

ARROWSMITH NATURALISTS - MEETINGS & OUTINGS 2012

Jan. 11, Wed, Nanaimo River Estuary

An easy winter walk through field and marshy areas to see the many bird species usually seen here. Wear good footwear as the ground is usually wet and muddy in spots. Warm up after with lunch at a local pub.

Meet at Craig and Jensen at 9:30 am., Arlington 9:45 am. or Northfield Rd & Hwy 19 parking lot at 10:00

am. Leader: Roger Simms

Jan. 21, Sat, Little Qualicum Falls Park

Always an enjoyable hike through one of our local parks. There may possibly be some winter mushrooms but the Falls is the main attraction, of course. Bring lunch. Meet at Qualicum Tourist Bureau at 9:30 am.

Leader: Pam and Dave

Jan. 30, Mon, General Meeting at Springwood Middle School, PV; 7:30 Members Night

An event for members to share photos. Limit your digital photos to 12, please. Bring items to raffle.

Feb 1, Wed, Hamilton Marsh and Englishman River Falls Park

Generally good winter birds on the marsh and then a pleasant walk through wooded trails and views of lovely Falls. Remember good footwear. Meet at Craig and Jensen at 9:30 am. Bring lunch. Leader: Sandy

Feb 20, Mon, General Meeting at Springwood Middle School, PV: 7:30

Speaker: Steve Mitchell of Bee Haven Farms, Duncan; Topic: Apiculture

Feb 21, Tues, Fanny Bay Oysters

Tour this aquaculture facility and find out what it takes to grow world renowned shellfish. Bring lunch and join the sea lions for lunch or eat locally, your choice. Meet QBT for 10.00am start. Cost - approx. \$7.00. Leader: Maggie.

Mar 3, Sat, Jacks Point and Bigg's Park, Nanaimo

Good mixed birding in surrounding estuary, ocean and forest. Bring lunch. Wear good footwear. Meet C&J for 9:30 start; Arlington 9:45 ; Northfield and Parkway 10:00. Leader: Penny.

Mar 14, Wed, Denman Island

Could be Herring Spawn time. Wonderful wildlife sightings expected. Bring lunch. Carpooling suggested. Ferry car cost \$22.00. Seniors free. Meet QBT for 8:45 start to catch 10:00 ferry. Leaders - Marg & Martin .

Mar 24, Sat, Herring Spawn

Expect spawn to be in full swing. So enjoy the feeding frenzy at local hot spots such as Columbia Beach, French Creek Estuary, Parksville Bay etc. Bring lunch. Bring scopes. Meet C&J for 9:30 start. Leader - Sandy .

Mar 26, Mon, General Meeting at Springwood Middle School, PV: 7:30

Presenters: The Guardians of the Mid-Island Estuaries (Tim Clermont, Danielle Morrison, John Cooper)

Mar 31, Sat, BRANT ON THE BAY Parksville Community Park:10am - 2pm

Come join other Arrowsmith Naturalist Club members at Parksville Bay for wildlife viewing. Several Club member will have their spotting scopes available for close up views of Brant geese, waterfowl, shorebirds and sea lions. The Club display, tent and banner will also be set up. This is an opportunity for members to meet and greet the public and encourage them to 'know nature and keep it worth knowing'.

Apr 4, Wed, Bowen Park and Buttertubs Marsh, Nanaimo

Spring birding and early flowers along the Millstone River. Easy walking. Bring lunch. Meet C&J for 9.30 start, Arlington 9:45; Northfield and Parkway 10:00. Leaders: Pat B & Jim .

April 7, Sat, Big Day Bird Count

A fun event that gives people of all experience levels a chance to test their abilities at finding birds. Anytime after 4:30 a.m. - finishing at 3 p.m.

[Parksville Qualicum Beach Wildlife Management Area](#) Awards at [DeeZ Bar & Grill](#) after the count details and registration at 250-248-5305 or Rhys at rhysharrison@shaw.ca or Sandy at saninerr@shaw.ca Enter your team for \$10 per person.

Apr 14, Sat, Pipers Lagoon and Neck Point, Nanaimo

Spring flowers and birding. Easy, pleasant Walk. Lunch at Pipers Lagoon Pub. Meet C&J for 9:30 start; Arlington 9:45.

Apr 23, Mon, General Meeting at Springwood Middle School, PV: 7:30

Presenter: Lynne Brookes, Ph.D. Topic: Birds of Iowa and the Midwest.

Apr 25, Wed, The Notch, Nanoose - join us for a Spring hunt of the flowers and Garry Oak meadows and the incredible views. Wear good shoes to carry you over the rough spots and slight inclines. Our use of the Anchor Way parking lot will eliminate the stiff climb from the usual Powder Point parking lot. **Meeting at Craig and Jensen for 9.30 start, then Arlington for 9.45 pick up, then Nanoose Place for 9.50 meet** up with our leader Pam Helem. The relatively short walk will give us time to enjoy lunch at the Rocking Horse Pub afterwards. Leader: Pam.

May 7, Monday, Top Bridge Park and Englishman River Estuary

All hands on board to help host the Cowichan Club Members as we tour them around our special jewel, and tweak our skills in preparation for the FGM! Tim Hortons pit stop. Bring lunch. Meet C&J for car pooling & 9:30 start. Co-ordinator - Dave .

May 16, Wed,- Denman & Hornby Is.

An easy walk along the bluffs at Helliwell Park, spectacular ocean views, spring flowers. Bring lunch. Meet at Qualicum Beach Totem at 9:00 am sharp to catch 10:00 am Denman ferry. Leader: Maggie .

May 26, Sat, Comox Bluffs, Courtenay

Join the very experienced Eco Warden and discover the amazing variety of plants found here. Spectacular views. Wear good treads, rocky. Bring lunch. Meet: QBT for 9:30 start. Leader: Pam .

May 28, Mon, General Meeting at Springwood Middle School, PV: 7:30

We will hear speakers from the Nile Creek Enhancement Society talk about their work.

June 6, Wed, Kinsol Trestle, Cowichan

Explore the refurbished bridge and trail and surrounds. Easy walk. Bring lunch. Meet C&J for 9:30 start; Arlington 9:45; Northfield and Parkway 10:00. Leader: Gilles.

June 16, Sat, Bird Box Building Workshop

Bird Box building workshop at Lynne and Derrick's home. The workshop will run from 1.00 - 5.00. Bring screw drills and hammers. Cost \$5.00 for supplies. Cookie contributions welcome. Juice provided.

June 25, Mon, General Meeting at Springwood Middle School, PV: 7:30

Rob Adams and Lesley Fox who is from the Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals will speak to us on their efforts in seeing the use of body gripping traps being banned.

June 27, Westwood Ridge, Nanaimo

A gentle climb will bring you to spring flowers above the lake. Wear good shoes. Bring lunch. Meet: C&J for 9:30 start; Arlington 9:45; Northfield and Parkway 10:00. Leader: David.

Monday, July 23th - Annual Club Picnic: Location: Rath Trevor Provincial Park: Group shelter # 1

Bring lawn chairs and a potluck dish, your own beverage, plates , cutlery and item(s) for a raffle. Fun starts at 4pm until ??

Aug 18, Sun: Kidfest - PARKSVILLE COMMUNITY PARK - Volunteers are needed to help collect specimens from the beach on Saturday, Aug 19th. Volunteers are also needed on Sunday, Aug 19, 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 or 12:30 to 3:00 p.m.

Sept 1, Sat: Mclean Mill Train Ride, Port Alberni

Meet QBT for an 8:45 a.m. start.

Catch the train at 10:00 a.m. at the CPR station downtown Alberni. We'll enjoy the clickity-clack journey to the Mill as we reminisce and travel through the countryside. Bring lunch or buy there. Train fare: \$22.00 senior; \$29.95 adult. Return train at 1:00 p.m. Leaders: Maggie & Penny

Sept 12, Wed: Butterfly World, Combs

Enjoyable tropical setting allows you to watch exotic butterflies and orchids. Followed by leisurely lunch at the Coombs Country Market. Admission: \$6.50 senior; \$7.50 adult. Meet QBT at 9:45 a.m. Leaders: Gail & Ken (250) 248-0587

Sept 24, Mon: General Meeting - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, PV; 7:30

This will be a meet and greet and information opportunity for all members to hear about the plans and organization members from the Nanoose Naturalists and the Arrowsmith Naturalists have created for the The BC Nature Fall General Meeting.

Sept 27th Thursday - Sept 30th Sunday - BC Nature Fall General Meeting

It's not often that B.C. Nature's Fall Meeting is held in Oceanside, but it's happening this year from September 27th to 30th. "[Nature By The Salish Sea](#)"

A committee from Nanoose and Arrowsmith Naturalists has been busy planning for the last few months. They have a great line-up for us all - from guided tours to stimulating speakers, interesting walks, a banquet and a barbecue.

Topics such as sustainable harvesting and ecosystem resilience will be covered. You can attend the whole event or just come for a day.

For the full details go to our website www.arrowsmithnats.org and click on 2012 Fall G Meeting, or phone 250-468-7475. But register soon, as attendance is limited to some events. See you there!

Oct 4, Thurs: Gabriola Island

Explore the famed Malaspina Galleries, shorelines and Parks. Meet at C&J for 9:15 a.m. start to catch the 10:40 ferry from downtown, Nanaimo. Bring Lunch. Car Pool. Ferry cost for car \$24.70 plus passenger fare. Leaders: Maggie & Penny

Oct 13, Sat: Holland Creek Park, Ladysmith - Lovely woodsy walk with waterfall.

Moderate walk, some hills. Bring Lunch. Meet at C&J for 9:30 start; A.P. 9:30; N&P 10:00 a.m. Leaders: Pat & Jim

Oct 22, Mon: GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, PV; 7:30

Terry Thormin who is from Comox, a photographer and naturalist retired from 23 years at the Royal Alberta Museum where he curated the entomology collection. He is amazed out of the 41 species of dragonflies 38 can be found in the Comox area.



Cardinal Meadowhawk - Terry Thormin photo

Oct 24, Wed: Big Qualicum River - Celebrate the returning salmon runs and scout out mushrooms all on the same day! Moderate walk with stairs. Wear sturdy shoes. Bring lunch. Meet at QBT for a 9:30 start. Leader: Penny

Saturday November 3rd - Spider and Illusion Lakes - Horne Lake area.

Enjoy the colours and treats that Fall provides amongst this small lakes area. Moderate walk. Meet QTB at 9.30. Bring lunch, binocs. Leader: Maggie.

Tuesday November 13th - VIU Museum of Natural Sciences, Nanaimo

From Owls to Marine mammals, Insects to Plants, they have a bit of everything! Easy walking, no stairs. Students will guide us through the displays. Tour from 1 - 2pm. *Donations gratefully accepted.* Before the tour we'll have time to visit Neck Point for birding. Bring lunch. Meet at C&J 10.00am; Arlington 10.15; N&P at 10.30am. Leader: Maggie.

Saturday November 24th - Hemer Park, Nanaimo

Easy walk through mature forest, lake and ponds. Good birding opportunities. Meet C&J for 9.30 start; Arlington 9.45; N&P at 10.00am. Warm up at the Crow and Gate afterwards. Leaders: Dave and Chris.

**Monday November 26th General Meeting at Knox United Church, 345 Pym,
Parksville; 7:30**

Topic: Purple Martins on Vancouver Island! Speaker: Bruce Cousins.

Wednesday December 5th - Courtenay Airport and River walk

Easy, wheelchair accessible. Always enjoyable and generally good winter birding. Approx 1 km. Eat at the Atlas Cafe after. Meet QTB for 9.30 start; Sunnybeach 9.45am
Leaders: Gilles and Barbara.

Sunday December 16th - CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT; Contact: Sandy (250) 248-5565

This will be the 22nd year for the Parksville- Qualicum Beach Christmas Bird Count. If you would like to take part, call Sandra Gray. 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.