

Meetings and Outings 2016

Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Carpool if possible.

Please Note: - Guests are very welcome. A Guest Waiver and Day Membership forms are available at time of outing or on the website: www.arrowsmithsnats.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.

✓ Indicates easy walking

Saturday, 16th January - Buttertubs Marsh, Nanaimo

One of our most productive birding areas, the marsh is an easy morning's walk. Lunch at the Black Bear Pub. Meet C&J 9:30 Leaders: TBA

Monday 25th January: GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, Parksville @ 7:00p.m.

Please respect Knox Church policy of "No perfumes or scents when participating in activities or meetings". TOPIC: Members Night with slides and photos. Bring your pictures on a flash drive (maximun 12 pictures.)

Wednesday, 27th January - Cathedral Grove and Cameron Lake

An easy road walk between Cameron Lake and the treed bluffs of Wesley Ridge taking in the interesting old cabins along the way. If time allows we can explore the Giants of Cathedral Grove. Nice weather will allow us to eat a bag lunch on the beach, if inclement weather, there is a nice Cosy Kitchen restaurant at the Co-op station on Alberni Hwy. **Bring lunch. Meet QBT, 9:30. Leader Ron Wyckoff**

Saturday 6th February – Fanny Bay Conservation Area and Ships Point:

A walk along the dyke and shore- line for winter birds. Wear good footwear for mud. Meet at the Qualicum Beach Tourist Office at 9:30 or Sunny Beach Rd. in Qualicum Bay at 9:45. Bring lunch to eat on the spit. Leader: Maggie Little

Wednesday 17th February - Pacific Biological Station, Nanaimo

The Pacific Biological Station tour is from 10:00am to 12:00. There is a tea room upstairs overlooking Departure Bay where we can purchase lunch. **Meet at C&J**

at 9:00. Leader: Ed Wilson

Monday 22nd February: GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, Parksville @ 7:00 p.m.

Please respect Knox Church policy of "No perfumes or scents when participating in activities or meetings". TOPIC: A 45th year celebration of the club and look back at the club's past.

Saturday 19th March outing cancelled

☐ **Saturday 27th February - Deep Bay**

An easy birding and beach walk on a falling tide. In an area which often yields a good variety of seabirds. Hope to see some long-tail ducks! The walk is along slightly uneven terrain. Bring a bag lunch. Meet QBT, 9:30. Leader TBA.

☐ **Wednesday 9th March - Qualicum Beach Museum**

Check out the new displays and fossils with Graham Beard. **Meet at 1:00pm at the Museum** 587 Beach Rd, Qualicum Beach. Parking is available across the street at the train station. Leader David Helem

☐ **Sunday 20th March, Brant in the Bay** Join the naturalists at the eastside of Parksville Bay at the point to view the brant through birding scopes. Learn about about this amazing goose that stops here on on its migration to the artic to fatten up. Public are welcome at this free Brant event. Hours 11 - 3 pm

Monday 28th March : GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, Parksville @ 7:00 p.m.

Please respect Knox Church policy of "No perfumes or scents when participating in activities or meetings". **Graham Beard**, internationally known fossil collector, researcher and paleontology curator. He will be speaking on the Ancient Life of Vancouver Island.

Wednesday 30th March - Englishman River Regional Park

Enter the park from the Middlegate Rd. end and walk along fish channels through a mature mixed forest to the hatchery. We can also check out the clay bank which threatens Parksville's water supply. There may be some early flowers. Bring Lunch. Wear suitable clothes and shoes for mud. We will need to negotiate a slope to get to the river. Meet C&J, 9:30 Leader TBA

☐ **Sat, April 9th Tidal Pools Wall Beach and Beachcomber** Explore the tidal pools for their myriad forms of life. Low tide that day is 2:00pm. Meet at C&J for a **1:00pm** start. Leader: Gary Murdoch

Wed, April 20th Comox Bluffs, Courtenay Discover the amazing variety of plants found on the dry hillside. Spectacular views. Wear good treads, rocky. Bring lunch. Meet: QBT for 9:30 start. Leader: Pam & David Helem.

Monday April 25 : GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, Parksville @ 7:00 p.m.

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Connor Stefanison of Burnaby, BC received the Rising Star Portfolio Award for a collection of six photographs. The Photography of the Year exhibit is on at the Royal Museum until April 4th.

Sat, April 30th Harewood Plains This is a blooming splendour well worth catching. Bring Lunch. Meet: C&J 9:30 a.m. Leaders: Duncan Campbell and Lois King

Wed, May 11th Filongley Park and Boyle Point. We are hoping for lots of blooms on these Denman Island Parks and also see some lingering scoters off Filongley Park. Bring Lunch. Meet QBT **8:30 a.m.**; Sunnybeach 8:45 a.m. for 10:00 a.m. ferry. Leader: TBA

Saturday May 21 - Yellow Point Park. This mature growth park should display many and varied spring flowers but can be boggy and wet. Wear your boots. An intermediate walk. Bring lunch **Meet C&J 9:30 or N&P 10:00 Leader: TBA**

Monday May 23 : GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, Parksville @ 7:00 p.m.

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Ken Wu & TJ Watt – Ken Wu, Executive Director at Ancient Forest Alliance will be speaking on the fight for protecting Canada's remaining Pacific Old Growth Forests and specifically about the spectacular and diverse stands of ancient trees in Vancouver Island's Walbran Valley.

Wed, June 1st Summit Lake and Cameron Canyon This is a new area for the Naturalists. There should be lots of biodiversity at the top of the hump on the way to Port Alberni. Bring Lunch. Meet: QBT for a 9:30 start. Leaders: Ron and Toni for Summit Lake and David Helem for Cameron Canyon

Sat, June 11th Springwood Park, Parksville. Good birding area in this open forest area. Bring Lunch. Meet: C&J for a 9:30 start. Leader: TBA

Wed, June 22nd Trent River, Courtenay. Come and see the spring flowers and fossils. Bring Lunch. Meet QBT for a 9:30 start. Leader: Tom Constable

Monday June 27 : GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, Parksville @ 7:00 p.m.

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Ceri Peacey, Board member with Friends of French Creek Conservation Society dedicated to the conservation and restoration of the French Creek watershed will have a presentation about her work to protect the Hamilton Marsh wetland, home to an incredible diversity of life.

Saturday, September 10th - Fossli Park - Port Alberni:

We will visit the old Ford property woodlands on Sproat Lake. We will view the falls on our return along the St. Andrew Creek trail. Moderate walk with suspension bridge and a short hill. Bring lunch. Meet C&J 9:30 Leader: Maggie Little

Sunday, September 18th: 1:30 Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup at Sunnybeach Road, Qualicum Bay

This event is partnered with the Arrowsmith Naturalist Club and Nature Kids. Please bring gloves and pails will be provided for collecting. *Please note the change in venue, originally this event was going to held at French Creek.*

Wednesday, September 21st - Nile Creek:

Nice forest nature walk along a major creek located just north of Qualicum Bay. The Pinks (Salmon) should be spawning in the Creek at this time. Bring a lunch. Meet at the QBT at 9:30 a.m. Leader: Ed Wilson

Monday, September 26th : GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, Parksville @ 7:00 p.m.-

Bill Merilees. For more than 50 years, Bill has been travelling the BC Coast from Juan de Fuca to Haida Gwaii looking for clams and snails. If they can pass through a 3mm screen, they are of "special" interest. With Dr. Ian McTaggart Cowan as his mentor, Bill has discovered many new species and documented range extensions into B.C. waters of many others. Bill's topic "What the Shells Tell Us" promises to be 'light-hearted' and enjoyable for all.

Sunday, October 2nd - Cable Bay, Dodd's Narrows:

We've timed our outing to be there just before slack water in order to witness the change in current direction. The walk is about 2 km each way. Bring lunch, sit on the rocks and watch the moon at work. Meet 9:30 C & J 10 am N&P (rest stop) Leaders: Ron & Toni Wyckoff

Wednesday October 12th - Mushroom Walk: at Big Qualicum River, Meet at Qualicum Tourist Bureau at 9:30. Leader: Terry Taylor

Saturday, October 15th – Set-Up for Mushroom Festival and Mushroom ID
10am - 2pm @NIWRA
Bring your mushrooms in the morning.

Sunday, October 16th – Mushroom Festival 11 to 4 pm. at North Island Wildlife Recovery Centre, 1240 Leffler Rd, Errington BC, Parksville. shuttle parking at 15 Grafton Road, the old Errinton School. For more information, click on [Mushroom Festival](#).

Saturday, October 22nd - Christie Falls at Ladysmith

Moderate hike with some uphill from trailhead to a very beautiful falls. Carry a lunch to eat at the falls. Please wear good walking shoes with good threads and a hiking stick is advised. Aproximately 3 km each way. **Meet at Qualicum Tourist Bureau at 9:30.** Leaders: David & Pam Helem

Monday, October 26th : GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, Parksville @ 7:00 p.m.

Barb Murray, a retired educator is passionate about protecting all bears. She is the founder of "Bears Matter" created as a forum to help conserve all species of wild bear populations around the world and co-founder of Justice for BC Grizzlies. Barb's presentation is about the Justice for BC Grizzlies campaign.

√√ **Wednesday, November 2nd - Cumberland Museum, Ponds and Trails:**

Visit to Cumberland area, which includes a very interesting stop at their museum and weather permitting several short walks in their historic parks and Cumberland Community Forest. Lunch at a downtown restaurant. Some of the trails have muddy spots, wear appropriate footwear. Meet at 9:30 at QBT
Leaders: David & Pam Helem.

Saturday, November 12th - Little Qualicum Hatchery: You'll experience some late fall birding here. There should be lots of fish as well as birds and also some interesting fungi. Meet at 9:30 at QBT Bring Lunch, Leader: Dave Erickson

Saturday, November 26th – Craig Bay and Craig Creek

Easy walk along the beach, around the Craig Creek estuary and Peace Abide Park and then along the shore of Craig Bay. Good birding anticipated. If time, energy and weather permit, perhaps a quick stop at Rath Trevor Beach to view the transformation of the beach now that the seawall has been removed. Bring lunch or stop for lunch at the Black Goose Pub. Meet C&J for 9.30 start. Leaders: Chris and Dave Hutchings.

Monday, November 28th : GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, Parksville @ 7:00 p.m.

Speaker & topic: Malcolm McAdie – Wildlife Veterinarian with the Vancouver

Island Marmot Recovery Foundation will give an update on the status and recovery of the Vancouver Island Marmots.

Saturday, December 3rd - Westwood Lake:

One smallish hill and a 6 km walk round this attractive lake created about 1906. Lunch at the Blackbear Pub Meet C&J 9:30 or 10:00 N&P. Leaders: Lou & Helen Poncelet

Sunday, December 18th - Christmas Bird Count

Be part of the 117th CBC, the longest running citizen science survey in the world. Join a team in the field, usually 3-7 birders with a mix of skill levels, or count birds from home for the Feeder Count. Pot Luck Dinner immediately following the Count at St.Anne's/St.Edmund's Church Hall which always promises good food and many tall tales from the participant birders. Call Sandy at 248-5565 to help with count.