I am." Mother Nature turned around and said "Hold my beer."

Seeing towns levelled this past year has really brought home to me how important it is for our local governments to adapt to climate change. Individual towns won't turn the tides, not even whole countries are going to be able to that. BUT our towns need to be ready to deal with the fallout due to climate change. We need to be ready, as individuals, to deal with the fallout, too.

So how can we get ready? One big thing is write letters. I have learned that while letters from our group is great and they get read, it is only considered one letter. 50 letters from our members is more impactful than one letter even if that one letter represents all of our members. When there is an issue that you are concerned about, write your own letter to the government. Help the LFN draft a letter from the group, too. And share your letter with friends. Too often people don't know what to write so they don't write. Sharing your letter and allowing friends to sign their name and send it individually means more letters to wake up our elected leaders. Keep letters short and to the point. And no need to pay for stamps, email works just fine!

For the Township of Langley:

<https://www.tol.ca/your-township/mayor-and-council/>.

For the City of Langley:

<https://city.langley.bc.ca/cityhall/city-council/council-members> (and the City link also includes links to other levels of government, just saying...).

And another big thing to get ready? Stay healthy! Taking care of both your mental and physical well-being is essential for being able to handle the big stuff. Work on learning new bird calls, get creative with reusing textiles, figure out how to identify lichens and mosses, master the art of photographing slugs, listen to environmentally focused podcasts (CBC's "What on Earth" is pretty fabulous: <https://www.cbc.ca/radio/whatearth> but there are so many more). Maybe walk a little faster between bird sightings, climb that hill, hug trees, volunteer with me to pull invasives (no seriously, I am out every week killing something and would welcome the help)! Turn off the screens and just sit outside and breathe.

I hope 2022 is an incredible year for you filled with laughter, great food and countless sunrises.

Lisa Dreves

## LANGLEY FIELD NATURALISTS 2021-2022

### DIRECTORS

President: & webmaster	Lisa Dreves 604-532-0081 ~ lisabob2@yahoo.com
Vice President:	Gareth Pugh 604-576-6831 ~ gareth2@uniserve.com
Past President:& Conservation	Bob Puls 604-856-7534 ~ bob@puls.ca
Secretary:	Nora Truman 604-533-4585 ~ lfnsecretary@hotmail.com
Treasurer:	Caren Porter 604-427-4499 ~ caporter@shaw.ca
Membership:	Gareth Pugh 604-576-6831 ~ gareth2@uniserve.com
Newsletter	Sheila Puls 604-856-7534 ~ sheila@puls.ca
Programmes:	Anne Gosse 604-888-1787 ~ corkie1@shaw.ca
Field Trips:	Gareth Pugh 604-576-6831 ~ gareth2@uniserve.com
Publicity:	Lilianne Fuller 604-533-0638 ~ lilianne101@shaw.ca
FBCN Director:	Kathy Masse 604-513-8927 ~ wmasse@telus.net

### REPRESENTATIVES & CONVENORS

Historian & Librarian:	Toots Tucker 604-532-6398 ~ llyod@telus.net
Greeters:	Rebecca Tin Tun/Helen Thompson
Refreshments:	Lynda Lightfoot 604-856-6138 ~ llightfoot@shaw.ca
Forslund-Watson:	Ryan Usenik 604-530-3257 ~ jrusenik@telus.net
Nature Kids:	Anthea Farr 604-576-7731 nicomekl@naturekidsbc.ca
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, currently via 'Zoom'

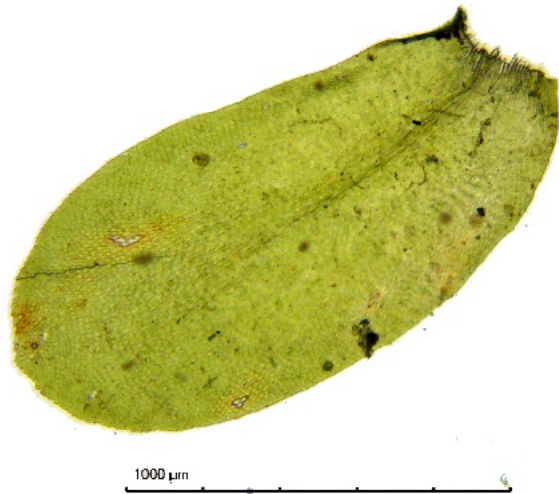
Executive meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month Sept - June

## BRAE ISLAND FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>

Nine naturalists turned up on a cool and cloudy Friday morning for a walk on Brae Island, across the Bedford Channel from Fort Langley. Brae Island is not known as a biodiversity hotspot, nor an area of grand, sweeping vistas to feature on the cover of National Geographic. This matters not to a gang of naturalists who move across any landscape searching for things small and hideous, smelly and exotic, small fragments of information that form a picture, a picture always with elements unsettling. A Turner landscape? During the next outing the picture changes. It may become more confused and labyrinthine, or clear and bright. Is this madness?

The following fragments of information from the Brae Island trip are the paints and washes participants applied to their own peculiar paintings:

16 species of birds on or near the island including a Spotted Sandpiper on a log boom; an American Crow (the Northwestern Crow is no longer considered a separate species); a lone Western Wood-Pewee delivering a partial song; Brown Creepers; Black-capped and Chestnut-backed Chickadees; and three woodpeckers, a Downy, a Pileated and a Northern Flicker, to remind us of the snags (dead standing trees) and logs that enrich the forest.



*Homalia trichomanoides* leaf (Note 1000 microns = 1 mm)

The forest of Brae Island is uniform and predominantly of deciduous trees: Red Alder mostly with a few towering Black Cottonwood, Bigleaf Maple and scattered Sitka Spruce and Western Redcedar. Salmonberry is the dominant shrub of the understory. Along the edge of the island adjacent to the Fraser River and Bedford Channel Red-Osier Dogwood forms a thick shield, with large

Pacific Willows contributing in places, and extending into the island's interior along ephemeral and vestigial channels.

In spring, the exposed trees and shrubs along the island's south edge flower and leaf-out early, providing foraging opportunities for birds and insects before the sheltered trees and shrubs of the island's interior and surrounding forests.

Mosses and liverworts adorn the trunks of the large Black Cottonwoods on Brae Island. Among them is *Homalia trichomanoides*, a rather distinctive looking moss that is common on the trunks of Black Cottonwood along the Fraser River from Langley to Chilliwack, but uncommon inland. Glen Valley Park is another good place to see it in Langley. Other mosses like *Neckera douglasii* and *Homalothecium fulgescens* grow higher in the tree and the high limbs are often covered with mosses like *Antitrichia curtipendula* that are home to many invertebrates. On the upper surface of old limbs, organic soils may develop over time from decomposing organic matter (mosses, leaf litter and invertebrates).

The intricate structure of the "coral" type fungus beside the trail transfixed the participants momentarily.

*Glechoma hederacea* (ground-ivy or creeping Charlie) grew thickly along the trail's edge, boldly asserting itself over the native plants which can do little more than curse as they are bullied into oblivion. The naturalists stood over the proceedings, crushed bits of ground-ivy and proclaimed it "smelly and exotic". They expressed their disapproval with the ground-ivy, gave an encouraging nod to the native plants, and carried on.

The logs along the beach, particularly those large enough and high enough on the shoreline to not be swept away, support an interesting community of mosses well-suited to wet conditions and periodic flooding. Among them, the large tree-like moss, *Climacium dendroides* also grows along the top of the river bank at Tavistock Point, the west end of the island and our walk.

In our pictures are gaps we try to fill. Do we succeed? Sometimes. But there is always a need for a touch up, sometimes a total re-doing. We revel in the beauty and struggle with the confusion and disorder. We stare at our picture and wonder: was Dorian Gray a naturalist?

Thanks to everyone for participating and Eric for keeping a bird list. Thanks to Gareth for asking about *Homalia trichomanoides*.

**Phil Henderson**

## HIGH POINT SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>

We had a lovely sunny day at the High Point trails. Our group included 8 adults and 18 month old James who wanted to touch and explore. He had fun throwing little pebbles in the water at High Point Lake. We started our walk on the Campbell Boundary Trail and went west across 200 Street to the detention pond area, with birds flying to and fro in the trees on both sides of the trail.



Wildflowers on the Pepin trail

Photo: Nora Truman

We proceeded up a gentle hill on Pepin Trail with horses coming to the fence to greet us on the east side and House Finches, Savannah Sparrows and American Robins in the backyard trees and shrubs on the west side. At the top of the trail where we met 200 Street again, there were Killdeer making a ruckus and we could not find them on the ground and finally spotted them overhead scolding us loudly.

We continued to High Point Lake, rested at the rocks and then took the circle trail around the lake, enjoying the lovely fall colours but only a Northern Flicker and Mallard Duck were sighted. We headed across Pepin Trail where there was a chorus of Chickadees in the shrubs and another Anna's Hummingbird. As the trail headed downhill into the forest, Lisa spotted a Brown Creeper on the large Douglas Firs in this area. Our bird species count was 21.

Nora Truman

## MILASTER PROPERTY FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup>

An LFN Field Trip was switched from Saturday to Friday due to a meeting conflict. Intended to introduce members to the site, only one participant had not been there before (Roy). The six of us drove into the site, stopped to show Roy the 'Fish

Pond' and then continued to the 'Donut Pond' which has accumulated a bit more water. After that we walked the Creek trail to the pipeline, doing a bird count at the same time. A new dam has developed in the creek but we couldn't get close enough to determine if it was beaver built or the result of recent rains.

Returning to the house site we strolled up the south logging trail and collected a few fungi species for identification. One was a new species for the inventory Trembling Crust - *Merulius tremellosus*. Herman found a salmon by the gravel bar, which we identified as a Jack Coho - about 14" long give or take a little exaggeration.



Yes, it's a fish

Photo: Bob Puls

Bob collected the moth trap and decommissioned it for the season - it contained a number of large caddisflies, probably *Trichoptera species*. We all left by noon and headed home for lunch.

Bob Puls

## O.W.L. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7<sup>TH</sup>

On October 7th, eight LFN members met at the Orphaned Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre in Delta to go on a guided walk with volunteer guide June. On this walk, June told us about their personalities, names and their various injuries. Fascinatedly, she also told us about the "heat bomb dilemma" they experienced this last spring with the 40°C temperatures that occurred during the spring nesting season. Apparently, the extreme heat had caused lots of baby raptors, (owls, eagles, hawks) to be brought into the care center at OWL as the "heat dome" had scorched their nests.

They took in nearly 130 birds during that week from all over the province! Apparently, that was five times the normal volume. The babies were starving,

dehydrated, and also shattered from the 40-60-foot falls out of their nests. However, impressively, the local Delta community rallied to help feed all the babies with donated salmon, fish, and raptor foods from various big local grocery chains and warehouses.



Northern Harrier

Photo: Eric Habisch

We were then guided through the OWL museum which has a good display of different BC terrains, owls, birds, bird's eggs and feathers. Finally, we strolled along the dyke looking for birds and raptors. We managed a few great sightings of two Northern Harriers flying close by and then a Merlin pair, ending up with a total of 22 species. Thanks to Eric for recording the species and for the pictures.

**Anne Gosse**

### **REIFEL BIRD SANCTUARY FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29TH**

On a windy and somewhat chilly Friday morning I was joined by thirteen others - eleven LFN members and two members of other Lower Mainland nature groups. In accordance with Reifel's new COVID-19 regulations, everyone had to pre-book.

Once we had paid our entrance fee there were birds to be seen - Greater Yellowlegs greeted us on the edge of the House Pond (just behind the Gift Shop). An unusually large number of Great Blue Herons (36) were on the logs and tree branches surrounding Fuller Slough. We then headed down the East Dyke Trail, encountering waterfowl, sparrows and chickadees, as well as a Wilson's Snipe along the way. By the time we arrived at the tower we had seen a fair number of species.

While walking on the North Dyke Trail, we saw a good number of Northern Harriers (6) hunting over the foreshore. We were also fortunate to see two Peregrine Falcons in rapid flight cutting across the sanctuary. Another highlight was the sighting of two

Rough-legged Hawks, which spend the winter in the Lower Mainland. The Lesser Snow Geese did fly over once, but the majority of them were in the field on Westham Island Road near the bridge.



Black-crowned Night Heron

Photo: Ted Goshulak

Near the end of our time one Black-crowned Night-Heron was sighted adjacent to Fuller Slough. Total species: 56. See this eBird checklist for all the species seen/heard as well as a number of photographs: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S96857624>

**Ted Goshulak**

### **FORSLUND WATSON PROPERTY SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>**

An LFN walk was scheduled for today and Bob, Tom and Herman joined Ryan. As we were all regular maintenance helpers we did a bird count



Ryan, what are you doing?

Photo: Bob Puls

and reviewed the new pond. Ryan saw a white truck at FLW one day as he drove by. Today we saw that they found the driving a bit of a challenge. Once they got going again they must have been very happy as they didn't stop to clean up. We picked up branches and leveled the ruts to the best of our ability.

As for the new pond, we think there is too much woody debris in it which discourages ducks from using it - there were none in it. Also the disturbed soil around it is so water-logged it is hard to access the site. We expect the reed-canary grass will smother many of the new plantings. Ryan added some tall bamboo markers to the perimeter so that it can be seen when the grass is 6 foot tall.



Orange-peel fungus

Photo: Bob Puls

19 species of birds were recorded on eBird - they didn't like the 400 Cackling geese we recorded circling around the site, thinking it was too many. We saw flocks of Cackling geese, Canada geese and mixed flocks, making counting difficult. 5 Trumpeter swans flying low over us was a delightful sight. Several patches of Orange-peel fungus - *Aleuria aurantia* were found at the NW corner of the new pond.

**Bob Puls**

### WEST CREEK HEADWATERS: FISH SAMPLING & WATER TEMPERATURE

A catch and release box trap was set in the West Creek outflow pond over a three day period. Some of the general observations were that there is a greatly reduced abundance of water striders on the water surface and no sticklebacks are visible, where as in the past years the surface was alive with water striders and schools of stickleback were very common. An overnight box trap set would catch up to 40 sticklebacks and this year in one set there

were none at all. The graph of the water temperature over the past year shows lethal water temperature for fish and this could possibly be the reason why the sticklebacks' and water striders' numbers are so low.

From the water temperature graph you can see that near the end of June through to the last week of August, the water temperature is just around 20°C (68°F), which is getting close to being lethal for salmon. The rainbow trout and sticklebacks must have found cool places to hide from these very high water temperatures. The bullfrog tadpoles had their numbers decline as well, and sampling found that in October, tadpoles were in the ponds, which is very late in the year for them to be present.

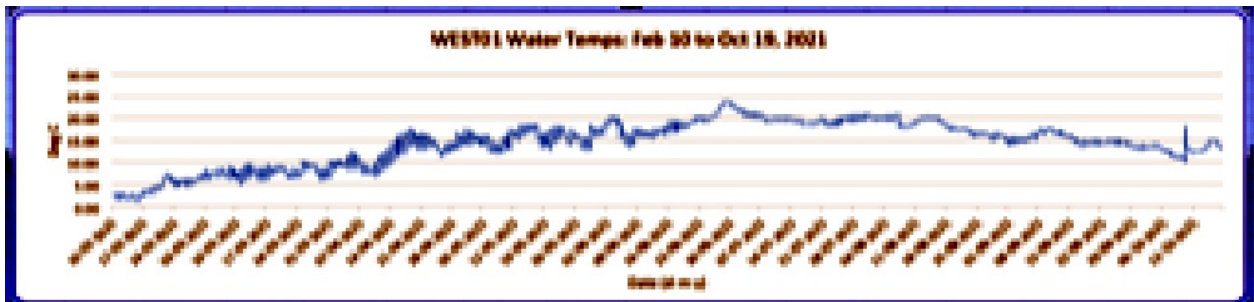


Salamander and stickleback Photo: Ted Lightfoot

On a happier note, a lovely 4½ inch rainbow trout was live trapped and released at the beginning of October. It was in very good shape and has somehow found a way to avoid the lethal summer water temperatures!

Nature is adaptable to the weather, finding cool places to hide when the water temperature gets too hot, and breeding and having young later than normal. One set caught a salamander with gills visible just behind the head, and there were also four sticklebacks caught and released in the same set. The larger of the four sticklebacks was pregnant - maybe with the low numbers, pregnancy has been extended into the fall season.

**Ted Lightfoot**



## FLAT OUT ON FLATIRON IN SEARCH OF WHITE-TAILED PTARMIGAN AND OTHER "YEAR" BIRDS

Granite slabs are scattered everywhere on Flatiron. The nooks and crannies in the rock harbour insects and plants, the flowers and seeds providing a rich food source for the many inhabitants.

The forest trail to Flatiron was steep, rocky, slippery and wet. There was hardly a sound in the forest, just the odd Chestnut-backed Chickadee and Douglas Squirrels. Mushrooms were abundant. A few pickers were out collecting. After a two kilometre hike the forest opened up providing 360 degree views of the surrounding mountains. During the summer there had been numerous reports of Northern Pygmy Owls, Mountain Chickadees, White-winged Crossbills and White-tailed Ptarmigan, all birds I needed for my Fraser Valley Big Year.

Craig, my hiking companion for the day, soon picked up the call of a Northern Pygmy Owl. Fortunately we were able to climb a little higher until we stood on the same level as the bird which was perched right above the trail.

Then to our surprise a second owl perched alongside. The birds had their eyes on something; they seemed agitated. One of the birds plunged into the undergrowth and out of sight; looking back, the other owl had left too. What a start to the day.

We continued upward, my legs turning to putty and heart racing, my lack of fitness leaving something to be desired. Five minute breaks were the order of the day. Climbing higher a flock of White-winged Crossbills were feeding on Sitka Spruce cones. They stayed long enough for a few photographs.

Eventually we reached the monument and a fork in the trail. Needle Peak to the left and to the right Flatiron and hopefully the Ptarmigan. We were still 1.5 km away. When we arrived, there were already a few hikers and swimmers cooling off in the lake but alas no Ptarmigan. A flock of birds flew overhead; they sounded like Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch but I couldn't make them out or get an ID picture.

Craig decided to make his own way up the granite strewn escarpment. I waited below. Eventually through my binoculars I could see by his stance he was photographing something, probably the Ptarmigan. It was time for me to move. Suddenly my legs came to life; the energy that had been drained away on the hike had miraculously returned. Soon I was within metres of the summit and the radio tower. That last scramble was a 167 m gain but well worth it. As I reached the summit my

heart was beating so hard I couldn't hold the camera still, especially a 500 mm. I waited a few moments before firing off a few frames in case the Ptarmigan decided to take off on me. They didn't. Among the tangle of rocks a slight movement gives away an elusive White-tailed Ptarmigan.



*Ptarmigan*

*Photo: John Gordon*

The Ptarmigans's plumage is a perfect defence against aerial predators. Eventually we counted twenty-five or more; most were hidden in cracks or in the shade of the rocks, yet others were nibbling on a type of sedge. Their presence became apparent only when they moved. Once the birds realized we posed no threat the covey came out to feed.

At this point I wish I had brought my Nikon 200mm -500mm F 5.6 zoom rather than my fixed 500 mm F5.6 prime. While Craig was able to stand in one spot and compose his photographs, I had to back up. A zoom would have been a better option, albeit heavier. I used a CCS G3 Cotton Carrier camera and binocular harness with the 500 mm on my chest and my binoculars on the side. During the hike I hardly noticed their presence except when I needed to shoot. I've been photographing for forty years and it has proven to be the very best carrying system I have ever used.

We reached an elevation of 1898 m with a combined elevation gain of 867 m from the car park. Eventually it was time to leave and make our way back down the mountain. The Ptarmigan were my third year bird\*\* for the day. The walk back was filled with the most majestic views imaginable; it's been a long time since I had been hiking. I had forgotten how beautiful the mountains can be. I used my iPhone 8 to take the accompanying scenics. The descent I was warned could be as difficult as the ascent. True to form, the steep trail was a combination of wet moss and slippery granite; for me at least it was treacherous. I'm glad I carried a pole for balance.

On the descent I thought I heard chickadees. Eventually, after a bit of searching we found four Mountain Chickadee, right on the trail, the fourth year bird of the day. I screwed up the exposure but thankfully I had shot in Raw and was able to save the picture, albeit the highlights were lost. A shame really as the background was perfect.

A hour later we were almost back at the car. My brain and feet were completely out of sync. I was exhausted, both mentally and physically. However both the birds and scenery were well worth the effort. Who knows, I might even try another hike one day.

*Established in 1986, Coquihalla Summit Recreation Area lies in the territories of the Nlaka'pamux, Sto:lo, and Yale First Nations. (Outdoor Vancouver)*

**John Gordon**

## BC NATURE/NATURE CANADA MEETING SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2<sup>ND</sup>

The local BC Nature clubs were invited to meet with Nature Canada and BC Nature to discuss the Fraser estuary challenges and solutions.



There were a total of 18 attendees. Langley Field Naturalists had three representatives - Gareth Pugh, Lisa Dreves and Sheila Puls.

Presentations were given by Graham Saul Executive Director of Nature Canada, James Casey from Birds Canada, Harry Crosby President of BC Nature, Simon Valdez BC Nature Conservation Coordinator and Ken Ashley from the BCIT Rivers Institute.

Harry welcomed everyone to the meeting and after introducing the presenters asked all attendees to introduce themselves.

Graham gave a presentation on global conservation trends and the efforts that are being made by a variety of organizations that are helping to restore vital habitat in locations across the world. He

mentioned the Leaders' Pledge for Nature that has already been signed by 64 countries, the intent of which is to reverse the trend in species decline and increase numbers to a sustainable level by 2052. He posed the question "how can we achieve full recovery by 2050 if there is less and less land available?"

Harry gave an update on BC Nature's activities.

Ken Ashley's presentation focussed on the threats posed to the Fraser Estuary which has experienced many development pressures for over a century. It faces an uncertain future to the ongoing failure of all levels of government to put in place a coordinated governance mechanism to deal with continuing development. This, combined with the existential threat of climate change, could be the end of the still viable estuary system as we know it. Some years ago the Fraser River Estuary Management Plan (FREMP) office was disbanded by the Provincial government and control of development in the estuary was handed to the Port of Vancouver. This should be reversed and FREMP reinstated before it is too late. Graham referred to his recent book "Soul of the Fraser" which tells the story of the estuary with contributions from twelve different authors. A feature length documentary has also been produced which will be screened later this year.

James Casey talked about the different birds that use the estuary and how vital it is to restore shoreline habitat incorporating innovative techniques to counter rising sea levels. He also talked about the usefulness of data from sources such as e-Bird.

For the wrap-up part of the meeting everyone was asked to make notes of things that we should be doing under four headings:

- \* Key external moments and opportunities
- \* Activities and interventions we are involved in
- \* Specific objectives we have
- \* New ideas or initiatives

Graham then reviewed the notes and led discussion on many of the points raised.

**Gareth Pugh**



Web picture

## PROGRAMMES

### JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH 2022

At present we continue to offer our meetings online by Zoom:

*How to sign into Zoom - All you do is download the free ZOOM program into your computer, Ipad, or phone. The week before the program starts, a link will be sent out. Just click into this highlighted link and Lisa will accept you into the Zoom program.*

#### THURSDAY, JANUARY 20<sup>TH</sup>

##### **CETACEANS OF THE SALISH SEA**

**TRACIE MERRILL, EDUCATION CURATOR**

*The Whale Museum, Friday Harbor, WA*

Time: 7:30 pm via Zoom

Tracie will give a fundamental introduction to the natural history and species of whales, dolphins, and porpoises found in the inland waters of the Salish Sea, or the bodies of waters between Washington State and British Columbia. We'll also listen to the vocalizations of several of these species and learn about the threats facing them and conservation actions we can take to help them.

#### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>

##### **BUTTERFLIES OF THE 2021 SEASON**

**ERIC HABISCH**

Time: 7:30 pm via Zoom

Come join LFN member Eric Habisch as he shows us some beautiful and colorful butterfly pictures taken last season - plus he will give us some information about how to identify some of the different species seen in our area.

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 17<sup>TH</sup>

##### **DEREK DOUBLEDAY ARBORETUM**

**NIALL MCGARVEY,**

*Assistant Manager, Parks, Development, Langley*

Time: 7:30 pm via Zoom

Come hear about Langley's very own Derek Doubleday Arboretum & "David's Garden", the beautiful plantings and development as well as plans for the future. David Truman, a LFN member and Nora's husband, was very instrumental in helping with the environment and nature through the Langley Rotary Club - including help towards building the DRBIPA viewing platform.

#### THURSDAY, APRIL 21<sup>ST</sup>

##### **MOTUS: A WORLDWIDE COLLABORATION TO TRACK BIRD MIGRATION**

**AMIE MACDONALD, BIRDS CANADA**

Time: 7:30 via Zoom

The Motus Wildlife Tracking System is an international collaborative research network that uses automated radio telemetry to track birds, bats, and insects. This presentation will include an overview of how Motus works, highlights from various research projects that have used Motus, and current and developing initiatives. New research projects, new technological developments, expansion into western North America, and regional collaboration efforts will be included. Ultimately, Motus is about community science - combining our efforts for conservation.

#### THURSDAY, MAY 19<sup>TH</sup>

##### **GREEN ROOFS, LIVING WALLS AND WILD BEES!**

**CHRISTINE THURING, BSc, MSc, PhD**

*Faculty, Centre for Architectural Ecology*

Time: 7:30 via Zoom

"How Regenerative and Organic Urban Ecosystems Can Help Native Pollinators". Christine, from the Faculty, Centre for Architectural Ecology, will tell us about how green infrastructures can benefit native pollinators.

### **BC NATURE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

#### **"NATURE IN YOUR BACKYARD"**

Mark your calendars!

In person together again -

*Covid protocols, Vaccine passports required*

#### **Central Okanagan Naturalists' Club (CONC)**

invites you to Kelowna

for the 2022 BC Nature AGM

to be held at the UBC Okanagan campus

**MAY 26<sup>TH</sup> - 29<sup>TH</sup>, 2022**

The theme is Nature in your Backyard and thus many outings start from (or occur on) the campus. Bring your bikes!

*More details in the Winter edition  
of BC Nature magazine*

## FIELD TRIPS SCHEDULE JANUARY TO MARCH - 2022

**Please Note:** anyone wishing to take part in these walks should travel to the designated meeting place in accordance with the latest COVID regulations which may not permit carpooling. Pre-registration will be mandatory as we must know in advance how many participants to expect.

Please call the leader for more information and to pre-register. The walks are generally about two hours long and are open to all Naturalist Clubs members (adults & children, but no pets please). Please dress for the weather and bring water, binoculars and a snack. *Note these walks are weather dependent so if the weather is bad and no calls are received then the leader will not show up.*

### CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

**Surrey/White Rock/Langley**  
Sunday January 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Vancouver**  
Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>

**Ladner**  
Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>

**Abbotsford**  
Thursday, December 30<sup>th</sup>

**Alouette/North Langley/ Surrey**  
Saturday, January 1<sup>st</sup>

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17<sup>TH</sup> FISHTRAP CREEK LOOP, ABBOTSFORD

**Leader: John Gordon**

**Time:** 9:00 am at the Abbotsford Curling Club parking lot on Maclure Road Parking. Take the Mount Lehman Road exit of Hwy 1, turn left at the lights onto Fraser Highway over the freeway it becomes MacLure Road. Map attached

The Fishtrap Creek Loop is located near Abbotsford, featuring a couple of lakes with good walking trails for all skill levels. The trail is primarily used for hiking, walking, nature trips and bird watching and is accessible year-round. This is an easy walking trail with several ponds to circle - usually with lots of wintering ducks - plus a resident owl has been seen as well. Come see how many ducks are wintering on these ponds this year!

Phone 604-533-7171 to register.

[https://maps.apple.com/place?ll=49.053423,-122.354157&q=Abbotsford%20Judo%20Club&\\_ext=EiQpRdc1b8WFSEAxnLyrMOOXXsA5h8NGSNeHSEBBBDP8IWivXsA%3D&t=m](https://maps.apple.com/place?ll=49.053423,-122.354157&q=Abbotsford%20Judo%20Club&_ext=EiQpRdc1b8WFSEAxnLyrMOOXXsA5h8NGSNeHSEBBBDP8IWivXsA%3D&t=m)

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 15<sup>TH</sup> SERPENTINE FEN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

**Leader: Gareth Pugh**

**Time:** 9:00 am at the parking lot behind Art Knapps, 4391 King George Boulevard

Join us for a walk around this wetland that is jointly managed by Ducks Unlimited and the Ministry of the Environment.

Phone 604-649-1027 to register.

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12<sup>TH</sup> SURREY LAKE PARK

**Leader: Eric Habisch**

**Time:** 9:00 am in the parking lot on 152nd Street, just north of 72nd Avenue (note this parking lot can only be accessed from the northbound lane of 152nd Street)

Join Eric to walk through this Surrey Park past the lake, through the wetland area and follow the circular trail through the woods.

**Phone 778-231-0273 to register.**

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23<sup>RD</sup> JACKMAN WETLANDS PARK

**Leader: Ted Goshulak**

**Time:** 9:00 am in the parking lot at 272nd Street at 10th Avenue across from the Transfer Station

Join Ted to walk the trails of this rural park which is the site of a former Township gravel pit and dump. After the dump was declared full in the 1980's and capped, it was designated as a park and LFN helped with the restoration tree planting that was done.

**Phone 604-888-0408 to register.**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup>**  
**HOUSTON TRAIL,**  
**DERBY REACH REGIONAL PARK.**  
**BIRDS & BRYOPHYTES!**

**Leader:** *Biologist Phil Henderson*

**Time:** 9:00 am at the parking lot on Allard Crescent

Join biologist Phil Henderson to learn about 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 have a look for waterfowl. Bring binoculars and hand lenses if you have them.

**Phone 604-888-1571 to register.**

**SATURDAY MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup>**  
**GLOUCESTER ESTATES,**  
**WEST CREEK HEADWATERS WETLANDS**

**Leader:** *Ted Lightfoot*

**Time:** 9:00am at 5458-272nd Street, Aldergrove

Join Ted for a walk around this important wetland where salmon spawn, beavers build their dams and a variety of birds live and breed. Ted will show us the beaver dams and explain how they create such a valuable habitat in the midst of an industrial development. Dress warmly, bring a lunch and a warm drink.

**Phone 604-856-6138 to register.**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup>**  
**CAMPBELL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK**

**Leader:** *Wim Vesseur*

**Time:** 9:00 am at 16th Avenue parking lot

Join Wim to walk the river loop trail in this popular park with its great variety of trees, birds, mammals and shrubs. Walking distance is approximately 2 km on the level so please wear appropriate footwear.

**Phone: 604-534-3447 to register.**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 26<sup>TH</sup>**  
**BRYDON LAGOON & HI-KNOLL PARK**

**Leader:** *Lisa Dreves*

**Time:** 9:00 am at the 53rd Avenue parking lot near 198A Street, Langley.

Join Lisa to walk around the lagoon and see the restoration work being carried out by LEPS then walk through the floodplain and up into Hi-Knoll Park to look for the lilies of spring.  
**Phone 604-729-3815 to register.**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup>**  
**GEORGE C. REIFEL MIGRATORY BIRD**  
**SANCTUARY, DELTA**

**Leader:** *Tom Wildeboer*

**Time:** 9:00 am at Reifel (*Note: Pre-booking may be still mandatory at Reifel and should be done 3 days prior to visiting by each individual*).

Join Tom to walk the trails around this popular wildlife refuge. Snow Geese and other wintering birds will have begun returning. Always a good chance to find owls like the Great Horned. Bring lunch and water. Small entrance fee (\$5.00) for non-members of BC Waterfowl Society. Bring an extra sweater and hat; it can be chilly out there.

**Phone 604-530-2633 to register**

**THE FORT LANGLEY BIRD COUNT**  
**SATURDAY, MARCH 26<sup>TH</sup>**

**Time:** 8:00 am -12:00 noon

**Leader:** Phil Henderson

Six routes:

1. Houston Trail (mature mixed forest)
2. Brae Island
3. Fort to Fort Trail, West: Heritage Area cairn west to Edgewater Bar (dog off-leash park)
4. Fort to Fort Trail, East: Heritage Area cairn east to Fort Langley
5. Derby Bog/Langley Peatlands
6. Edgewater Bar off-leash area to 208th St.

Watch your LFN e-mail postings and the LFN website for the opportunity to choose your route. Note that the FLBC encourages participation from beginners and amateurs of all levels, young and old. We hope to see you there.

For more information, e-mail Phil Henderson at [strix@environmental.com](mailto:strix@environmental.com).

*\* We will abide by provincial COVID mandates and recommendations at the time of the survey.*

**CHRISTMAS TRIVIA** - guess the correct titles of the carols... Answers at the Christmas meeting.

1.	Move hitherward the entire assembly of those who are loyal in their belief
2.	Listen, the winged heavenly messengers are proclaiming tunefully
3.	Sir Lancelot with laryngitis
4.	Exhuberation to this globe
5.	Embellish the interior passageways
6.	The smog-less bewitching hour arrived
7.	Primary abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
8.	Small municipality southeast of Jerusalem
9.	Diminutive percussionist
10.	Supreme being offers respite to ecstatic males
11.	Tranquillity of the terrestrial sphere
12.	Cold obese male form
13.	My hallucinatory natal celebration devoid of colour
14.	Our triumvirate of far eastern heads of state
15.	Far back in a hay bin
16.	Leave and do an elevated broadcast
17.	288 yuletide hours
18.	As the guardians of little woolly animals protected their charges in the shadows of the earth
19.	Present me only two front incisors this Yuletide
20.	Do you sense what my sensory organs sense?