



Langley Field Naturalists



To encourage nature appreciation, conservation and education

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Newsletter

September 2019

ROUGH-SKINNED NEWT



Rough-Skinned, Yellow-Legged Newt Photo: Ted Lightfoot

This newt (*Taricha granulosa*) was recently discovered in Gloucester Industrial Estates. It is found throughout the west coast of North America and inhabits the old growth forest and wetland areas. This newt is not a threatened species, but its habitat is being greatly diminished by development and the removal of older growth forest as found here in Gloucester Industrial Estates. It has rough lumpy skin and does not have the external gills that some newts and salamanders have. The rough skin adds extra surface area and allows them to breathe through their skin. They can stay under water for hours on end.



The underside Photo: Ted Lightfoot

The underside is a surprisingly bright yellow color. The yellow color is also used to warn off predators, as these newts are very poisonous. Care should be taken in handling these animals as small cuts could allow the poison to get into one's system! The newt will display the underside of it's neck when confronted by predators to warn them off!

In California, *Keystonecitizens are trying to save the redwood forest where these newts live. In Gloucester Industrial Estates in Langley, B.C., we have old second growth trees (~80 years old) growing on a ~10,000 year old glacial period topographical footprint, virtually undisturbed. It is worth saving this forest/wetland for the yellow-legged newt and all the other organisms that live within this thriving ecosystem.

Ted Lightfoot

**keystonecitizens: citizens of the world who respect and promote biodiversity.*



The newt's delicate fingers & feet Photo: Ted Lightfoot

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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:

Fall is finally here! While this year has been really beautiful and we are not bidding a grateful good-bye to oppressive heat and poor air quality, we still need to look forward, ever onward! Fall!!!



The back to school season is a forever reminder that learning is a huge part of our lives. Lifelong learning is beyond just stretching our minds and keeping them sharp. It is a great way to meet new people and it gives us a sense of achievement. Learning can be in the classroom, out immersing ourselves in interpretive opportunities or just chilling with friends.

(On a side note, learning is essential to healthy aging, it helps maintain memory and keeps brain cells communicating effectively. The brain is like a muscle - use it or lose it! By the way, for those of us over 65 we can apply for FREE classes through Kwantlen Polytechnic University; search "senior" on the kpu.ca website.)

Another great thing about learning... most of the other people you meet there are YOUTH! The exact sort of folks we are hoping to get engaged with the LFN. And, let's face it, the youth aren't coming to us so this way we can go to them.

Going hand in hand with learning and engaging youth is sharing knowledge. The LFN Executive are looking for new ways we can increase engagement through learning opportunities and the public. We are offering different kinds of outings and looking into a big day centred on the natural environment in Langley. We're also looking for new folks to lead outdoor walks and offer ideas on presentations for our meetings.

Please consider all that you have to offer the LFN members and unique skills and knowledge that you could share. Connect with members of the executive to let them know your ideas. This fall, if you are able to infiltrate any learning circles with elusive youth, make new friends and drag them along with you to the next LFN meeting.

Lisa Dreves

SERPENTINE FEN WMA, SURREY SATURDAY JUNE 15TH

Anne Gosse and Joan Wilmshurst joined me on a warm morning to walk the trails around this important WMA which is co-managed by the Ministry and Ducks Unlimited with over 50 nest boxes installed and maintained by Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society.



Joan, Gareth & Anne at the Fen

Photo: Anne Gosse

Due to the amount of vandalism which has resulted in the pump being broken, there was very little water in the ponds. A barrier is now in place preventing use of the parking lot so we parked at Art Knapps. Despite the low water levels, we still saw a number of different ducks in some spots. The Reed Canary grass is very high at this time of year but we heard and saw a lot of Common Yellowthroats and heard one Marsh Wren; although this is always a great place to find them, no doubt they were too busy feeding their youngsters.

As we walked along the dyke, Anne was quick to note the Willow Flycatchers which were calling from the bushes. We were pleased to hear a Ring-necked Pheasant calling, a bird that was once more common in the area. In the river, we found a Greater Yellowlegs that had apparently decided not to join the migration to breeding grounds further north. The blackberry bushes were in full flower and there was a profusion of red elderberries everywhere we looked, on which Cedar Waxwings were feasting.

Other nice sightings were a Northern Harrier, a number of Goldfinches and Song Sparrows and also a lot of Barn Swallows, a species that is disappearing from many places where it was

historically found in abundance. I was disappointed to see only four Tree Swallows despite the number of nest boxes, possibly due to the lack of open water that they seem to prefer, as we had seen large numbers there earlier in the summer. We recorded 27 species on e-Bird, including the Barn Swallows that Anne photographed feeding hungry youngsters.

Gareth Pugh

IRENE PEARCE TRAIL WEDNESDAY JUNE 26TH

Despite a bleak sky and major thunderstorm warning, 22 eager folks showed up for this walk. Some were newcomers who had seen the announcement in our local paper. From start to end, we were serenaded by Swainson's Thrushes, whose songs were punctuated by the occasional chirp of a Robin, Towhee, Junco, Common Yellowthroat and Savannah or White-crowned Sparrow. Few birds actually made an appearance.

So the emphasis quickly shifted to include plants. A great many flowers and shrubs were either in bloom or in fruit. Ocean Spray gushed with great drooping white sprays; Wall Lettuce provided sprinkles of yellow; Enchanter's Nightshade almost hid each tiniest white speck of a bloom...

Salmonberries were sampled and enjoyed, but no one wanted the rather raw-looking rose hips or Saskatoon berries. A gentle, light rain started to fall near the end of the walk, though we could barely feel it below the forest canopy.

And, eventually, everyone made it back to the parking lot. (People do tend to get scattered when the group is large...). A lovely way to spend an evening, for those who couldn't be on Gareth's annual intense bird inventory somewhere in the interior...

Anthea Farr



BLAAUW ECO FOREST WEDNESDAY JULY 3RD

On a warm summer evening, six Langley Field Naturalist members were joined by a family of six from the community as we took a walk through the Blaauw Eco Forest.



Naturalists and friends

Photo: Ted Goshulak

The Blaauw Eco Forest consists of 30 acres of mature second growth forest and remnant wetlands that together form a large "natural area" surrounded by agricultural and rural residential development. In 2013 the Blaauw family provided the funds for Trinity Western University to purchase the land and oversee its management. Since TWU took possession of the Blaauw Eco Forest, at least four major studies have been undertaken by upper level Environmental Studies students and more will be undertaken in the years to come.

During our walk we were able to identify 11 species of birds (PSFL, STJA, NOCR, BCCH, BRCR, SWTH, AMRO, CEWA, WCSP, SPTO, and WETA). The eBird hotspot link to the Forest can be found at: <https://ebird.org/canada/hotspot/L5750037>. A pleasant surprise during our walk was to discover how many fungi were present. For example: Western Deer Mushroom - *Pluteus exilis* (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/28467639>) and West Coast Reishi -- *Ganoderma oregonense* (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/28467634>)

The Forest is home to a number of threatened species (Red-legged Frog and Pacific Sideband Snail); however, we were unable to find either of these species during our walk. The Pacific Sideband Snail (*Monadenia fidelis*) is a large snail with a mature shell being 22.1 to 36.5 mm in width.

Ted Goshulak

A ROCHA WEDNESDAY JULY 10TH

On the July 10th Wednesday night walk, eighteen LFN members and guests met at A Rocha with the hope of viewing the migrating Western Toadlets. We were met by Laura Newberry, a biologist with A Rocha. Laura presented information about the local Toad population and how they have a breeding pond on private property just east of the A Rocha location. In mid-winter, the adults return to this same pond to lay their eggs before returning to the neighbouring forests. The young Toadlets leave the pond during the first part of July, depending on the weather conditions.

The group lead by Laura walked the road where the migrating Toadlets usually are observed. Unfortunately they were not ready to migrate on our advanced selected tour date. This year A Rocha constructed a diversion fence to direct the Toadlets to and hopefully through a culvert. The goal is to make it easy for them to cross the road without being road kill. A week after our tour it rained and the Toadlets were observed migrating by A Rocha personal. The diversion fence did work for the majority of the Toadlets.

It was great learning more about this species facing population challenges and great to hear that they had another successful production year.

Ryan Usenik



Mason Bee on Black-eyed Susan

Photo: Lilianne Fuller

This little native bee was harvesting pollen like a tractor through the heart of this Black-eyed Susan. Located in Fernridge Park, this flower is part of a very large garden consisting of numerous plants conducive to attracting bees and butterflies. The photo was taken in July 2019.

Lilianne Fuller

LUNCH WITH JOAN & IAN TAYLOR



Ian & Joan Taylor



Ladies who lunch... Photo: Anne Gosse

Having heard that Joan (our former secretary) and Ian (former treasurer) Taylor were planning to move from their present abode in Halfmoon Bay to Ontario, a few of us got together at the Puls' for lunch, and to hear about their plans.

They have promised to visit again once their plans are finalized, but meanwhile we had a lovely visit. Having sent the men off to walk the 8th Avenue Trail, the ladies enjoyed a relaxing chat, bird watching from the living room window!

Sheila Puls

BAT WATCH WEDNESDAY JULY 24TH

Fifteen LFN members and visitors met at 184th Street and 53rd Avenue in Surrey to watch bats emerging from their roost. It was an enthusiastic and eager crowd ranging from young families to adults and the bats did not disappoint. The group took up an observation point along the bats' flight corridor and watched them as they flew out into the evening to their feeding grounds. The bats flew within feet of the participants who observed a total of 124 bats. The majority were Little Brown Bats, which are an endangered species, but we also saw several Yuma Bats and a Big Brown Bat. The outing was well received by all the participants.

Kirk Miles

BRYDON BIOBLITZ WEDNESDAY JULY 17TH



A group of naturalists

Photo: John Gordon

What do you call a group of naturalists? A gaggle (geese)? A peep? A shiver (sharks)? A knowing? A classification? A parliament (owls)?

Well, whatever you call it, one descended upon Brydon Lagoon in the City of Langley to identify, classify, and inventory every living thing that could be found in less than two hours. This is the first time the LFN has conducted one of these brief inventories and a fun time was had by all.

The entire lagoon was inventoried; we even found a few fish, thanks to quick work from Anthea and Corey! Some groups travelled all around the lagoon; some worked slowly and thoroughly through portions.

While there we found over 160 species, mostly plant and plant-like species and a few birds; the most fun was being stumped on the arthropods. We found 8 different bees alone!

A wonderful evening was topped off with a spot of tea at Annabel's – when we do our next mini-blitz it is going to be difficult to top this one. Looking forward to more blitzes next summer to collect more wonderful data about the beautiful places in Langley that we love so much.

Gareth Pugh

MANNING PARK FIELD TRIP THURSDAY JULY 11TH

This year's annual trip to Manning Park took place on Thursday, July 11th. The weather looked a bit dubious, with light rain falling in Aldergrove when Sheila and I took to the road at 7:30 in the morning. However, by the time we reached Manning Park Lodge, at 9:30, it was dry with broken cloud and the promise of sunshine. We met the Goshulak's and Wim with his 3 White Rock companions, Betty, Alice and her granddaughter, at the lodge where Wim, as usual, replenished his coffee supply - then off to the Heather Meadows.



The flower meadows

Photo: Bob Puls

The flowers on the way up were spectacular with Lupines, Davidson's and Little-flowered Penstemon, Larkspur, Arnica, Scarlet Gilia, Phlox, Indian Paintbrush and others putting on a good display. At the upper parking lot we prepared ourselves for a two hour stroll through the alpine meadows and off we went, leaving Sheila to relax in the picnic area.



Scarlet Gilia

Photo: Bob Puls

It was a botanist's delight with flowers everywhere keeping the photographers busy as every new species was spotted. I estimate we saw at least 70 species of plants by the end of our visit. In the meadows, the yellow-flowered Stonecrop, Cinquefoil, Arnica and Senecio species, white-flowered Paintbrush, Saxifrage, Eriogonum, Pussy-toes, Partridge Foot, Bog-orchid and Mountain Daisy, pink to red-flowered Heather, Paintbrush and Columbine, blue-flowered Phlox, Larkspur, Veronica and masses of Little-flowered Penstemon were at their peak of bloom. I got the impression that, with the wet but relatively warm weather, this year the plants were taller than usual.

Alice only walked part way along the trail before stopping to commune with a male Sooty Grouse who treated her to a wonderful display of his tail feathers. The rest of us heard the grouse but did not see him. We did however record 23 species of birds during the day and when we returned to the picnic site for lunch, in the sun, we were entertained by the usual Canada Jays. It was interesting to hear Western Meadowlarks calling in the alpine, which I don't think I have heard there before. We must not forget the sight of two magnificent bucks when we looked down into the valley.

After lunch we headed down to Strawberry Flats and hiked into the meadow where we added a few more flowers and birds to the inventory, as well as some mushrooms (bolete) and butterflies.



Edith's Checkerspot

Photo: Bob Puls

The weather remained dry, with sunny periods, a perfect temperature for hiking - another great day in the alpine.

Bob Puls

**DEREK DOUBLEDAY ARBORETUM
WEDNESDAY JULY 31ST**



Walking in the Arboretum

Photo: Tom Wildeboer

On this Wednesday evening, ten LFN members participated in the Derek Doubleday Arboretum walk. A natural starting point is the LEPS demonstration garden. The circular walk around the field includes a wide selection of native and non native trees. Each year as they grow more, they are providing excellent habitat for birds and bees. Members were able to observe the newly installed Bat box that LFN erected at the Arboretum.

We crossed 56th Avenue and continued along to McLeod park, which always proves to be a very relaxing nature walk. On the return walk, the group got to watch a muskrat enjoy his evening meal of a Tansy (*Tanacetum Vulgare*) in the Nicomekl River.

The planted gardens of Derek Doubleday are a must for any garden enthusiasts.

Ryan Usenik



Muskrat

Web photo

**GRASS SHACK PICNIC
SATURDAY JULY 27TH**



The picnickers

Photo: Anne Gosse

Once again the Langley Field Naturalists members gathered for a summer picnic at the home of Al and Jude Grass. As always, the weather co-operated, the birds entertained us, the food contributions were plenty (more than plenty!) and delicious and the company excellent. Thank you, Al and Jude, for again opening your home and garden for this annual event.

Sheila Puls



Picnic Hosts - Al & Jude

Photo: Anne Gosse

WEST CREEK WETLANDS WEDNESDAY AUGUST 7TH

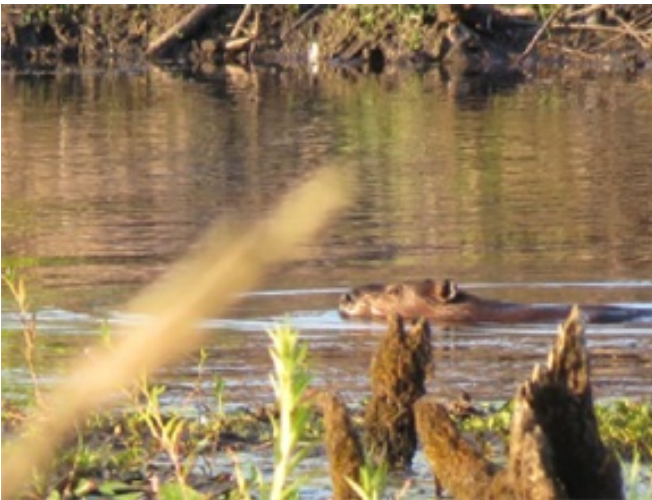


Walking at West Creek Wetlands

Photo: Lisa Dreves

Eight LFN and Abbotsford members joined me on a beautiful evening for a walk to possibly the most beautiful place in Langley. This little gem is not open to the public, so it is like stepping into a forbidden jungle (BUT this year it didn't feel like we were in a mosquito infested jungle).

West Creek Wetlands is a 160 acre property in NE Langley with second growth broadleaf, mixed and coniferous forest. While the forests are stunning, the real draw to this place is 20 acres of interconnected wetlands. Beaver dams maintain the huge wetlands and there are two beaver lodges visible from the outlook. The open water and marshes attract all sorts of wildlife and birds to the park; however, this time of year can be quiet. Eagles, cedar waxwing, wood ducks and beaver were spotted, along with a bunch of waterfowl and LBJs.



Beaver at West Creek Wetlands

Photo: Lisa Dreves

The tour follows a one-way in one-way out trail to a lookout on the south side of the wetlands. Along the way the trail passes through broadleaf and mixed forests. The landscape is varied with large nurse stumps, ferns, snags, maples, a stand of cascara and small swamps. There is little history on this property as it has sat mostly unimproved for much of the last 100 years, besides the excellent improvements beaver have installed.

LEPS hosts tours with Metro Vancouver Parks staff twice a year in the spring and fall. I highly recommend seeing the property at different times of the year because it can change so much through the seasons.

Lisa Dreves

CYPRESS PARK AND YEW LAKE SATURDAY AUGUST 24TH



Black-tailed Deer

Photo: David Clements

An enthusiastic crowd of LFN members assembled in the parking lot of Cypress Provincial Park where Al Grass led a leisurely outing around the beautiful alpine wetlands of Yew Lake and the adjacent Old Growth Forest. Few birds and no dragonflies were around on the overcast and cool late summer morning, but we were graced by a terrific view of a black-tailed deer doe in one of the many picturesque sedge meadows. Yew Lake, as Al explained, is located in an ecotone between lower elevation habitats we are familiar with in the Lower Mainland and more alpine habitats. As a result, it has both kinds of hemlocks, our locally familiar western hemlock and the alpine mountain hemlock. Some of the old growth trees are mountain hemlock, like the

one dwarfing AI in the photo. Another common distinctly alpine tree is the yellow cedar, which grows in profusion there. No yew trees or cypress trees though, contrary to the place names.



AI Grass and yellow cedar tree Photo: David Clements

Many enjoyed seeing the unusual plants along the way, and tasting the fruit of many of them as it was berry season (and bear season, though none of the bears greeted us that morning). The Friends of Cypress Provincial Park Society produce an excellent flowering plants guide, by the way, available at the Crazy Raven Bar and Grill for a \$2 donation. Here are some of the plants we saw (some of which we tasted): deer-cabbage (*Fauria crista-galli*), buckbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*), yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*), five-leaved bramble (*Rubus pedatus*), Indian hellebore (*Veratrum viride*), sticky false asphodel (*Tofieldia glutinosa*), Canada goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*), pearly everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*), fireweed (*Epilobium angustifolium*), oval-leaved blueberry (*Vaccinium ovalifolium*), black huckleberry (*Vaccinium membranaceum*), copperbush (*Cladanthamnus pyroliflorus*), sitka mountain-ash (*Sorbus sitchensis*), western bog-laurel (*Kalmia microphylla ssp. occidentalis*), and subalpine spirea (*Spiraea densiflora*). A veritable botanical feast!

David Clements

WILLIAMS PARK WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14TH

This summer walk took place in the Harmsworth area of Langley Township on a gorgeous summer evening. 15 people participated, including Alice, Hank and 3 others from the Abbotsford Mission Nature Club.



Ready to wander the park Photo: Alex (Abb/Mission Nature Club)

We started with a summary of the park history which was officially opened in 1967. The area was used by First Nations people and wildlife long ago. A homestead of 1/4 section was purchased by Charlie Williams for \$20 on August 12, 1889. The park has a unique industrial history as well, with the establishment of a mill and lumber company in 1906. Later on another (unrelated) Williams family owned the land with plans to establish an estate. During this time the land was planted with many seedlings and ornamental plants, including rhododendrons, oaks, crab trees, firs and cedars. The property was offered for sale to the Township in 1964 and purchased for \$37,400. The park and cookhouse was a centennial project in 1967. The park is now 36.3 acres with the Salmon River and Coghlan creek running through.

After a walk down to the river trail, we stopped riverside with Alex and Gareth taking group pictures. We finally left this great spot to walk the river trail and head towards the bridge at 64th Ave.

We enjoyed the peaceful walk as not many people were out. We saw evidence of beaver and a few common birds. Lisa shared info about efforts to protect the river and migrating Salmon from human and natural impacts. Then Anne spotted 2 Pileated woodpeckers in a large tree. The birds kept our attention for about 10 minutes. On our return walk many remarked they would return to this beautiful park.

Thankfully in the 1960's the value of preserving this land as a park was recognized and actions were taken to make it the hidden gem it is now.

Joanne Rosenthal

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 19TH

WEST COAST /EAST COAST: BIRDING THE UK

JOHN GORDON

Join John for a quick tour around the UK to some of his favourite birding locations, including Slimbridge Wetland Wildlife Reserve near Slimbridge in Gloucestershire, England. The reserve, set up by the artist and naturalist Sir Peter Scott, opened in November 1946. Also visit Minsmere RSPB in Lincolnshire which is blessed with a variety of freshwater habitats;

Thursday October 17th

NATURE IN THE KETTLE VALLEY

Gareth Pugh & Bob Puls

An opportunity to share the experience of the annual naturalists' trip which this year was to the Kettle Valley in the West Kootenay.

Thursday November 21st

ANTARCTIC WILDLIFE - LIFE IN CHANGING ENVIRONMENTS

Alan Burger

Alan is a well known ornithologist who has worked in the Antarctic and is past President of BC Nature.

Thursday December 12th

MEMBERS NIGHT

Special evening consisting of a short business meeting followed by social hour with pot luck finger food. Programme - members favourites (bring 10-12 slides, photos, a collection).

Thursday January 16th, 2020

AUSTRALIA'S MESMERIZING MAMMALS, IMPLAUSIBLE PLANTS & ABSURD BIRDS

David Clements, Professor of Biology & Environmental Studies

David recently spent time travelling in Australia and would like to share the joy of seeing Australia first hand.



The Burke Mountain Naturalists invite you to the BC Nature Fall 2019 General Meeting and Conference to be held October 3rd- 5th. This conference coincides with celebrations of the 30th anniversary of BMN and 50th anniversary of BC Nature, which provides our theme, "Celebrating the Joys of Nature".

Our region offers a surprising wealth of easily-accessed natural areas, from mountain peaks to polders. Planned outdoor activities include gentle nature walks, hiking, cycle and canoe trips, and visits to successful wetland restoration/management projects. Early morning birding and a tour of BMN's newly constructed bat condo are available. Indoors, you will be informed and entertained by a series of presentations by expert speakers on topics that celebrate the intricacies of nature.

The conference location for the Fall 2019 Meeting and Conference will be the Pitt Meadows Golf Club located at 13615 Harris Road, Pitt Meadows.

Visit the event website for details and to register at burkemountainnaturalists.ca/2019-fgm-conference/

LANGLEY FIELD NATURALISTS

FIELD TRIPS SCHEDULE, OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2019

Please Note: anyone wishing to carpool should phone in to make arrangements beforehand, otherwise please meet at the designated meeting place. Please call for more information or 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). Please dress for the weather and bring water, binoculars and a snack (plus bug spray in 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, SEPTEMBER 21ST

O.W.L. AND BOUNDARY BAY DIKE

LEADER: ANNE GOSSE

Time: 10:00 am at O.W.L., 3800 72nd St, Delta.

We start with a guided tour of the facility to find out how injured birds are rehabilitated and released back into the wild. There is a small charge of \$5 - \$6 per person. If the weather is suitable we will follow this visit with a walk on the Boundary Bay dike to look for the variety of birds that spend the winter in this very important area, including the beautiful Short-eared Owl. Bring lunch. Phone 604-888-1787 to let us know to expect you.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH

GOLDEN EARS PROVINCIAL PARK

FALL FUNGI, MUSHROOMS AND MORE

LEADER: AL GRASS

Time: 9:30 am in the Park Entrance Parking lot (just past the goat).

Bring lunch as we will finish at the Alouette Lake Day use area. We will walk the Spirea Nature Trail and the Lower Falls trails in search of fungi and more. Phone 604-219-2043 to let us know to expect you.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12TH

IRENE PEARCE TRAIL

LEADER: GARETH PUGH

Time: 9:00 am in the parking lot 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 have been installed. It is part of the Municipal Natural Park with the Little Campbell River flowing through it and has stands of mature Douglas Fir. Phone 604-576-6831 to let us know to expect you.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 19TH

SKAGIT VALLEY PROVINCIAL PARK

LEADERS: AL & JUDE GRASS

Time: 8:45 Flood Hope Road at Silver Skagit Road (exit #168 from Highway 1 East).

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 to let us know to expect you.

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. 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).

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25TH

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 to let us know to expect you.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND

8TH AVENUE TRAIL

LEADER: BOB PULS

Time: 9:00 am at 1062 - 256th Street.

Join Bob Puls to walk the section of the South Langley Regional Trail from 256th Street to 264th Street. This is the last link between the Campbell Valley and Aldergrove Regional Parks. Phone 604-856-7534 to let us know to expect you.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH
BLACKIE SPIT, CRESCENT BEACH

LEADER: GARETH PUGH

Time: 9:00 am 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" - anyone can contribute. Phone 604-576-6831 to let us know to expect you.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH
BRYDON LAGOON

LEADER: KEITH CHRYSTALL

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

Join us to walk around the lagoon and see the restoration work being carried out by LEPS, then walk through the flood plain and up into Hi-Knoll Park. Phone 604-427-3725 to let us know to expect you.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11TH
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 lunch, snacks and refreshments 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!1s0x0:0x6757baa2c029fcdf>

**BIRDWATCHING BACKPACKS TAKE FLIGHT
AT FRASER VALLEY LIBRARIES**

An article in the Aldergrove Star was of interest to our members: the libraries are making birdwatching easy with a binoculars and book borrowing program.

The Fraser Valley Regional Library is hoping its customers will flock to its new lending collection. Fifty Birdwatching Backpacks are available to library customers starting Monday, July 15th, and will circulate between FVRL's 25 library locations. FVRL cardholders will be able to sign out backpacks at no cost for a one-week loan period.

Each Birdwatching Backpack will contain a pair of Vortex Crossfire binoculars with soft case, the National Geographic Pocket Guide to the Birds of North America, a copy of British Columbia Birds: A Folding Pocket Guide to Familiar Species, and a laminated birdwatching guide with helpful tips, along with a backpack parts list. The new collection is the result of a partnership between the library and Wild Birds Unlimited – Vancouver, with the support of the City of Delta and Bird Studies Canada.

Birdwatching Backpacks are part of the FVRL Playground – a collection of non-traditional lending items and in-library experiences that support STEAM learning (science, technology, engineering, arts and math). FVRL says the backpacks are a welcome addition to its Playground, as they promote a greater understanding of ecology, biodiversity and the environment.

As a follow up to this announcement, LFN were contacted and we will be giving a presentation at the Aldergrove Library on September 18th.

