

ARROWSMITH NATURALISTS - MEETINGS & OUTINGS 2009

Mon. Jan. 26th, 2009 - Meeting at Springwood Middle School - MEMBERS' NIGHT:7:30

An eagerly anticipated occasion, this is the night of our nature-related slide show and raffle. Bring some of your favourite slides to show or a disk of your digital images. Bring any items you'd like to donate for the raffle. Raffle tickets are 5 for \$2.

Wed. Feb. 4th - Courtenay Airport Walk and Goose Spit - An easy and productive birding walk along the river and an opportunity to view the wintering trumpeter swans (we hope!). A short drive away - along the estuary - is Goose Spit, our lunch stop. Meet at the Qualicum Beach Tourist Info Centre at 9:30 am. Leaders: Chris and Dave

Sun. Feb. 15th - Englishman River Estuary Tour. An easy walking tour through the protected estuary, for which the Arrowsmith Naturalists play an important stewardship role. Ron Buechert, a local ecologist, has an on-going part in assessing the health of estuary as we seek to restore it to a natural state. He will speak of and demonstrate the history of the area, the progress made in bringing the area back to health and the prospects for the estuary's future. Meet at Craig and Jensen at 9:30. Leaders: Chris and Dave

Mon. Feb. 23rd - Meeting at Springwood Middle School - 7:30 pm. Speaker: Pamela Wesley, a member of the Coastal Invasive Plant Committee. She will speak about the invasive plant situation on the Island.

Wed. Feb. 25th - Morden Colliery Trail. This 1 km. trail leads from the Morden Colliery Historic Provincial Park to the old mine tippie site, to the Nanaimo River, and crosses Thatcher Creek on 2 small bridges. A lovely easy walk for plants, birds and history. Bring lunch. Meet at Craig and Jensen at 9:30 am or Arlington at 9:45. Leader: TBA

Sun. Mar. 8th - Lot 10 and Little Qualicum Estuary. A pleasant local walk through woods to seek out early spring plants and birds. We may even have a chance to see an early migration of Brant Geese. Bring lunch, if you wish. Meet at the Qualicum Beach Tourist Info Centre at 9:30 am. Leaders: Pam and David

Club Stewardship of the Englishman River Estuary: This is an on-going club project which seeks to monitor and eradicate invasive species from the Estuary. Members meet on the last Friday of each month (weather permitting) for a couple of hours to carry out project work. Come on out to share in an important cause, as well as some lively social time.

Wed. March 18th - Columbia Beach/French Creek - An easy shoreline and estuary walk

to spot both shorebirds - maybe even some brant geese - and other migrating species. Bring lunch. Meet at Craig & Jensen at 9:30 am. Leaders: Chris and Dave

30 Mon. March 23rd - General Meeting at Springwood Middle School 7:pm

Speaker: Ian Gartshaw - local energy consultant. Topic: Sustainable Energy Issues

Sun. March 29th - Deep Bay. An easy birding and beach walk on a falling tide. In an area which often yields a good variety of seabirds. Bring lunch or buy local fish and chips. Meet at the Qualicum Beach Tourist Centre at 9:30 am or at Sunnybeach Rd., Qualicum Bay at 9:50. Leader: Maggie

Sat. Apr. 4th - Big Day Birding. A Brant Festival event. See www.brantfestival.bc.ca for more info.

Wed. Apr. 8th - Buttertubs Marsh, Nanaimo. One of our most productive birding areas, the marsh is an easy morning's walk. Very pleasant in spring. Bring lunch or eat at the BlackBear Pub (your choice!) Meet at Craig & Jensen at 9:30 am or Arlington at 9:45. Leaders: Chris and Dave

Wed. Apr. 22nd - Hamilton Marsh and the North Island Wildlife Recovery Centre. A walk through the woods to discover the emergence of spring at the Marsh. A good opportunity to see migrating birds and other aquatic life. Ceri Peacey, the founder of *The Friends of Hamilton Marsh*, has kindly agreed to come along to be our resource person.

After the marsh, we will drive up to the NIWRC for an early picnic lunch. Be advised that there is a \$5.00 entry fee for this activity. If we have a minimum of 15 naturalists, we can arrange for a 1 to 1 ½ hour guided tour. Meet at the Qualicum Beach Tourist Office at 9:30. Bring lunch.

Mon. Apr. 27th - General Meeting at Springwood Middle School 7:30 pm

Speaker: Dr. McAdie - wildlife veterinarian. Topic: Vancouver Island marmot project - an update

Thur. Apr. 30th - BC Nature Spring Conference and AGM, Duncan - Nature in the WarmLand. A great opportunity to experience a BC Nature Conference on our own doorstep. See the Winter 2008 edition of BC Nature Magazine for more details.

Wed. May 6th - Moorcroft Camp, Nanoose. Forest, flowers and beaches - an interesting and varied walk in an area of important ecological significance. A small donation (suggest \$2) to the camp is appreciated. Bring lunch. Meet at Craig & Jensen at 9:30 am or Nanoose Place at 9:45, Leaders: Chris and Dave

Wed. May 20th - The Abyss, Nanaimo. A remnant of the last Ice Age in the

Harewood Mines area, this walk takes in part of the Extension Ridge Trail. Not only can we examine "The Abyss" but there are views over the surrounding countryside, as well as a good chance to see spring flowers. The trail is a combination of easy to moderate difficulty. Bring lunch. Meet at Craig & Jensen at 9:30 am or Arlington at 9:45. Leaders: Chris and Dave

Mon. May 25th - General Meeting at Springwood Middle School 7:30 pm

Speaker: TBA

Sun. May 31st - Trent River, Royston. An easy walk along the river with the opportunity to see spring flowers and orchids. Bring lunch. Meet at the Qualicum Beach Tourist Centre at 9:30 am or Sunnybeach Road in Qualicum Bay at 9:50. Leaders: Chris and Dave

Sun. June 7th - Rogers Creek Trail, Alberni. This is a lovely walk of easy to moderate difficulty through riverside woods. Bring lunch and sturdy footwear. Meet at the Qualicum Beach Tourist Centre at 9:30 am. Leaders: TBA

Wed. June 17th - Little Qualicum Falls. A spectacular area of cascading water and pleasant trails. This provincial park provides walking trails of easy to moderate difficulty and views of the Little Qualicum River as it tumbles down its narrow, rocky gorge. Bring lunch and sturdy footwear. Be warned that there is a fee (\$3.00 per day) for parking. Meet at the Qualicum Beach Tourist Centre at 9:30 am. Leaders: TBA

Mon. June 22nd - General Meeting at Springwood Middle School - 7:30 pm

Speaker: TBA

Sun. June 28th - Paradise Meadows & Battleship Lake, Mt Washington. A lovely walk through mountain meadows to see the flowers (hopefully!) and then lunch at an alpine lake. Bring lunch, wear sturdy footwear and dress with layers - just in case. Meet at the Qualicum Beach Tourist Centre at 9:30 am or at the Horne Lake Hwy. 19 intersection at 9:50. Leaders: Chris and Dave

Mon. July 27th - Annual Club Picnic. Leaving Qualicum and travelling up the old Island Hwy., turn left onto Laburnum Rd. and travel up the hill to Claymore Rd. turn right and travel on to the Hatchery. Drive past the Hatchery gates for 1.9 kms., turn right (at the power lines) and down the hill through the back gate of the Hatchery. Bring lawn chairs and a potluck dish, your own beverage, plates, cutlery, and item(s) for the raffle. Be aware that there is no drinkable water on site. The fun starts at 4 pm. until ??

Sun. Aug. 16th - [Kidfest](#)

Be sure to visit this celebration of childhood in the Parksville Community Park from 10 am - 4pm. Among the activities will be the Arrowsmith Naturalists' live display of some of the many creatures which inhabit the Straights of Georgia. If you would like to help out, call Betty.

Sun. Sept. 13rd - Dudley Marsh. A local marsh and woods walk. The marsh is not as large as Hamilton Marsh and not as often visited. There are opportunities for birding, as well as the chance to see a wetland at the close of what may be a very dry summer. Meet at Craig and Jensen at 9:30 a.m. Leader: Allen

Sun. Sept. 20th - Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-up with the Oceanside Young Naturalists.

This annual event is a great way to remind ourselves of all the waste which washes up on our shores, as well as a chance to support the Young Naturalists in our area and demonstrate our stewardship of nature. Meet at Sunny Beach Rd. in Qualicum Bay at 1 p.m. Sturdy gloves would be a good idea. Leader: Val Tinney - 468-7556.

Thurs. Sept 24th - Tour of the Sturgeon Rearing and Research Ponds: Vancouver Island University. A rare chance to see this exciting project which involves the rearing and conservation of this endangered, prehistoric fish species. Wear comfy shoes as there are multi stairways to "overcome". Let Maggie know if you are attending so she can let the staff at VIU know a few days ahead. Also, maximum car pooling is required; parking at VIU is scarce. The tour is about 90 minutes. A pub lunch to follow or bring your own lunch - whichever you desire. Meet at Craig and Jensen at 9:00 a.m. or Arlington at 9:15 for a 10 a.m. start at VIU.

Mon. Sept. 28th - General Meeting at Springwood Middle School - 7:30 pm.

Speaker:

Sun. Oct. 4th - The Holland Creek Trail and Falls, Ladysmith. A lovely, and at times taxing walk in a new area - for us. This good trail, which affords good views of the creek, involves a steady climb through a mixed forest. The reward is the waterfall at the end of the trail. Bring lunch and afterwards enjoy a stroll through one of the Island's historic old towns. Meet at Craig and Jensen at 9:30 a.m. or Arlington at 9:45. Leader: Pat Bourgeois

Sun. Oct. 18th - Nanaimo River Estuary. In one of our prime birding areas, this easy, although sometimes uneven walk through a tidal marsh area, is an important stopover for migrating species and year-round raptors. On a previous outing to the Estuary we were "fogged out", so this is a repeat with better conditions. Bring binoculars, your lunch and wear good footwear for the muddy patches. Meet at Craig and Jensen at 9:30 am or Arlington at 9:45. Leader: Roger

Sun. Oct. 25th - Mushroom Walk at the Big Qualicum River. This is one of our most popular outings. Bring lunch and delight in a mature forest as we forage for fall mushrooms. There are some stairs and hills but, for the most part, the walking is easy. Meet at the Qualicum Beach Tourist Office at 9:30 am.
Leaders: the club's expert 'shroom hunters. For more info, phone Chris and Dave

Mon. Oct. 26th - General Meeting at Springwood Middle School - 7:30 p.m.

Speaker: Michele Deakin, a local biologist, who will present an update on the Eelgrass Beds - Integrated Mapping Project.

Wed. Nov. 4th - Little Mountain. A short walk along the loop trail to the impressive cliffs of Little Mountain, with a spectacular view inland. If we are lucky, we may see numbers of varied thrushes feeding on arbutus berries. Enjoy a hot coffee or tea afterwards in Parksville. Meet at Craig and Jensen at 9:30 a.m. Leaders: Chris and Dave

Sun. Nov. 15th - Bowen Park, Nanaimo. A pleasant, easy walk through 36 hectares of an urban park with interpretive trails, mature forest and the meandering Millstone River which has carved out an interesting course of sharp mini-canyons and small waterfalls. Bring lunch or eat out at your favourite spot. Meet the Craig and Jensen at 9:30 a.m. or Arlington at 9:45. Leaders: Chris and Dave

Mon. Nov. 23rd - General Meeting at Springwood Middle School - 7:30 p.m.

Speaker: Haida Bolton will speak about her involvement with Camp Uganda, an educational camp in the Wildlife Education Centre for underprivileged Ugandan children and their parents.

Wed. Nov. 25th - Little Qualicum Hatchery. One of our easiest and most attractive walking areas, a home to many bird species and the annual fall run of salmon which can be viewed in the meandering spawning channels. Meet at the Qualicum Beach Tourist Office at 9:30 a.m. Leaders: Chris and Dave

Wed. Dec. 9th - Legacy Marsh and Brickyard Cove, Nanaimo. We travel inland first at the Lantzville turnoff to see what the Marsh has to offer, then back to Brickyard Cove for the seabirds and lunch. Bring lunch. Meet at Craig and Jensen at 9:30 a.m. or Arlington at 9:45. Leaders: Chris and Dave

Sun. Dec. 20th - Christmas Bird Count and Pot Luck Dinner. This will be the 19th year for the Parksville- Qualicum Beach Christmas Bird Count. If you would like to take part, call Sandra Gray at 250-248-5565. Sandy also has information on the Feeder Count which will take place on the same day, same area.

The Pot Luck/Wrap-up dinner takes place at St. Anne's/St. Edmunds Church Hall in Parksville (behind Wembley Mall) from 5-8 pm. Everyone welcome. Bring a pot luck dish to share and come to hear the tall tales of the day. Bring your own plates, cutlery and mug, etc. Robert and Penny (250-248-6769) have volunteered once again to do the set-up and would welcome assistance.