



Langley Field Naturalists



To encourage nature appreciation, conservation and education

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Newsletter

June 2022

THANK YOU, AL & JUDE GRASS



Jude & Al Grass

Photo: Sheila Puls

On April 22nd, in the barn at Campbell Valley Regional Park, a celebration was held to thank Al & Jude for their many years, making such a substantial contribution to nature protection and education. They were recognized for their efforts through over fifty years with BC Nature, Nature Vancouver, Burke Mountain Naturalists, Langley Field Naturalists and others. Their work with BC Parks and Metro Vancouver Parks, the walks they have led, the articles they have written, the publications ... truly a huge commitment to helping others enjoy and understand our natural environment.

It was fitting that this event was held at Campbell Valley Regional Park as they both supported extensively the creation of the park, dating back to its early years in the 1970s and have led many nature walks here. They even met during an owling trip in this park!

Al & Jude, thank you for your dedication and for your many years of service to us all.

Sheila Puls
(with help from Bev Ramey)



At the celebration

Photo: Anne Gosse

OPPORTUNITIES!

LFN EXECUTIVE



The Executive committee has kept LFN going during the pandemic.

It hasn't always been easy; however, the current members have been very flexible and dedicated, regardless of the challenges everyone has experienced!

For the club to continue and to thrive in new ways, we need help. Many of the positions need back-up and/or replacement.

We need new members on the Executive, even if it is part time, member at large, or back-up position.

Contact any executive member for information or to volunteer.

Mark your calendars

June 16th at 7.15 pm

General Meeting and AGM on Zoom!

(We hope to have in-person meetings come the fall season.)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I have started writing this president's report about four times now with no success. It is hard to keep things light and cheery when the news lately has been so difficult to watch. Racially motivated shootings, government funding for tired ideas, new COVID variants, and human and environmental destruction due to the war in Ukraine.

I have a very limited understanding of world and social politics, happy staying in a hole filled with trails, trees and streams. I honestly don't know where to even start with forming new opinions when listening to "experts" on the radio or TV. It makes me want to scream at decision makers to just go sit in a forest for an hour to get their heads in the right space. Each day brings more heartbreaking images and with them more feelings of hopelessness for humanity.

Then I got stuck behind a line of cars waiting for a mother duck and her kids to cross the road.

That mallard mom doesn't care about political decisions, near or far. If another duck wants to join her in the pond it doesn't matter what variety of web-footed buddy they are. Her babes will leave her, either through predation or migration; maybe she mourns then she moves on. If another duck questions their identity it isn't her life to live so she lets them get on with their own lives.

All she cares about is thoughtfully putting one foot in front of the other to lead her precious troop across the road no matter how scared she is, all the while probably wishing she could just fly away.

I want to be more like that duck. Determined to keep going in the direction I am being pulled. I want to stay grounded to keep my kids safe along with anyone else that needs help. And when a giant truck is charging down the road straight for me, I keep living my best life because I haven't lost hope and faith that they are going to stop.

I love living in Langley. I hope there will always be ducks to stop us from speeding too quickly through life.

Lisa Dreves

LANGLEY FIELD NATURALISTS 2021-2022

DIRECTORS

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Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month from September to June, starting at 7.15 pm
Executive meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month Sept - June

SURREY LAKE PARK SATURDAY FEBRUARY 12TH



Photo: Gareth Pugh

Surrey Lake Park is located near 152 Street and 76 Avenue, adjacent to, and south of, the Westfield Country Club golf course. Our group of twelve, including two capable and keen-eyed young naturalists, had a crisp, cool and bright Saturday morning to explore this wonderful parcel of park land. The lake itself was the first stop. Although small, Surrey Lake is evidently popular with local waterfowl. We identified at least 15 species of water birds, including a large group of Mallards, Canada Geese, Cackling Geese, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, American Coot, Bufflehead and a spectacular Canvasback. A Belted Kingfisher made a quick appearance while on the search for breakfast. Pussy willows were beginning to come out around the lake; they seemed to almost glow silver in the morning sunlight.



Canvasback

Photo: Eric Habisch

From the lake we walked into the adjacent forest, seeing some more early signs of spring with Osoberry, or Indian Plum, beginning to bud. It was

a cool morning and in the shade of the trees we encountered a form of frost that is perhaps a little unusual. Tree branches lying on the ground had patches of bright white frost squeezing out through splits and gaps in the bark. The shape of this frost, and its somewhat remarkable cohesiveness, was reminiscent of a mushroom or other fungi. Shaking the branches did not disrupt the frost formulation, but blowing on a specimen would quickly melt it, something you wouldn't see with a mushroom. Our young naturalists found the frost quite engaging.

The trees were alive with many types of birds. We spotted, or at least heard, Pileated Woodpeckers, Northern Flickers, Brown Creeper and Pacific Wren. It's worth noting that the trail through the woods at Surrey Lake Park, connects to further trails at nearby Fleetwood Park creating lots of opportunity to enjoy the forest flora and fauna.

From the forested area the trail leads into a marsh area in the southern-most area of the park. This time of year the tall grasses from last year are all brown straw lying thickly on the ground. Red-winged Blackbirds were already present, waiting for the new grasses to start growing. Moving back to the lake, a Bald Eagle had landed in a nearby tree, probably deciding on duck perhaps for brunch. To finish the walk, we spent a few moments at a spot near the shoreline and offered the birds some seeds for a snack. The Mallards, as usual, were all too happy to take the treat but they were joined by some bold Green-winged Teal and American Coot as well as Song Sparrows and a Crow. It was interesting to see the Teal out of water beside the Mallards for a size comparison. The Teal is a very petite duck, only half the size of the Mallard. Keeping close company with the Mallards is probably an effective way for the Teal to avoid scrutiny by the ever-watchful Bald Eagle.

Altogether we identified 33 bird species on this short walk through Surrey Lake Park. With the pussy willows still shining in the sun we concluded for the morning. Another visit will certainly be worthwhile!

The e-Bird list can be viewed at
<https://ebird.org/checklist/S102508761>

Keith Chrystall

JACKMAN WETLANDS FRIDAY FEBRUARY 25TH



Jackman Wetlands

Photo: Eric Habisch

On a Friday morning eight LFN members were joined by two members of the Abbotsford Nature Club, on a walk along the trails around the ponds of this rural park which was 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.



What's that bird?

Photo: Gareth Pugh

We stopped to look for pellets on the ground around the Barn Owl box but none were found. Two highlights of the trip were seeing Killdeer scouting out nesting sites on an isthmus in the middle of one of the ponds. We also scoped out six Iceland Gulls on the far shore of another pond. Tom Wildeboer filled us in on the "real" Philip Jackman, for whom this park was named (see:

<https://www.communitystories.ca/v2/philip-jackman/>).

The walk was filled with numerous sightings which can be seen (with photos by Eric Habisch) at: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S103715102>.

Overall, it was a pleasant time walking, birding, and enjoying nature together.

Ted Goshulak

HOUSTON LOOP TRAIL DERBY REACH REGIONAL PARK THURSDAY MARCH 3RD



Along the Houston Trail

Photo: Anne Gosse

After a brief introduction to birds and bryophytes beside the Houston Trail parking lot along Allard Crescent, seven bryophyte and bird enthusiasts ventured into the damp woods in search of mosses, liverworts, birds, and anything else that moved, or didn't move but which seemed appealing, unappealing, puzzling, or intriguing. Naturalists are prone to distraction; they seek distraction and once distracted, can be hard to coax back into this world.

Birds are warm-blooded, winged creatures with which we are all familiar at least in this general sense. The specifics: well, we spend a lifetime learning and puzzling and will leave this world knowing there is a whole lot we do not know. In this regard, bryophytes are similar.

Bryophytes are small plants that include mosses, liverworts and hornworts. They are non-vascular plants, meaning they lack the ability to draw nutrients and water through internal conducting tissue which characterize the trees, shrubs and herbs with which they share space in the forest. Hornworts are rare in these parts and, not surprisingly, we didn't find any. Unlike mosses and liverworts in which spores are held in capsules atop long stalks, hornwort spores develop within stalkless, elongate capsules that look like horns. Liverworts come in leafy and thallose forms. The leafy forms can resemble moss, but differ in subtle ways, one being that the leaves are usually arranged in two or three rows whereas in mosses they are usually in more than three rows. Thallose liverworts lack differentiated leaves and appear as

thin, flat, leafy masses that could be likened to tiny green cow turds, although they are much more attractive.



Birch Polypore

Photo: Eric Habisch

The mosses and liverworts we saw grew everywhere: on logs, forest floor, tree trunks, tree branches, the trail edge, creek banks and rocks in creeks. The birds followed suit: American Robins on tree branches with clumps of the moss *Orthotrichum lyellii* and patches of the liverwort *Porella navicularis*; Brown Creepers ascending tree trunks covered in long strands of the moss *Isoetecium myosuroides*; a Spotted Towhee skulking about the forest floor amongst the mosses *Hylocomnium splendens* and *Kindbergia oregana*; Wood Ducks in shallow water; and Sandhill Crane heard flying over the nearby peat or *Sphagnum* moss-dominated bog. A Red-breasted Sapsucker left its two wings near a beautiful patch of *Dicranum scoparium* along a forest trail, having presumably departed this world in a violent and merciless death.

Lin found a Rough-skinned Newt that had ventured onto the trail and seemed to have an aversion to moving. We took its picture and carefully moved it off the trail onto a carpet of moss beneath an arching Sword Fern frond.

On the lookout that Anne was instrumental in establishing, overlooking the wetland and distant bog, Anne reminded us that Bays Blackhall, to whom the lookout is dedicated, was responsible for preserving this park. The bryophytes, birds and pleasantly distracted naturalists are most thankful for that.

It was a good day, all in all and we noted the following birds and bryophytes.

Birds: Canada Goose (4), Cackling Goose (1), Mallard (10), Wood Duck (2), Bufflehead (2) Green-winged Teal (3), Hooded Merganser (1) Sandhill Crane (1+), Red-breasted Sapsucker 1 (remains), Chestnut-backed Chickadee (3), Pacific Wren (1), Varied Thrush (2), American Robin (4), Golden-crowned Kinglet (3), Song Sparrow (3), Spotted Towhee (3).

Bryophytes	
Liverwort	
<i>Porella navicularis</i>	branches, trunks
Moss	
<i>Brachythecium</i> sp.	lawn
<i>Buckiella undulata</i>	logs
<i>Dicranum scoparium</i>	logs, ground
<i>Dicranum tauricum</i>	logs, stumps
<i>Hylocomium splendens</i>	forest floor
<i>Isoetecium myosuroides</i>	branches, trunks
<i>Kindbergia oregana</i>	forest floor
<i>Kindbergia praelonga</i>	trail edge, creek edge, rocks in creek
<i>Leucolepis ancanthoneuron</i>	forest floor
<i>Neckera douglasii</i>	branches, trunks
<i>Neckera menziesii</i>	branches, trunks
<i>Orthotrichum lyellii</i>	small branches
<i>Plagiothecium</i> sp.	side of stump
<i>Pseudoscleropodium purum</i>	lawn (introduced)
<i>Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans</i>	log, trail
<i>Rhytidiadelphus loreus</i>	logs
<i>Rhytidiadelphus triquetrus</i>	logs, ground

(Ted Goshaluk pointed me to a nice bryophyte web page with many interesting links including that of UBC's bryology class. Have a look: <https://www.bryophytes.co.uk/useful-links-2>)

Phil Henderson

BRYDON LAGOON & HI-KNOLL PARK SATURDAY MARCH 26TH

March 26th marked the official "official" start of spring at Brydon Lagoon and Hi-Knoll Park. With over 40 bird species spotted and the first two fawn lilies in bloom, the big group of LFNers out on the trail were not disappointed.



Fawn Lilies

Photo: Eric Habisch

The rain was kind enough to slow and even stopped a few times during the outing so this walk was far more successful than the walk we attempted in November in the aftermath of one of the massive storms. However, the trail was still flooded by the river. With some quick thinking, those that didn't have adequate footwear were able to head back to the parking lot and meet the gang on the south side of the trail on Colebrook Road/50th Ave.

Thankfully Viveka and Wim were along for the walk because Lisa mistakenly identified snowdrops as the famous fawn lilies during her earlier recon walk. Wim and Viveka took it all in stride and no one even laughed at Lisa (the LFN are the greatest!). The lilies for those that are looking for them are along the trails on the south side of Colebrook Rd, but next February there will be an impressive show of snowdrops just up the trail from the parking lot! Only two white fawn lilies were out on the walk so hopefully a few people were inspired to head to the trails about a week later to take in this special park in its full glory!

These elegant flowers should not be picked or harvested. They are not common in our community and need to be left alone. Taking several years before they mature enough to bloom, the flowers are a treasure for all of us.

Lisa Dreves

ALDERGROVE PARK SATURDAY APRIL 2ND

Six of us met in the main parking lot on an overcast but dry day to enjoy this very extensive and varied park. Eagle eyes immediately located a pair of Brown Creepers building a nest a few feet away. As we set off through the main day-use area we were treated to the spectacle of two Cooper's Hawks doing their display flight, not the sort of thing that is seen every day and a delight to watch.



Hairy Woodpecker female

Photo: Eric Habisch

As we walked onto the Rock'n Horse Trail we could hear one of them making its distinct and very loud kek-kek-kek call and came across a Hairy Woodpecker working hard at its new nest hole, a very lucky sighting. Our route took us along the Nature Discovery Loop where we stopped to look for frogs in the pond which Eric told us is inhabited by invasive Green and Bullfrogs, a good reminder why it was so important to create the vernal ponds at Forslund-Watson.

We then made our way down towards Gordon's Brook and found Mallard, Ring-necked Ducks and three Hooded Mergansers with lots of Tree and Violet-green Swallows around the nest boxes that LFN have installed. Red-winged Blackbirds and Marsh Wrens sat in the rushes, while the resident pair of Red-tailed Hawks soared above us.

Further on we reached the high ground overlooking the marsh where we could see lots of ducks and even heard a Virginia Rail calling. We retraced our steps, returning via the Nature Discovery Loop Trail before diverting along the Rock'n Horse to the

bridge. There a pair of Ruby-crowned Kinglets entertained us, and a couple of Purple Finches serenaded us while Pacific Wrens loudly advertised their presence. By the time we reached the parking lot, we had recorded thirty-five species despite not hearing a single Warbler. Another great morning in good company.

The list of what we saw can be viewed at <https://ebird.org/checklist/S106105761>.

Gareth Pugh

GLOUCESTER ESTATES SATURDAY MARCH 12TH

Fourteen LFN Members met at Ted and Linda's lovely property on a dry day to walk around the wetlands that are the headwaters of West Creek. Ted gave us some background on the area and its importance as a salmon spawning and rearing habitat and the efforts that he and others have been making to have a large area of those wetlands preserved as a nature preserve. In Gloucester Estates, the Township has agreed to the construction of an infill trail being added to the existing trail network in the industrial area.

We set off to walk around the wetland where Ted told us about the large number of beavers living there and pointed out their dams and lodges. He pulled up two traps that he uses to keep track of the fish etc. and showed us a Salamander and several Sticklebacks, including two pregnant ones.



Salamander and Sticklebacks

Photo: Tom Willeboer

The keen birders were kept busy and recorded a number of species including, of course, the Red-winged Blackbirds singing from the tops of the old cattails. Retracing our steps, Ted led us across 56th Avenue through a small patch of woodland where someone found a small Garter Snake that was quite happy to be handed from person to person, no doubt enjoying the warmth of their hands. The trail wound around the back of a building and back to 56th where we crossed over to investigate a wetland where the beaver had already taken down many of the Alder trees. Some of the remaining trees have been protected by wire mesh and the fence along the walkway has been beaver proofed in an effort to contain their movements. After having a group photo, we made our way back to Ted and Linda's where they very kindly entertained us with coffee and homemade cookies, leading Anne Gosse to ask "why don't we always end the walks with coffee and cookies?". After we left, Ted saw a Mallard with a beak-full of Bullfrog;, was it being a little too greedy I wonder?

Gareth Pugh

CAMPBELL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK SATURDAY MARCH 19TH

After a night of heavy rain, looking West towards White Rock the skies looked blue. So happy that after a quick breakfast I walked with Angie and returned home to get my stuff ready. Lisa called in to ask about the weather and that they would show up. Looking forward to a big group. Some people did not show up due to the rain. When I arrived at the 16 Ave parking lot, Elvina was already there and we started birding at 8:51.



Storm clouds, but some blue sky

Photo: Wim Vesseur

Around 9:15 most people had arrived and I decided that late arrivals would probably pick up. The cycling O'Byrne family was all geared up in raingear, but they luckily just missed the rain. We ended up with 19 people.

Along the Little River Loop we found 24 species of birds and little 2 year old James was the one feeding the Red-breasted Nuthatch. Luckily someone detected the two Gadwall in between the Mallards and later on we also found some Wood Ducks. In terms of spring flowers we got the Oso berry (Indian Plum) and the first pink of Salmonberry and the famous Skunk Cabbage. We were lucky to have a fly-by from a Cooper's Hawk.

The Pileated Woodpecker was a lucky find. Then we got the song of Purple Finch (Pavarotti of the woods) while the day turned blue and sunny .

Around 11:30 we returned to our transport and said goodbye.

Wim Vesseur

GREAT BLUE HERON RESERVE APRIL 9TH



Heron nests

Photo: K. Hahn

Thirteen hardy souls and Carrie's 'little guy' met me at the Reserve on a cool windy day. After introducing a couple of visitors from the White Rock club, we set off along the dike. We saw several large skeins of Snow Geese, one of which was very high and appeared to be migrating. A large number of female Red-winged Blackbirds were sitting in a bush very close to the trail, giving a great opportunity for us to study them and for some to learn the principal identifying features.

We found a number of Wood Ducks in the channel

alongside the dike and Wim found a Shoveler among a group of Mallard out on the pools of water in the fields. From the dike we had really good views of the heronry and counted at least fifty nests with birds standing on them or flying in with twigs in their beaks. It was heartening to see them doing so well. Moving on, we were admiring a pair of Bald Eagles above us in a tree when a flock of Cackling Geese flew into the field quite near the dike, again giving us good views to be able to point out the differences between them and the larger Canada Geese. Two of them had white breast bands which Pauline looked up on her Sibley and found were the Aleutian sub-species, a first for most of us and a reminder to check through large flocks to pick out the occasional different bird.

Just as we reached the trail leading off the dike into the woods, it started to rain and continued on and off for about twenty minutes (but not too heavily so no-one got drenched). There was very little activity along the river trail and less than a dozen ducks on the main pond but Song Sparrows, Spotted Towhees and Black-capped Chickadees were singing around us. As we reached the Centre, several hundred Cackling Geese flew over, giving us another chance to learn their distinctive call. Several of us ate our lunch in the comfort of the Centre and watched the bird feeders outside the window, almost armchair birding.

Our final tally was 45 species despite not finding any Warblers. The list of what we saw can be viewed at

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S106627744>

Gareth Pugh

SOUTH LANGLEY (8TH AVE) TRAIL WALK APRIL 16TH

It was a frosty morning but by the time we set off on the South Langley Trail the sun had warmed up nicely. The first flower we commented on was Purple Dead-nettle, *Lamium purpureum*, which over recent years is appearing everywhere, and seems to be becoming as invasive as its cousin Yellow Archangel, *Lamium galeobdolon*, a truly invasive immigrant from Europe which we also saw in flower on the trail. However, it was the Western Trillium *Trillium ovatum* that got most attention as Eric posted a photo on iNaturalists.



Margined White Butterfly

Photo: Bob Puls

We saw only one butterfly, a Margined White, as it was too early and cold for more. So, it became a birding day, with Pauline, Joanne, Carol and Sharon (as well as Bob) being most impressed with Eric's knowledge of birds. We did have to use the Merlin app. once to identify a song, which turned out to be a Bewick's Wren singing its spring song which we hadn't heard for a long time.

We encountered a Canada Goose on the road with its mate in the pond close by as well as a pair of Mallard. Then we noted a lone Killdeer, Red-tailed Hawk and Steller's Jay, along with several Common Yellowthroat singing. Lots of little birds high in the trees turned out to be Kinglets and Chickadees and a few Downy Woodpeckers. A flock of 100 Cackling geese flew over as we retraced our way home. A female Hairy Woodpecker was on the base of an old stump and provided a good photo opportunity and a fitting end to the walk - 30 species in all.

And then we retired to Bob's house where Sheila had the coffee on.

Bob Puls

GEORGE REIFEL RESERVE THURSDAY MARCH 31ST

Twenty enthusiastic birders/walkers met at 9:00am precisely at the main parking lot. It was rather a cool, blustery, sunny day, but all of these hardy, tough participants were ready to brave these extreme elements. We are after all "Birders". We had usual small talk to start, with a few of the introductions to figure out the who's who. A few moments were spent on the pertinent historical

aspects of the park. It is approximately 850 acres, with many of the dykes having been constructed back in the early 1900's. In 1927 the owner, George C. Reifel, created a family retreat, and also constructed many more dykes and causeways for waterfowl. The "Reifel Farm" during the Second World War produced over 1/3 of the sugar beet seed in Canada. In the 60's, his son gave the first lease to the BC Waterfowl Society. Slowly it was sold and leased to the Federal government. In 2013 it celebrated its 50th anniversary. It is also celebrated as one of the top 10 bird sites of Canada, with a count of 192 regular sightings, and 106 accidentals recorded. We headed off with that as our goal.

We walked off down the east dyke trail. As usual the Black-crowned Night-heron was waiting for us. Same time, same spot. A loooooong stop at the Fuller Slough Lookout, brought out some of the usual sightings, but the ravenous Carp that usually swim below us were not visible yet. Too early we concluded. Many of the common birds were sighted down the dyke trail. Early in the hike, Anne promised us all a sighting of a Common Redpoll; after all she has seen them here before. So with this in mind, we waited with eager anticipation; this would be a first for some of us, but we could not find one.

We took a brief stop at the Ewen Slough Blinds. Many of the common water birds were seen. Mergansers, Herons, Grebes and different species of Ducks were all visible.



At the tower

Photo: Anne Gosse

The group was very anxious to travel the North Dyke Trail, not sure why. However it became clear that they knew the coveted group picture would be taken at the Tower. After ascending the tower, the strong wind quickly blew us back to the base, so we could line up for the shot, and indeed it was a beauty.

The tower brought us a few new sightings to the list. We were convinced there were some Snow Geese on the tidal flats in the distance, but they turned out to be a large group of seals. Of course, we knew this all along.

Meanwhile, we were still waiting to see the Common Redpoll. Anne said anytime now. We meandered down the Center Dyke trail to pick up a few more sightings of Ducks. Again extensive, in-depth discussion took place as to why the Ring-necked duck is called such and not Ring-billed duck. No consensus however so a decision was taken to leave it the same ,,,,for now. A good compromising group.



Sandhill Crane

Photo: Eric Habisch

We meandered our way back to the warming hut, where we enjoyed some food and good company. It was a great morning out, with a total sighting of 55 species. Not too shabby for a 3-hour outing. However no Common Redpoll. Maybe next time, eh Anne.

Tom Wildeboer

HAIR LOSS SYNDROME BLACKTAILED DEER

It has been noticed that our local deer population have some hair loss problems.

Hair loss syndrome (HLS) of black-tailed deer is caused by a heavy infestation of Eurasian lice first reported in Western Washington in 1995.

The normal hosts of these lice are European and Asian deer and antelope, which are not seriously affected by them. In contrast, when black-tailed deer become infested, they tend to develop a hypersensitivity (severe allergic) reaction, which causes skin irritation and excessive grooming by

the deer. Eventually, this excessive grooming leads to loss of the guard hairs, leaving yellow or white patches along the sides.



Deer Moulting

Photo: Eric Habisch

Infestations are heaviest during late winter and early spring. The geographical distribution of HLS has expanded steadily since its first appearance and now affects black-tailed deer throughout their range in Western Washington and western Oregon. This species of lice, in the genus *Damalinia* (*Cervicola*) sp., has also been found on elk in Washington, but does not result in the severe hair loss seen in deer.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife began to receive reports in 2003 of deer from the Yakima area of south-central Washington -- in the eastern foothills of the Cascade Range -- with clinical signs similar to HLS. These were the first reports of apparent HLS in Eastern Washington.

The exotic lice species described above does not affect humans or domestic animals.

Deer in captive settings have been successfully cleared of lice infestations with the use of medication, but there is no practical method for delivering effective doses of medication to large populations of wild, free-ranging deer.

From Government information

Bob Puls



Deer moulting

Photo: Bob Puls

NATURE CHALLENGE 2022



Josh and Eric out at the blitz

Photo: Lisa Dreves

The City Nature Challenge for 2022 was taken up by the Fraser River Discovery Centre, so they went beyond municipal boundaries this year and invited groups all over the Metro Vancouver area to host bioblitzes from April 29-May 2. We took up the challenge and on May 1 found 191 different species in Derek Doubleday Arboretum. We got started as early as normal people get started, none of this "Dawn Chorus" stuff, just a humane 8:00 am start. We were out of the park by noon because soon after a flood of folks celebrating the Langley's 60th Annual Langley Walk would be heading through the park, scaring the bugs and birds far away from our camera lenses. Our very own "Batman" returned at dusk to identify a silver-haired and a hoary bat.

The City Nature Challenge is a worldwide initiative through iNaturalist, a free app that can be used on your smartphone or through your computer. A powerful tool, iNaturalist is able to identify species of plants, lichen, bugs, birds... through only a well framed photo. It can even identify animals with a photo of a skull!

Before our little bioblitz there were only 88 species recorded for Derek Doubleday Arboretum. Now we have a total of 229 species recorded! There are so many more species we missed, from birds that got away to mushroom fruiting bodies that don't come up in the spring (or maybe didn't come up this year; fungi are fickle!).

Some of our fun finds are a possible river otter den, inkcap mushrooms, coho salmon (you better believe this Naturalist was sitting by the bridge forever waiting for the little fry to come out for a

picture!), swift forktail, and, of course, lots of birds! Western Tanager, Common Yellowthroat and American Goldfinch are the yellow birds but there were others of all sorts of other colours!

Lisa Dreves

FREE WEBINARS

LEPS is offering free webinars in June regarding healthy farms and how they can help with climate adaptation, along with impacts of poor land management on creeks.

LEPS is working on an educational initiative in South Langley and Abbotsford about water quality and healthy land management practices. The overall Collaborative Transboundary Water Quality project that is funded through EcoAction Canada is about the Nooksack River tributaries and the Little Campbell River and the impact these creeks are having on the traditional shellfish harvest where they reach the ocean. Fecal coliforms have closed the harvest for many years, fecal coliforms coming from Langley and Abbotsford from poorly managed septic systems, discarded pet waste and uncovered manure.

There are three upcoming webinars this June; webinars are free, about an hour long and hosted through Zoom.

Tuesday, June 7th, 7:00 - 7:45 pm

Regenerative Agriculture and Riparian Area Management Webinar with Lone Smith. Lone will look at how managing our stream sides can help agriculture and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Thursday, June 9th, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

The roll of grasslands, grazing and agroforestry in enhancing carbon sequestration in the Canadian prairies with Dr. Bork. Joining us from northern Alberta, Dr. Bork will discuss how agricultural land management can be enhanced to increase carbon storage - an important strategy to mitigate climate change.

Monday, June 20th, 7:00 - 8:00 pm

The Salmon Journey: An environmental chemistry perspective with Josh Baker. Josh will take us on a salmon's life journey through our local creeks and the potential discharges that can be toxic to fish and what solutions exist for our freshwater systems.

PROGRAMMES

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2022

At present we continue to offer our meetings online by Zoom: *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. Should this change, we will send e-mail notification.* Presentations begin at 7.30 pm after a brief business meeting.

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 15TH

UK BIRDING - WEST COAST TO EAST COAST!

John Gordon, Professional Photographer

From the wide-open spaces of the Welsh Black Mountains, to the famous Slimbridge Wildlife & Wetland Centre on the Severn Estuary, we'll visit some of the UK's most varied birding locations. The historical Forest of Dean offers glimpses of forest birds and wild boar, while for the birding traveler landing at Heathrow, John includes locations close to the airport for even more avian delights. John takes us to Northumberland's Farne Islands in the North Sea off England's northeast coast, and closes the presentation with a look at birding in Lincolnshire, including RSPB sites Frampton and Gibraltar Point on England's east coast.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 20TH

THE CHAT IS BACK!

Christine Bishop, - Research Scientist, Environment & Climate Change Canada.

Come join Christine as she tells us about the Western Yellow-breasted Chat. Its population in BC was listed in 2000 under the Canadian Species At Risk Act. Its populations are already drastically restricted due to the loss of over 85% of its key nesting habitat - wild rose thickets, in the Okanagan and Similkameen valley systems. She will also give us an update on the rattlesnake population.

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 17TH

CANADIAN WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY, FROM VERY BIG TO VERY SMALL

(POLAR BEARS TO PACIFIC TREE FROGS!)

Roy Cline, MD FRC(s) Clinical Professor - UBC

Roy is a retired pediatric ophthalmologist with a life-long passion for wildlife photography. He will take you from the shores of Hudson Bay with polar bears and Kanaka wolves, to Johnstone Strait and Knight Inlet with humpback whales and grizzly bears, to the Sparrow Creek pond in Fort Langley with Pacific tree frogs.

FIELD TRIPS SCHEDULE

JUNE - SEPTEMBER 2022

Please Note: anyone wishing to take part in these walks should follow current Provincial Health guidelines when travelling to the designated meeting place. Pre-registration will be mandatory as we must know in advance how many participants to expect and, if necessary, arrange for more than one leader to ensure that no more than ten persons are in each group in order to maintain required social distancing.

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.*

SATURDAY JUNE 4TH

GLEN VALLEY BIRD COUNT

Contact Lisa Dreves - lisabob2@yahoo.com

SATURDAY JUNE 11TH

CAMPBELL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK

Leader: Wim Vesseur

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

Join Wim to walk the trails through this popular park with its great variety of trees, flowers and shrubs and enjoy the songs and sights of the birds that have arrived for their short breeding season. Walking distance is approximately 5 km. Bring a packed lunch. **Phone 604-534-3447 to register.**

FRIDAY JUNE 17TH

GEORGE C. REIFEL MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY, DELTA

Leader: Anne Gosse

Time: 9:00 am at Reifel

Join the Langley Field Naturalists to walk the trails in this well known nature reserve. Expect to see and hear lots of birds in the middle of the breeding season and a great variety of trees and shrubs. There is a small admission fee. Bring lunch, snacks and refreshments. Meet at the Reifel Sanctuary. **Phone 604-888-1787 to register.**

Also, pre-booking is still mandatory at Reifel.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 22ND

IRENE PEARCE TRAIL

Leader: *Anthea Farr*

Time: 7:30 pm in the parking lot on 224th at 5th Avenue

Join the Langley Field Naturalists as we walk the trails in this rural park that was turned into a park after pressure was exerted by the Council of Ratepayers and LFN. It is part of the Municipal Natural Park with the Little Campbell River flowing through it and has stands of mature Douglas Fir. **Phone 604-576-7731 to register.**

WEDNESDAY JULY 6TH

ALDERGROVE REGIONAL PARK

Leader: *Keith Chrystall*

Time: 6:30 pm at the parking lot on Lefeuve Road south of 8th Avenue

Join Keith for a walk around the Aldergrove Bowl including the Big Rock and the pond. **Phone 604-427-3735 to register.**

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13TH

E.C. MANNING PROVINCIAL PARK - PAINTBRUSH NATURE TRAIL &

HEATHER MEADOWS (weather permitting only)

Leader: *Bob Puls*

Time: 7:30 am in Langley or
9:30 am at Manning Park Lodge

Join Bob to wander along some of the Manning Park trails to check the summer flowers in this wonderful park in the coastal mountains. Choice of trail will depend on the snowpack. Bring a botany book if you have one. **Phone 604-856-7534 to register.**

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20TH

BAT WALK

Leaders: *Ryan Usenik & Keith Chrystall*

Time: 8:00 pm, 710-204 St, Rowlett building, Campbell Valley Park

Join Keith and Ryan along with volunteers as they do a Bat count for the BC Bat Community. The evening will provide participants the opportunity to observe a typical Bat roost habitat and then at sunset everybody can observe the Bats as they leave the roost for an evening of foraging. Suggest bringing your own lawn chair. **Phone 604-530-3257 to register.**

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27TH

FORSLUND WATSON PROPERTY

Leader: *Ryan Usenik*

Time: 6:30 pm at 2705 - 232nd Street

Join Ryan as he leads us through this property which LFN co-manages with the B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource and Rural Development which is part open fields and part woodland. This is also a good opportunity to see how the new BCIT pond has developed over the summer months. Wear sturdy footwear as we will be walking in open fields and natural woodland trails. At the end of the walk we will be checking for bats with the bat monitor. **Phone 604-530-3257 to register.**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3RD

DOUBLEDAY ARBORETUM

Leader: *Nora Truman, 604-533-4585*

Time: 6:30 pm in the parking Lot in the 21200 Block Fraser Highway

Join Nora in the Doubleday Arboretum to visit the LEPS demonstration garden and walk the trails connecting Doubleday and the new Harbour Ribbon Trail north of 56th Avenue. The trail continues through a wooded area, passing a pond with waterfowl and crossing a footbridge over the Nicomekl River. **Phone 604-533-4585 to register.**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10TH

BLAAUW ECO-FOREST

Leader: *Ted Goshulak*

Time: 6:30 pm at 8640 - 257A Street

Join Ted for a walk through this 30 acre preserve of mixed and coniferous forest, ponds and a bog which is an important refuge for some endangered species at risk including the Red-legged Frog. **Phone 604-888-0408 to register.**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17TH

WEST CREEK WETLANDS

Leader: *Lisa Dreves*

Time: 6:30 pm on the south side of 72nd Avenue approximately 400 metres west of 264th Street. Parking is available on the north side of 72nd Avenue.

Join Lisa for an evening walk through the woods to the lake where beaver are usually seen. Bring mosquito repellent! **Text or phone 604-729-3845 to register.**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24TH

WILLIAMS PARK

Leader: *Joanne Rosenthal*

Time: 6:30 pm in the gravel parking lot at the park entrance, 6595 - 238th Street

Join Joanne for a walk around this rural park with open spaces, forested areas and the river trail along the banks of the Salmon River. Williams Park has been described as a "hidden gem" and is located in part of the Salmon River Watershed. There is a picnic shelter, washrooms and one trail is Handicap accessible. Meet in the gravel parking lot at the entrance to the park. Bring water and a snack to enjoy after the walk. **Phone 604-455-0116 to register.**

SATURDAY AUGUST 27TH

IRENE PEARCE TRAIL

Leader: *Anthea Farr*

Time: 9:30 am in the parking lot on 224th at 5th Avenue

Join Anthea to walk the trails in this rural park that was turned into a park after pressure was exerted by the Council of Ratepayers and LFN. It is part of the Municipal Nature Park with the Little Campbell River flowing through it and has stands of mature Douglas Fir. **Phone 604-576-7731 to register.**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH

HIGH POINT

Leader: *Nora Truman*

Time: 9:00 am at parking area on the East side of 200th Street; South of the Cross Walk and Jacobsen Creek

Join Nora for a walk to enjoy nature at High Point. First we will walk through the forest on Campbell Boundary Trail west to the detention pond, then north to the High Point Lake on the Pepin Trail. Waterfowl are sometimes seen at High Point Lake. At the viewing platform, there are often many birds in the shrubbery and tree tops. We continue down the Campbell Boundary Trail past a meadow and into the forest again to our beginning point. <file:///C:/Users/Gareth/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/Content.Outlook/HE7MO53Y/HighPoint%20Park.pdf>
Phone: 604-533-4585 to register.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH

JACKMAN PIT (WETLANDS) PARK

Leader: *Herman Vanderleest*

Time: 9:00 am at 272nd Street and 10th Avenue across from the Transfer Station

Join Herman to walk the trails in 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. LFN helped with the restoration tree planting that was carried out. **Phone 604-856-1179 to register.**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH

CAMPBELL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK

Leader: *Eric Habisch*

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

Join Eric to walk the river loop trail in this popular park with its great variety of trees, birds, mammals and shrubs. Walking distance is approximately 2km on the level so please wear appropriate footwear. **Phone: 778-231-0273 to register.**

FUNDRAISER FOR CLUB PROJECTS



Fraser Valley Bottle & Express Return-It Depot
108 - 22575 Fraser Hwy (beside Big Box, Murrayville)

OR

Willowbrook Express Return-It Depot
19641 60 Ave

Account number 222 222 3333 for Nora Truman, Ifnsecretary (had to be a person's name)

Either:

1) Bring cans and bottles to the LFN meeting (when we start up again)

or

2) Bagged in a clear plastic bag, at Barcode label machine enter 222 222 3333. Select the number of bags you are dropping off, print label(s) and stick them on your bag(s). Drop the bags where they are piled up near the barcode machine. Done.