



Langley Field Naturalists



To encourage nature appreciation, conservation and education

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www.langleyfieldnaturalists.org

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Newsletter

September 2018

WEDNESDAY JULY 4TH WEST CREEK WETLANDS

Four brave souls headed out into West Creek Wetlands Regional Park Preserve on July 4; they took only pictures but left far more than their footprints. Thanks to their sacrifice, thousands of mosquitoes went to bed with full tummies that night.

West Creek Wetlands never fails to disappoint BUT the mosquitoes made this evening walk almost unbearable. Stopping for any length of time to learn about the abandoned wasabi farm, marvelling at the grove of cascara that remains, or gazing out at the beauty of Wood Duck Lake meant dozens of bloodthirsty creatures would descend upon you, and then they called their friends.



West Creek Wetlands

Photo: Lisa Dreves

The riot of bird calls and Douglas squirrels was probably in thanks to us brave souls, taking the mosquitoes' attention away, allowing them to go about their bird and squirrel business. Only one beaver tail smack was heard at the wetland, the family probably choosing to stay inside their lodge, away from the mosquitoes.

West Creek Wetlands is not open to the public so we get special permission to access the property from Metro Vancouver Parks. It is a wonderful place to visit and see glimpses of the pioneers that once settled here. The old forests were logged back in the 30's but because of the varied ownership of the land it was left to recover very much on its own. The broadleaf forest in transition there now would be very much like the forests that would have grown up thousands of years ago in this region after fires swept through. The rich diversity of Wood Duck Lake and the other wetlands make this space a diamond in the crown of regional parks in our community.

Lisa Dreves



Just to remind everyone that the Langley Field Naturalist dues would be appreciated in September!
(Our year is September - August)

Please complete the attached membership form and waiver so that we have your up-to- date information.

LANGLEY FIELD NATURALISTS 2017-2018 DIRECTORS

President:
& webmaster Lisa Dreves
604-532-0081-lisabob2@yahoo.com

Vice President: Vacant

Past President:&
Conservation Bob Puls
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REPRESENTATIVES & CONVENORS

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Greeters: Rebecca Tin Tun/Helen Thompson

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Derby Reach Brae Island: Anne Gosse
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Member Participation Committee:
Joanne Rosenthal
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Displays: Anne Gosse
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**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



It is with a bit of hesitancy that I sign off on this, my first official "president" duty since I agreed to take on chairing for such an incredible group of strong minded, dedicated, inspirational naturalists. I don't expect I can mess this up too much with so many to keep me in line! So here we go, message from the new President:

Fall is here along with the season for community events, weekends crammed full of opportunities to get people involved before the weather turns sour. Volunteers are needed to host our display and represent the LFN in September and into October. This job isn't for the faint of heart since it requires a great deal of smiling. All of our members are welcome to help host the booths;, you won't be alone as there is always another fabulous member there to help. If you would like to get just a taste of hosting fun, please come out to one of the events and offer to spell off other members for a few minutes so they can go grab something to eat or check out the fair.

Connect with Sylvia for info about shifts that we still need to fill;, first event is Country Celebration - two days of fun Sept. 8 and 9.

WaterWeeks events will follow BC Rivers Day at the end of September - this year there will be two documentaries along with tours, a tree planting and a garbage clean-up. AND don't forget Heritage Apple Day... there is no time to be bored!

I am looking forward to the rain that marks the end of community events;, finally weekends to ourselves again to hunt for beautiful mushrooms, admire colourful lichen that is no longer the dull greys of summer and read, read, read.

Lisa Dreves
President

Thank you to those who make the very popular wooden rounds for the children's necklaces at our public displays:
Bruce Batchelor, Gareth Pugh, Bob Puls,
and Larri Woodrow

**WEDNESDAY MAY 30TH
EVENING WALK AT HIGH POINT**



*Naturalists looking at American Goldfinches in the trees beside High Point lake.
Photo: Anthea Farr*

About a dozen naturalists, from both LFN and the White Rock & Surrey Naturalists, enjoyed a pleasant evening to see nature at High Point in south Langley. We circled the lake, strolled along a forest trail and visited the year-round spring-fed pond. Total number of bird species seen was 28, which included one person's sighting of a Red-breasted Sapsucker.

Anthea Farr

**SATURDAY JUNE 2ND
CAMPBELL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK
LITTLE CAMPBELL RIVER LOOP TRAIL**

Nobody had called in for the trip and my car, which was being serviced the day before, wasn't finished on time so I could only get it after the walk. So I decided to start a bit early and take my dog Angie for a walk and be at the parking lot around 9:00 am. Who knows, maybe someone would show up.

We arrived a bit before 9:00 am and surprise - there were actually 7 people there. Roy just asked for the location where I had seen an American Bittern earlier that year and went off on his own. So with 7 (including myself) of us we went on the walk and enjoyed the usual birds on that trail, including Common Yellowthroat, Marsh Wren, two species of chickadee, Song Sparrow, Spotted Towhee and others. Long before we reached the far side with the listening bridge, we heard Barred Owls calling. We found Cedar Waxwings in the process of building a nest. Close to that spot we also saw

Brown Creepers and Nuthatches.

Lots of people gave attention to Angie who always wants to say hi to everybody and be loved by everyone. Some of us noticed an Anna's Hummingbird and Yellow Warbler in the meadow ahead. Returning to the loop, and on the listening bridge, we got a few other species flying over and some Black-headed Grosbeaks calling from the trees.

On the way back towards the parking lot we paid a lot of attention to the Barred Owls, and some of us managed to see one flying behind the trees. I think I saw both of them but it could have been the same bird twice, based on the calls.

It was a great walk and nice to have a number of people joining. Tineke picked Angie and me up from the parking lot after a call, and we could luckily go straight on to pick up my fixed car.

Wim Vesseur

**FRIDAY JUNE 22ND
GEORGE C REIFEL
MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY**



Tree Swallows

Photo: Al Grass

It was a lovely cool morning at the sanctuary - perfect for our nature adventure. We began the day by checking in with Varri at the gift shop, who maintains the weekly records. It was also pointed out that the sanctuary is operated by the BC Waterfowl Society and that by becoming a member you support the important work of the society, such as public education (including school children) and habitat conservation.

We headed off on the East Dyke, checking the nearby slough for birds and the feeders for hummingbirds. There were both Rufous and Anna's. We noted Great Blue Herons, Bald Eagles and a variety of ducks (mergansers).

Onward, past the usual hungry collection of sparrows, we saw Bewick's Wren, Hammond's Flycatcher, American Goldfinch, and lots of friendly chickadees. On our way in, we were treated to a California Quail (an unusual sighting), and Trumpeter Swan (rare at this time of year).

On the trail to the tower, we watched the Purple Martins at their nesting boxes, heard Marsh Wrens, and saw lots of swallows. Noteworthy amongst the ducks we noted was a Blue-winged Teal. Also seen: Cedar Waxwing, Red-winged Blackbird (one feeding a young Cowbird), Northern Rough-winged Swallow.

Most trips have a "big miss" or two - - - ours were no owls or rails (we tried). It was a 5-swallow day though! - Cliff, Tree, Violet-green, Northern Rough-Winged and Purple Martin. Total species 40. Thanks again to Varri and to all who helped to make this a wonderful outing.

Al Grass

WEDNESDAY JULY 11TH E.C. MANNING PROVINCIAL PARK



View from the subalpine meadows

Photo: Bob Puls

Gareth and Anne met at Joanne's and then they picked up Bob at his place with Joanne driving in her new car. We set out at 7:30 am on a glorious sunny morning, arriving at the lodge shortly after 9:30 where we met another Langley couple who joined us for the day.

We drove straight up to the alpine and walked the Heather Meadows loop, looking at all that grew or moved. As we had been informed, we were between bloom waves, the first wave being over and the second wave due in a week or more. However there were still patches of Glacier Lilies and Western Anemones in shady areas, which we could show to the group.

We encountered Penstemon (small and Davidson's), Lupines, Indian Paintbrush, Heather and some of the Blueberry varieties in bloom. Tiger lilies were evident whilst White Bog-orchids, Rein orchids and White Marsh-marigold were seen in wet spots. Some cinquefoil was in flower but the yellow Arnica's were holding back. A patch of Scarlet Gilia was in full bloom on the road to the alpine which we photographed on the way down. A walk out on the Dry Ridge trail failed to find any of the rare and elusive Steer's Head; they flower soon after the snow melts and then disappear very quickly.

One of the first encounters on the trail was the boom-boom-boom of a Sooty Grouse and it took ages to find him hidden in the branches of an old spruce tree, right above our heads. Otherwise bird life was sparse but we still ended the day with about 20 species identified, mostly by song. We saw Yellow-bellied marmot, Pica, chipmunk, and deer, along with the inevitable Columbian ground-squirrels.

A few butterflies, Variable Checkerspot, Zerene Fritillary, Arctic Skipper and Persius Duskywing, plus some dragonflies, rounded out a gorgeous day in the alpine with perfect hiking weather and temperature.

Bob Puls



Pica

Photo: Bob Puls

THURSDAY JULY 12TH FAIRHAVEN SAN JUAN BIRDING CRUISE



Birding by boat

Photo: Anne Gosse

Approximately 17 naturalist club members, from three different BC clubs, boarded the birding cruise boat out of the pretty little town of Fairhaven, Washington. This cruise enables birding enthusiasts to get some great views of Tufted Puffins, Rhinoceros Auklets and many of the sea ducks that are nesting on the most-distant Smith Island. Sadly, this island is one of few areas that Tufted Puffins are still seen in the San Juan Islands. Historically, these birds had many nesting colonies throughout the islands; however, due to population declines, they have become rare and are listed as a "species of concern".

The weather on our cruise day was wonderfully calm and warm and we enjoyed our cruise, along with a great lunch, while getting great views of the different species. Some of the species seen were: Surf Scoters, Tufted Puffins, Pigeon Guillemots, Rhinoceros Auklets, Bald Eagles, Cormorants (Pelagic, Double-Crested, and Brandt's), Harlequin Ducks, Black Oystercatchers, numerous Gulls, Common Murres, Marbled Murrelets.

Thanks to Gareth for organizing this very exciting birding adventure.

Anne Gosse

WEDNESDAY JULY 25TH PINSCH OF SOIL FARM

Eleven Members gathered at the farm gate where

the owner, Marcel, gave us a brief summary of how the farm operates and their future plans. He then led us on a tour through the garden which is on a north facing slope and explained how they have been able to use the high water table to their advantage, as they only have to irrigate part of the area and water the rest once a week.

They are growing organically, using no sprays and allowing weeds to grow, which provides ground cover and reduces loss of water due to evaporation. It also encourages beneficial insects such as bees, ladybugs, etc., which prey on pest insects. They had even spread some pulp from wine-making, which attracts and provides food for bees.

After we had seen all of the garden, Marcel led us into a wooded area below where they are intending to grow shade-loving native plants that have food value. He asked our advice on ways to encourage birds and suggestions were made regarding the types of nest boxes that could be useful, both for birds and flying squirrels. It was also suggested that a vernal pond would work well at a low point that was still wet after all the dry weather we have had.



Gathering at the Pinsch of Soil farm

Photo: Gareth Pugh

The visit ended with a walk through the stables to see the horses they board which create a lot of manure that they give away from time to time. The birders among us were delighted by good views of hummingbirds flying around the abundant brilliant Crocosmia and other flowers.

Gareth Pugh

**THURSDAY JULY 26TH
BRAE ISLAND PURPLE MARTIN PROJECT**



Purple Martin chicks Photo: Roy Teo

Together with Roy Teo of Metro Vancouver, I went out to see the Purple Martin nest boxes. We got very, very stuck in the mud and eaten alive by mosquitos but oh my goodness check out the pictures Roy took: he figures the chicks were 17ish days old and 9 days old, and there was one other nest that still had eggs in it! So three boxes with Purple Martins!!!



More Purple Martin chicks Photo: Roy Teo

We checked all 10 boxes, with a tree swallow in only one of the boxes at the point, the other boxes were unoccupied, and are now cleaned out.

Lisa Dreves

**SATURDAY JULY 28TH
GRASS SHACK PICNIC**



Picnic at the Grass Shack Photo: John Gordon

Once again, the members gathered at Al & Jude's "shack" for a summer get-together. In beautiful sunshine, and with the usual delicious array of refreshments, a good time was had by all who attended. Thanks again, Al and Jude, for hosting this event.

**WEDNESDAY AUGUST 1ST
STROLLING THE NICOMEKL**

This year's walk along the floodplain offered blue skies, a stark contrast to last year's poor air quality warnings and red sunset due to the smoke from nearby fires. The walk was pretty quiet this year, with only 11 bird species recorded - my highlight was the five Cedar Waxwings, they are just so beautiful!

We headed west from Portage Park towards 200th St. It was sad to see very few people outside exploring the park on such a beautiful evening, especially after the record breaking heat we had been experiencing during the days.

This is a quiet, low gradient walk no matter what direction you head out from Portage Park. The area features a few bridge crossings over the Nicomekl River for views, many native plants along the sides of the river and a diversity of habitats. Shrubs dominate most of the landscape with meadows of reed canary grass (invasive), young broadleaf forests and a few small wetlands. We covered 1.2 km of the trail.

There were many small highlights to the tour, like a shrew, a mink, and actually stumping Al Grass on a plant ID. One thing to note is the success of the

plantings that were completed a few years ago in the floodplain by ERA (now defunct). The trees are looking amazing - we will soon have a small grove of evergreen trees. The spruce trees, once they mature, will be especially cherished by our seed loving birds like finches and grosbeaks. The evergreens will also offer great habitat for overwintering birds that prefer native evergreen habitats over the tangles of Himalayan blackberry along the banks of the river.

Lisa Dreves



The Nicomekl walkers

Photo: Lisa Dreves

AND A SECOND REPORT OF THE TRIP:

On a lovely summer evening this was a pleasant walk along the "river", which has a long journey before reaching Mud Bay.

Lisa led us on our journey of discovery, where we saw Cedar Waxwings, Anna's Hummingbirds, a lovely Downy Woodpecker, Great Blue Heron, Northern Flicker as well as chickadees, towhees, and song sparrows. Gareth noted sapsucker holes ("wells") in a trail side spruce. Also, some Pileated Woodpecker signs on a chunk of wood. Joanne tracked down a small vole-like rodent (not a rat!).

Plants in bloom included small flowered touch-me-not, Himalayan Balsam (another Impatiens), Nepeta sp. (a mint family plant with blue flowers – Catnip is in this genus).

Thanks again to Lisa and to all for a lovely evening.

Al Grass

SATURDAY AUGUST 25TH CYPRESS PROVINCIAL PARK (YEW LAKE TRAIL)

Weather on this morning was foggy and drizzly – not the best. The Yew Lake Trail is situated in a Western Hemlock/Mountain Hemlock Ecotone,



Common Raven

Photo: Jude Grass

Where plants of both Bio geoclimatic zones are found in the same zone, but each has its own characteristic flora (e.g. Western Hemlock growing next to Mountain Hemlock). Sadly, the plants in the area had mostly finished blooming (Gentian is a late bloomer). There were beautiful mountain ash berries, lots of ripe blueberries but no mushrooms, (just polypore's). A dirth of birds – Red-breasted Sapsucker, Red Crossbill, Common Raven, Canada Jay and Sooty Grouse reported by hikers (St. Mark's Lookout) and bears were spotted in several locations.

The walk was enjoyed by all three of us – Me, Myself and I.

Al Grass

THURSDAY AUGUST 30TH DEDICATION MEMORIAL BENCH FOR AL SCHULZE

A celebration of a long time naturalist.



Memorial bench in Campbell Valley Park

Photo: Lisa Dreves

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 15TH DOUBLEDAY ARBORETUM



Gathering at the Arboretum

Photo: Lisa Dreves

Nine Langley Field Naturalists members and two Naturalist guests from Abbotsford participated in the Doubleday Arboretum walk led by Lisa and Ryan. The group was given a history of the Arboretum, followed by a tour of the LEPS demonstration garden. This was followed by a walk around the Arboretum.

On the trail leading north to 56th Avenue we observed the first Barn Owl nesting box that was installed by LFN. After crossing 56th Avenue, the second Barn Owl nesting box was observed, followed by a enjoyable walk along the natural trail leading to McLeod Park.

Langley Township owns property that hopefully will result in the trail extending to the intersection of Glover Rd and Mufford Crescent. The original cattle underpass has been converted to a people underpass to allow walkers and cyclists to safely cross Fraser Highway and continue on to



Cedar Waxwing

Photo: Lisa Dreves

Murrayville.

One of the highlights of the evening was seeing several Cedar Waxwings feeding in the Arboretum trees.

Ryan Usenik

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 15TH A ROCHA SCIENCE EVENING

The A Rocha Conservation Science Team held their end-of-term presentations on Wednesday evening, Aug. 15th in the yellow barn, 1620 192 Street, Surrey. The agenda was as below;

- Christy Juteau - Our small corner
- Rachel Pigden - Barn Swallow habitat and nesting success
- Michelle Jackson and Joel Schmidt - Swallow foraging habitat on open fields
- Jamise Caesar - Western Toad migration monitoring
- Kieran Nirula - Salish Sucker status and habitat assessment
- Madeline Ross - Habitat restoration monitoring
- Jesse Wildeman - Native plant propagation
- Laura Newberry - Watershed Report Card

Special guest: Sofi Hindmarch, Project Biologist with Fraser Valley Conservancy - Barn Owls
Christy Juteau - Summing it up: Q&A

The Barn Swallow research has been undertaken for 3 or 4 years using the same locations each year but data is limited at present to predict trends. About 30 nests were surveyed and success was slightly down from last year. Nationally there has been about an 80% decline in Barn Swallow numbers although declines in the Little Campbell River survey area seem to be much less. Barn Swallows and Violet-green's appear to prefer smaller fields with hedges and livestock presence and generally only range about 400 metres from their nests, whereas Tree and Cliff swallows seem to prefer aquatic habitats. Analysis of feces to determine food sources are being done by other agencies. Lack of insect-attracting animal feces in fields could be a major factor in swallow declines.

Only two Western toad breeding ponds have been found in the survey area and this year juvenile toad migration was delayed. Water quality was adequate but numbers were down. Migration started around July 28th and lobbying failed to convince the

Township of Langley to close 20th avenue to traffic at that time

The Salish sucker research emphasized the lack of water flow in the Little Campbell River in the recent hot summers with a 1 mile section going dry each year. Temperatures have been high and dissolved oxygen levels have been low. Despite this 11 Salish suckers were found in the surveyed section of the river.

There has been a 15% increase in impervious surfaces in the watershed survey area in the past year due to development and water flows have declined from June through September.

Summary by Bob Puls.

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 22ND FORSLUND WATSON WALK

As participants gathered in the parking area, they were greeted with a display by two Northern Harriers, hunting over the hay meadow. On a warm smoky night, 8 members and 1 guest enjoyed a walk through the forest area and back to the hay meadow. Most plant life was showing effects of the lack of rain. The one exception was the Tree of Heaven which continues to thrive. As we returned to the parking area and dusk descended, a Great Horned Owl stopped on a tree top nearby before continuing on it's way.



The group was reminded of the food chain in a nature environment with the finding of a dead Barn Owl in the hay meadow. With the club making an effort to install Barn Owl nesting boxes at both Forslund Watson and other areas in the Langley's, the finding of a Barn Owl kill was not what we were wanting to see.



Ryan Usenik

PROGRAMMES

Meeting at 7.15 pm at the Langley Community Music School, 4899 207th Street, Langley.



PLEASE Bring your own coffee mug - we don't want to keep using disposable ones.

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 13TH

(Note: One week earlier than usual due to BC Nature Fall Meeting in Kelowna)

THURSDAY OCTOBER 18TH

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 15TH

THURSDAY DECEMBER 13TH

(One week early due to Christmas!)

Programmes to be advised.



Past President Bob Puls with Kathy Masse

Photo: Joanne Rosenthal

After 10 years as President of LFN, Bob has stepped down and passed the torch to Lisa Dreves. At the Annual General Meeting in June, Bob was thanked for his work, and given a tasty "thank you" gift.

FIELD TRIPS

Please Note: anyone wishing to carpool should phone in to make arrangements beforehand, otherwise please meet at the designated meeting place. **Please call to let the leader know to expect you.** The walks are generally about two to three hours long and are open to all Naturalist Clubs & members of the public (adults & children, but no pets please). Dress for the weather and bring water, binoculars and a snack, plus bug spray in the summer. *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 OCTOBER 6TH

WONDERFUL WETLANDS TOUR (AGES 14+)

Leader: Lisa Dreves

Time: 9:30 am - noon

Enjoy a guided walk through West Creek Wetlands, Glen Valley Regional Park, an ecological reserve normally off limits to the public and home to an incredible variety of plants and wildlife. Presented with Metro Vancouver Parks and Langley Environmental Partners Society.

FREE: Registration required, call or online: www.metrovancouveronline.org (use four-digit barcode 7457) Call: 604-432-6359

SATURDAY OCTOBER 13TH

GORDON'S BROOK

ALDERGROVE REGIONAL PARK

A day of celebration at Gordon's Brook in Aldergrove Regional Park for all the partner groups and it will be open to the public.

There will be tours of the restoration area.

Dr. Mike Pearson will be talking about the creeks and fish.

There will be a ceremonial tree planting.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 12TH

SKAGIT VALLEY PROVINCIAL PARK

Leader: Al & Jude Grass

Time: 8:45 am at Exit 168, Hwy 1 East

Meet at 8:45 am at the junction of the Flood Hope Road and Silver Skagit Road. Birding, fungi and more....We will head down to the Day Use Area on Ross Lake at the border, have lunch, explore and then walk the trail to Curley's meadow.

Phone 604-219-2043 for info and to let us know to expect you or for more information.

Note: please make sure you have enough gas as it is 130 km round trip to Ross Lake and back to the highway. This is a full day trip, so please bring lunch, snacks, water, (sunscreen and bug repellent) and a variety of clothing and footwear for the weather plus a mushroom book (if you have one).

SATURDAY OCTOBER 20TH

IRENE PEARCE TRAIL

Leader: Anthea Farr & Ryan Usenik

Time: 9:00 am in the parking lot on 224th at 5th Avenue

Join us as we walk the gentle trails in this rural park looking for fabulous fall fungi and other signs of Fall. We will also be checking the Flying Squirrel boxes that were installed earlier this year. It is part of the Municipal Nature Park with the Little Campbell River flowing through it and has stands of mature Douglas Fir.

Phone 604-530-3257 to let us know to expect you.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 26TH

GEORGE REIFEL BIRD SANCTUARY

Leader: Al Grass

Time: 9:30 am at the Sanctuary Gift Shop

Fine Fall birding - waterfowl (Snow Geese) will have begun returning, shorebirds and more. 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 604-219-2043 for info and to let us know to expect you.

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 3RD

JACKMAN PIT (WETLANDS) PARK,

LANGLEY

Leader: Lisa Dreves

Time: 9:00 am at 272nd street and 10th avenue across from the Transfer Station.

Join the Langley Field Naturalists as we 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 and LFN helped with the restoration tree planting that took place there.

Phone: 604-729-3815 to let us know to expect you.

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 8TH

BLACKIE SPIT - CRESCENT BEACH

Leader: Gareth Pugh

Time: 9:00 am

Meet at Crescent Beach Pier, (across from the parking lot by the outdoor swimming pool).

Join Gareth as he takes us on his volunteer bird survey for "Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society" (Birds on the Bay) and he will tell you how you can participate in "citizen science" to which anyone can contribute.

Phone 604-576-6831 to let us know to expect you.

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 17TH

GRANT NARROWS PROVINCIAL PARK

/ADDINGTON MARSH

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA.

Leader: Viveka Ohman

Time: 9:00 am at Grant Narrows Provincial Park parking lot.

Join Gareth for a walk around this large dyke/marsh area, with several viewing towers which is a major migration route for bird life and has the largest tidal lake in the world. It can be very windy and cold at this time of year so please wear winter clothes and bring a hat and a pair of gloves. Phone: 604-576-6831 to let us know to expect you.

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 24TH

IONA BEACH REGIONAL PARK

AND SEWAGE LAGOONS

Leader: Wim Vesseur

Time: 9:00 am at Iona Beach Regional Park

Join us to explore this amazingly rich and varied bird life area. We will be hoping to welcome back the Snow Geese and other returning winter visitors and may even see some birds using the area as a stopover on their southward migration.

Phone 604-534-3447 to let us know to expect you.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 8TH

BLAINE & DRAYTON HARBOUR

Leader: Gareth Pugh

Time: 9:00 am at Blaine Marine Park (see web site below for directions)

Join us to 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 snacks, water and, of course, your passports. Phone 604-576-6831 to let us know to expect you. <https://www.google.ca/maps/place/Blaine+Harbor/@48.9947109,-122.7592769,15z/data=!4m2!3m1!1s0x0:0x6757baa2c029fcaf>

SATURDAY DECEMBER 29TH

SURREY/WHITE ROCK/LANGLEY

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Details TBA - for more information contact Gareth Pugh, 604-576-6831

FRIDAY JANUARY 18TH, 2019

WHOOO'S HOOT OWL PROWL (Aged 8+)

CAMPBELL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK

Leader: Al Grass

Time: 7-9 pm

Cost: \$87.50 adult, \$4.50 child, youth, 65+

Join naturalists on a night prowling and discover why owls are such great hunters of the night. Presented by LFN and Metro Vancouver Parks.

Registration required, call or online: www.metrovancouveronline.org (use four-digit barcode 7457) Call: 604-432-6359

LFN VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR 2018



Sheila Puls was the recipient of this year's award presented at the LFN June AGM. Based on the numerous nominations, LFN members appreciate the positive impact of her contributions. In addition to Director of Membership and the excellent newsletter she publishes Sheila is always quick to volunteer, guide and encourage others. Thanks for your dedication Sheila!