



*To Know, Enjoy and
Preserve Nature*

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Looking back—we've had another good and busy year. With our interesting programs, a variety of field trips, stewardship activities, and engagement with the community during Brant Fest, KidFest, QB BeachFest, (what a party-ing group!!), and farmer's markets, it has been an enjoyable and educational last ten months. The always enjoyable, well attended, July Members' Picnic Potluck and raffle (raised \$149.00) continued to be the summer highlight, at Rath Trevor Park—with special visitors Rachael and John Neville further adding to our enjoyment. Our unflappable MC (deer, dogs, marauding gull), Dave Hutchings, with "Vannas" Chris H. and Pam H. along with the lively members and great food assured the afternoon's fun. Thanks to Cindie for capturing us all on camera!

Looking ahead— with great speakers organized by Alison B. and field trips planned by Dave E., we look forward to the annual Christmas Bird Count with a new volunteer along with leader Sandra G. in the background available as a mentor. The "CBC" is an important event as we contribute our local area bird species and numbers findings to an international database. The Christmas Bird Count potluck dinner and shared tales arising from the count day's adventures and sightings is always a winter highlight. Planning ahead for 2015 will be the important and enjoyable role for our continuing leadership combined with the new volunteers filling newly opened positions.

As I gaze at a cloudy drizzly day, I can smell the damp rich earth where roots are soaking up moisture, see jays urgently caching seeds, and know many life forms are hunkering down for winter's rest. I think about these necessary preparations for the next season's renewal of life's activity. And yet, at the same time, new lives are waking up and starting out on their own ventures.

Some seeds are germinating, spores are bursting to life, lichens and mosses are swelling with fresh vigour. The natural cycle of rest and renewal followed by purposeful life affirming activity is what keeps an ecosystem healthy.

Many of our club's members have held professional and volunteer positions over the years bringing a richness of expertise with them. Our organization, our "community," has visible active members involved on the board, leading group activities, and supporting the club in many ways. Others are taking a break to rest and renew. As this season changes, some of our much appreciated active members will need to rest. Our natural(ist) community is looking forward to the awakening of others to keep this wonderful organization healthy.

Thinking about volunteering, but new, shy, hesitant, unsure? Here are some true stories: Elaine L. was brand new to the A-Nats—started right off as VP. Dave E. recently moved to VI, joined—and became our field trip organizer. Lynne B, new to the area and club, volunteered to be on the board of directors, and now serves as president. Maya C. joined and soon thereafter was writing newsletter articles, leading a couple of field trips and doing a program for the Young Naturalists.

Additionally there are members who have continued—for decades in some cases—to hold one position or another over the years providing continuity, stability and mentoring us "newbies." Inspiring? Need any more encouragement? Contact Dave Hutchings (or any board member) to volunteer for an open position?

...cont'd on page 4

THE ARROWSMITH NATURALIST ...

is published three times a year in February, June and October. Articles on birding, travel, botany and environmental matters are welcomed by the end of the month prior to publication. The next deadline is January 2015 for the February 2015 edition.

Hand-written or typed articles and photos are accepted. Some editing may be required for length or held off for another edition according to available space. Please e-mail articles to

m.e.6@me.com

or send by mail to:

Margaret Hill, **Editor**

194 Valdez Ave, Qualicum Beach, B.C. V9K 1R8.

General Information: Club membership information is available at both of the public libraries, on the web site <http://www.arrowsmithnats.org>, or write to Arrowsmith Naturalists, Box 1542 Parksville, B.C. V9P 2H4

Membership includes monthly meetings (talks and/or slide shows), regular outings (bird watching, botanical), BC Nature newsletter four times a year and the club newsletter in February, June, October.

New memberships are always welcomed...Family \$35.00, Single \$25.00

MEETING TIME:

Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Meeting begins at 7:30.

Arrowsmith Naturalists Officers and Contacts:

President: Lynne Brooks - Executive Business
(250) 586.4595

Vice President: Elaine Lefebvre
General Meeting & Club Activities

Past President: Dave Hutchings

Secretary: Pam Helem

Treasurer: Carol Anne Philion

Membership: Gail Armstrong

Directors:

Cindie Cosentino

Dave Erickson

Derrick Grimmer

Ed Wilson

Newsletter Editor: Margaret Hill 250.752.2728

Programs: Alison Bakker

Field Trips: Dave Erickson

Promotion: Sallie Dabb

Refreshments: Chris Hutching

Young Naturalists: Alison Bakker

Conservation Environment: Gary & Ronda Murdock

Web Site: David Helem

BC Nature: Sandra Gray

SUNSHINE

If you know of an Arrowsmith Naturalist, who is ill, in hospital or recently bereaved, please contact: Pam Helem, at (250) 468-7475 or at arrowsmithnats@gmail.com

CLUB PUBLICATIONS

A reference copy of the current newsletter is available at each of the libraries in Parksville and Qualicum Beach.

Meetings and Outings information sheets are available at Mulberry Bush Book Stores in Qualicum Beach and Parksville.

RESPECT FOR CLEAN AIR**NO SMOKING**

Smoking is not allowed anywhere in, on or around Knox Church property.

SCENTS OR PERFUMES

Avoid the use of any fragrances when participating in meetings or activities at Knox Church in respect for others for whom such scents are a health hazard.

Re: Pretty Scotch broom was put here by God” (July 10, 2014 Oceanside Star)

The above noted letter was completely full of inaccuracy.

Below for Arrowsmith Naturalists awareness is the response letter sent by Ronda Murdock, to the Oceanside Star, printed, July 17, 2014

Scotch Broom, Cytisus Scoparius, was not put here by God as incorrectly stated in the letter. Scotch broom is not native to Canada or United States. Where God/ Creator did put it was in the United Kingdom, where it is a native species and where it is not invasive.

In the book The Global Forest written by Irish born botanist & medical biochemist scientist Diana Beresford-Kroeger, we can learn that where Scotch Broom is placed by the creator it stays where it is planted. It is actually used as hedge rows in Ireland because it is not invasive where it is indigenous or in other words, where it belongs.

The broom we have on Vancouver Island was introduced in 1850 by an early immigrant settler from Scotland, Captain Walter Colquhoun Grant, from seeds he picked up at the British consul in the Sandwich Islands (now called Hawaii). It is from only 3 germinated seeds planted at his homestead in Sooke that the Scotch broom invasion began.

It is also inaccurate to say that “some garden centres actually still sell these wonderful plants.” These plants are not wonderful and are not sold in garden centres. The plants sold in garden centres are completely different as they are hybridized, sterile versions. The sterilized versions are not invasive.

Scotch Broom outcompetes and endangers the beneficial native plants that the Creator/God placed here and the seeds of introduced invasive Scotch broom contain several toxic alkaloids that can depress the heart and nervous system. Children may be poisoned from eating the pods and seeds.

Ronda Murdock

THE GIFT OF WEEDS OUTING

On September 6, Maya Carson led a local walk to examine the plants that thrive in our disused fields and ditches in Parksville. How these plants...commonly referred to as ‘weeds’...survive is amazing and a wonder in itself. One such plant that eluded identification was shortly afterwards noted as Burnet. A description of Burnet, a plant in the Rosaceae family is described below.

It also has a respectable history, called a favourite herb by [Francis Bacon](#), and was brought to the New World with the first English colonists, even getting special mention by [Thomas Jefferson](#)

Salad burnet has the same medicinal qualities as medicinal burnet (*Sanguisorba officinalis*). Both were used, in the past, to relieve diarrhea.

‘Burnet’ comes from the colour of the flower: dark red like dried blood!

From the time of Old Greeks, burnet is being effectiely used to stop blood flow: nose bleeds (a plant is tied to the forehead), menstruation, tuberculosis, inner bleeding (a tea of roots, leaves and blossoms). To heal bruises and blood clots, the herb was made into a salve with lard or vaseline. No wonder it was introduced to North America by pioneers.

Becoming familiar with it and knowing where to find it could be a great asset in case of an emergency.

Sanguisorba minor (Salad burnet, Garden burnet, Small burnet, burnet) is a plant in the family [Rosaceae](#) that is native to western, central and southern [Europe](#); northwest [Africa](#) and southwest [Western Asia](#); and which has naturalized in most of North America. It is a [perennial herbaceous](#) plant growing to 40–90 cm tall, typically found in dry grassy meadows, often on [limestone](#) soils. It is drought-tolerant, and grows all year around.

It is used as an ingredient in both salads and dressings, having a flavour described as "light [cucumber](#)" and is considered interchangeable with mint leaves in some recipes, depending on the intended effect. Typically, the youngest leaves are used, as they tend to become bitter as they age. Use young shoots as a vegetable in Spring (April/May) in salty custard with greens in pie shell. Flowerheads also edible when young. ‘Burnet’ comes from the colour of the flower dark red like burned blood!

Maya Carson

(Image from Maya)



President's Report...cont'd from p.1

With the growing awareness of how human population is adversely affecting the silent majority of life on this unique planet, knowledgeable guardians and voices to speak for these lives are needed. You've taken an important step by joining one of the fifty-one BC Naturalist groups to enjoy and learn more about our local plant and wildlife communities. Another part of our mandate is to "keep nature worth knowing." Everyone can contribute to this in so many different ways through supporting our club's nature affirming activities. Our over one hundred members all help through their club memberships. Members who are able to do more can lead field trips, write nature articles, be a board member supporting club activities, welcome newcomers and invite them to

activities, "table" at a farmers' markets, be involved in stewardship activities, become the new newsletter editor, treasurer, or secretary—all with the willing support of the folks in these present positions. Love birds? How about leading the annual Christmas Bird Count? What we do as club members is ultimately aimed at supporting and strengthening our nature-loving membership and providing education to the community about issues in nature affecting us all. I hope it's O.K. to reference a quote from Edmund Burke memorable to me: "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." Let's each revel in being part of an organization that is engaged with life!

Lynne Brookes, President

Welcome to New Members

Jane Osborne / Patricia Newton;

Roger and Paula Barnsley;

Nancy Randall

AGING SLIME MOULD

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY LYNNE BROOKES



The first image (above) was taken late on day two.



This second image (above right) was taken on day three. The weather was very hot and dry. The one single form stayed about a foot long and was +/- an inch thick. I took many more and detailed photos but this will give you a good idea of its appearance. It was very soft during days one through four.

By day five it was firm and crusted over. Same on day six--just sitting



After nearly an inch rain on day seven, the surface was covered with brown powder--spores released with the rain event.

DID YOU KNOW?

A threatened, ribbed newt, can squeeze their muscles and force their sharp rib tips through their skin, piercing any unlucky predator.

Reference: National Geographic Kids, 5,000 AWESOME FACTS

For further info see: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/iberian_ribbed_newt

AT THE COOMBS FAIR



As a sparrow landed on friend, Eric's, straw hat, Sarah David was able to capture this amazing moment. One could say,

'A bird on the hat is worth two in the bush'!

Reflections on the BC Nature 2014 FGM

“Salmon & Shorebirds - Incredible Journeys”

The 2014 FGM was hosted by the Shuswap Naturalist Club in Salmon Arm, on the shore of beautiful Shuswap Lake. The setting and the genial welcome and enthusiasm of the host club were wonderful but Mother Nature was at her unpredictable best. Because this was the dominant year in the four-year cycle of the Adams River sockeye salmon, the river and its tributaries were expected to be teeming with brilliant red and green fish. Perhaps conditions in the lower Fraser and the Thompson Rivers had not yet encouraged the fish to press on to the spawning beds; perhaps other factors such as disease had decimated their numbers (we hope not!). Whatever the reason, the fish were not present in numbers - only in the odd cluster of 4 or 5 brilliantly-coloured individuals.

However, the area and the facilities provided to invite the public to “salute” the return of the sockeye are impressive. We have to recognize the foresight - in the 1970’s - of the BC government and the Nature Trust of BC for recognizing the critical value of areas along the Adams River, acquiring those lands, and later creating the Roderick Haig-Brown Provincial Park to protect the lands in perpetuity. Today, the Adams River Salmon Society, with the support of government agencies, naturalists, other NGO’s and corporate sponsors puts on the “Salute to the Salmon” festival in the dominant year of the sockeye spawning cycle.

We were able to see the results of this cooperation. Not only has an interpretive centre been established with acres of parking for visitors, but wheel chair accessible trails have been constructed to allow access and viewpoints for the public to observe the spawning sockeye. When we visited the site, a crew was putting the finishing touches on a steel viewing platform, cantilevered out over the river to allow great viewing of the returning fish. All of this provides a fine opportunity for public education, while demonstrating a commendable example of how government, committed organizations and the corporate world can work together to create something remarkable.

The other focus of the FGM was the shoreline of Shuswap Lake, directly in front of the conference centre. From the hotel, a short walk took us to various vantage points to view shorebirds. Among our sightings were a solitary White Pelican, several Western Grebes, an American Golden Plover, an Osprey, a Solitary Sandpiper, a Pectoral Sandpiper, a Northern Harrier, Lesser Yellowlegs, and numerous Kildeer. Once again, we seem to have missed the greater numbers of shorebirds who use the shores of the lake to rest and replenish as they migrate to their wintering grounds.

Local naturalists have worked for years to ensure that much of their valuable shoreline is saved from development. With the help of the Nature Trust and others, the Shuswap Naturalists have not only preserved and enhanced nesting sites for

waterbirds (notably, Western Grebes) but they have built interpretive trails and an interpretive centre/nature house adjacent to the lakeshore. Needless to say, several of the field trips consisted of guided walks along several of the trails with their plantings of native species and the workings and channels of beaver which help to maintain vibrant wetlands.

Several of the presentations focused also on the salmon and shorebirds. Thursday evening featured a slide show of Clive Bryson’s remarkable photos of spawning sockeye from the 2010 run. Friday morning featured Don Cecile, an avid birder and photographer, who spoke of the importance of the lake and its surrounds as a stopover for migrating shorebirds. Thirty-seven species have been recorded and we were treated to Don’s great photos and a small lesson on the identification of each species.

Neil Brookes was to speak on the Kingfisher Interpretive Centre, its role in educating school children about the salmon and salmon habitat, and the recovery and repair of the Centre after a devastating mudslide. Unfortunately, he was called away to oversee some critical work at the Centre and a local teacher stepped in, with almost no notice, to provide an excellent overview of the history and the educational impact of the Centre. Alas, I cannot remember the speaker’s name, but she gave a very informative talk, the short notice notwithstanding.

Another teacher, Dave Ramsay, spoke of an “Environmental Science 11” curriculum he has developed to explore the sustainability of the Salmon Arm watershed. The course explores the meaning of sustainability, how natural systems are connected and the impact of human activities on the sustainability of the watershed. Although the course is quite new, the students’ grasp of complex material and their creative problem-solving is very encouraging. Yet another young teacher was our Saturday night banquet speaker. Geoff Styles spoke of his three years teaching in South Korea, where he became involved in the Saemangeum Shorebird Monitoring Program. This 3-year study monitored the effects of a 33 km-long seawall which closed off extremely important tidal flats equal to the size of Singapore. The entire area, which is a critical feeding area for shorebirds of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, is to be drained and reclaimed for industrial and other purposes. Perhaps, as a result, numbers have decreased dramatically for some species.

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...cont'd from p. 5

Geoff spoke particularly of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper which has evolved to feed primarily on tidal flats such as Saemangeum and of the incredible migratory journey of the Bar-tailed Godwit. We need only think of developments on our own doorstep - such as the expansion of Roberts Bank - to be reminded of the intense pressures which human development places on nature.

A report on the "business" of the FGM will be printed in the winter issue of the BC Nature Magazine which we all receive.

If you wish information on any of the items discussed, please contact me at dhutchings40@shaw.ca.

Chris and I have attended most AGM's and FGM's over the past 10 years and have never been disappointed. It has been a great way to see our province through the eyes of local naturalists and to visit local gems of nature which we might have bypassed on our own. The next AGM is on Salt Spring Island from May 7-10, hosted by the Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club. Plan to attend. You won't be disappointed.

Dave Hutchings

Field Trip to Newcastle Island – Sept 17th 2014 contributed by Maggie Little

On a cloudy morning, a group of 18 Naturalists and visitors gathered at the ferry terminal at Maffeo Sutton Park, Nanaimo, and aimed their sights at Newcastle Island. Anticipation was palpable as renowned Biologist, Tour Leader and Natural History "walking Encyclopaedia", Bill Merilees, took charge.

Once assembled, we headed North, passing the grassy expanse surrounding the CPR Pavilion.

As early as 1913 large numbers of coalminers and their families picnicked here on any given weekend. After the

pavilion was built and in operation, fine dining, entertainment and dancing were available to patrons from the Island and as far away as the Mainland.

We stopped at the former McDonald Pulpstone Quarry to gaze at the large remnants of donut-shaped stones once used in the early paper mills of the 1920's. Also there was the circular machine used to carve the stones from the rocks on the island. As we progressed up the Western Passage Trail, Bill reminded us of the longstanding tectonic plate activity which had created the fault line and narrow channel that continues to separate Newcastle from Vancouver Island.

...cont'd p. 7

A SURPRISE MARTEN SIGHTING Submission by Bill Image

On the morning July 27th Maggie Little and I were showing Erica McClaren, Conservation Specialist of BC Parks the typical forest habitat in which we have set up squirrel and huckleberry study sites as part of her Long Term Ecological Monitoring (LTEM) program.

Entry to the reserve takes us along a disused logging trail providing easier walking than the undisturbed forest and enables us to see the ground some 50m ahead.

Suddenly at about the limit of our visibility a dark creature with a long tail, criss-crossed the trail ahead and disappeared into the forest. Walking quickly up to the point it had gone into the forest, we stood discussing what it may have been, when a Marten scrambled up a conifer close by and proceeded to verbalize quite clearly that we were not welcome to his neck of the woods. He kept this harangue up for a minute or two before running down the tree and away, giving us a chance to record this rare sighting.

As background - The Bowser ER is a 116 hectare forest just off the 19A near Deep Bay, created in 1996 for its representation of an established Coastal Douglas Fir and Coastal Western Hemlock ecosystem.

INFORMATION from the web and Lone Pine "Mammals of BC":

Martens - referred to as "American" or "Pine" Martens. Are slender, agile small fur bearing omnivorous creatures related to

wolverines, otters, minks, badgers, ferrets, weasels. Found in forests across the Northern Hemisphere, and are often used as an indicator of environmental conditions as they prefer intact mature coniferous forests for their habitat. Their diet includes mice, squirrels, rabbits, birds, insects, reptiles, berries etc. They are very important seed dispersers and apart from man have few natural enemies except for hawks and owls. Are solitary, except for breeding. Produce from 3 -5 blind and nearly furless pups in early Spring who leave the mother at 3-4 months, so she can start reproducing again.

They choose birthing dens in woody debris, snags, stumps, logs, rock piles and red squirrel middens.

Their soft and dense fur varies in colour from yellowish to dark brown and has been highly prized by fur trappers since the 1700 'smarten. Exploitation and loss of habitat and increased accessibility to their territories has led to extinction of the species in Eastern Canada and parts of the USA. There has been limited success to reintroduce them into Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Trapping of martens still continues in Alaska and



Pine Marten photo by:
Bill Image

...cont'd from p. 6

Field Trip to Newcastle Island – Sept 17th 2014

Commencing in 1869 superior quality sandstone from the Quarry was used in the construction of many West Coast buildings and edifices, including the famed San Francisco Mint. The ship, "Zephyr", transporting sandstone to San Francisco, was lost during a fierce storm off Mayne Island. In the hold were 2 – 33 ton columns, which were lost for a century. However, with persistence and funding, the columns were retrieved and in 1987 one of them was returned to its original site at the quarry.

Bill has recently discovered that shallow indentations in the forest floor, near Midden Bay, are all that remain of the Hudson's Bay personnel cottages. This was an ideal spot to enjoy our lunch break, the view, and a backdrop of tall tangled rose bushes of Western European descent (*Rosa Cannina*).

Progressing north, evidence of stone foundations and abandoned rusting equipment remain from the once thriving Japanese Herring Salteries which were active from the late 1800's until the war, and the Japanese internment in 1942.

A large round cement casing embedded in the earth is a reminder of the size and height (36.5m) of one of the poles used to raise the first cable across Newcastle Island passage so that sailing ships could pass under without interference.

Perhaps the most profitable resource extraction that thrived here from 1853 – 1883, was coal. A series of operations tunnelled underground right through to Nanaimo. Bill remembers leading forays into the once accessible tunnels with his Scout groups. But no longer can this happen, as the

entrance to Newcastle mine has been sealed off with large boulders!

As we trekked south towards the ferry, we took in the extent of man-made Mallard Lake, which once supported a large population of Hooded Mergansers. Also noted was a large colony of busy Thatching ants. Although Douglas-Fir is the predominant tree growing here, there healthy mix of Arbutus, Garry Oak, Grand Fir, Yew and the accompanying understory and, unfortunately, the notorious invasive – Spurge Laurel.

It was a wonderful day and we were so grateful to Bill for sharing his knowledge with us. His handbook "Newcastle Island – A Place of Discovery" is a must read, totally enthralling and stacked with well researched data. It is available from Bill at 1 250 758 1801.



Photo by Ed Wilson

KIDFEST PHOTOS & THANK YOU TO ALL WHO VOLUNTEERED

A Salish Sea sized Thank You to for all who helped in so many aspects towards our marine life exhibit at KidFest. There seems to be a consensus from everyone involved that this year's KidFest was the best coordinated one yet. It is also most meaningful that our Young and Arrowsmith Naturalists can take part in this event with our popular exhibit. It is our very willing volunteers who make this possible.

Thanking you again: Pam, on behalf of the "PLAT" (Pam, Lynne, Alison, Toni) committee.

Some wonderful 'up close and personal' photos taken during the afternoon by Dave Erickson.



ARROWSMITH NATURALISTS MEETINGS AND OUTINGS*JUNE to DECEMBER 2014*

CARPOOL IF POSSIBLE. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: DAVE ERICKSON: (250) 947-9698

PLEASE NOTE - GUESTS ARE VERY WELCOME. A GUEST WAIVER AND DAY MEMBERSHIP FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE TIME OF AN OUTING OR ON THE WEBSITE: WWW.ARROWSMITHNATS.ORG/MEMBERSHIP THESE FORMS MUST BE READ CAREFULLY, COMPLETED AND SIGNED WITH AN ACCOMPANYING \$1.00 FEE BEFORE PARTICIPATING IN AN OUTING.

Meeting Locations Key:

C&J = Craig and Jensen; QBT = Qualicum Beach Tourist (centre on 19A); N&P = Northfield and Parkway rest stop parking lot; Sunnybeach = Hwy 19A north & Sunnybeach Rd

MEETING TIME(s) INFO STARTING SEPT 22nd, 2014

7:00 p.m. - Members chat time and other individual(s) information sharing.

7:30 p.m. - General meeting convenes. Ten (10) minutes break after speaker for refreshments & chat.

9:15 p.m. - End of meeting; chair stacking. Done and out of church by 9:30 p.m.

✓ Indicates easy walking

Sat Nov 1 Annual Mushroom Walk

Big Qualicum fish hatchery. Always popular, last year was a classic. We walk through a mature forest, examining a wide diversity of fall mushrooms. There are some stairs and hills, but for the most part the walking is easy. Bring lunch. Meet 9:30 am QBT. Leaders: Dave Helem and Terry Taylor

✓ **Wed Nov 12 Taste of BC Aquafarms 2930 Jameson Rd:** Inland fish farm...just above Jingle Pot Rd. We will tour a facility that offers an alternative to the ocean fish farms that are proving so controversial. After touring the 'Taste' of BC fish farm, lunch at the Jingle Pot public house as it is nearby.
Meet C & J, 9:30, N&P (Rest stop) 10 am. Leader: Dave Erickson

✓ **Sat Nov 22 Riefel Bird Sanctuary:** Probably the best opportunity most of us will have to see a huge and wonderful variety of migrating birds this year. There are both longer and less demanding circuits. Come prepared for the day's weather, water, snacks, binoculars, etc.

Meet C & J at 6:30 a.m. Bring breakfast or eat on ferry and also bring lunch.

Leaving C & J at 6:45 am; Depart 7:45 am ferry from Duke Point;

Return on 3:15 pm ferry from Tsawwassen. Leaders Gary and Ronda Murdoch.

Mon Nov 24 GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, Parksville @ 7:30 p.m.

Please respect Knox Church policy of "No perfumes or scents when participating in activities or meetings".

TOPIC: Report on the studies done during this summer particularly the Stellar Sea Lions.

SPEAKER: Sheena Majowski, Pinniped Biologist at Pacific Biological Station.

ARROWSMITH NATURALISTS MEETINGS AND OUTINGS*JUNE to DECEMBER 2014*

Wed Dec 3 Hemer Park: A walk in the park to round out a great year. In Cedar S of Nanaimo with good trails around Holden lake. Meet C and J 9:30 am; N&P 10 am. Bring lunch. Leader: TBA

Dec 14 2014 Christmas Bird Count and Pot Luck - Be sure to mark this date on your calendar.

NOTE: A volunteer is urgently needed to coordinate the CBC. Sandy Gray, is most willing to work with and mentor a knowledgeable birder for this once-a-year event.

FRIDAY, Jan 16, International Centre for Sturgeon Studies V I U - First, a morning walk in the Morrell Sanctuary, then lunch at the Jingle Pot Pub. The tour starts at 1:30 with Dave Switzer at the Sturgeon Facility on campus. Leave C & J 9:30, N&P 10:00, Leaders: David Helem & Dave Erickson.

Sat, Jan 24, Nanaimo River Estuary - Birding in a prime area at a great time of year. The possibility of seeing Short Eared Owls along with many other species. Lunch at the Country Grocer, South Gate Mall. C & J 9:30, N&P 10:00. Leader: Christopher Stephens.

Mon Jan 26, GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, Parksville9 @ 7:00 p.m.

Please respect Knox Church policy of "No perfumes or scents when participating in activities or meetings".

TOPIC: Members' Night **SPEAKER:** Members

✓ **Wed, Feb 4, Park and view birding with Sandy** - Perfect for members who have difficulty walking large distances. We'll cruise the coast stopping at all the hot spots to view the many species on the ocean. Bring lunch or drop in at the Bean Counter. QBT 9:30 am. Leader: Sandy Gray.

Sat, Feb 14, Heritage Forest - A rather quick return visit, but this time a totally different focus with Terry Taylor as he reveals hidden marvels all around us. We predict it will be easy on your legs but your brain will get a workout. Lunch – our choice in Qualicum Beach. QBT 9:30 am.

Wed, Feb 25, Lighthouse Trails - We can improvise once we get there. Lots of options in the forest and on the coast in this lovely area. Bring lunch. QBT 9:30 am, Leader: TBA

Mon Feb 23, GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, Parksville9 @ 7:00 p.m.

Please respect Knox Church policy of "No perfumes or scents when participating in activities or meetings".

TOPIC: Recent Thesis on Swainson's Thrush **SPEAKER:** Christopher Stephens

Sat, Mar 7, Morden Colliery - An interesting abandoned coalmine site with good walking across Thatcher Creek to the Nanaimo River. Plants, birds and history. Lunch at the Jingle Pot Pub. C & J 9:30 am, N&P 10 am. Leaders: TBA

Wed, Mar 18, Lazo Marsh - N E Comox Wildlife Area. A large area in North East Comox Park to explore. It might involve more walking than usual, possible wet areas. Lunch and suitable clothing and boots recommended. QBT 9:30 am. Leader: Pam & Dave Helem

Sat Mar 28, Moorecroft Park - A great opportunity to see the restoration work that transformed the park explained by one of the volunteers – our own Lynne Brookes. Bring lunch if it's sunny – perhaps the Rocking Horse Pub if it clouds over? C & J 9:30 am.
