

Meetings & Outings 2017.

Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Carpool if possible. If the weather is bad, members check your emails. For more info contact on outings: David Helem (250)468-7475 or on meetings: Dave Hutchings (250) 752-1613.

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. SB = Hwy 19A North & Sunnybeach Rd.

✓ Indicates easy walking

Wednesday, January 18th – Nanaimo River Estuary
Cancelled and rescheduled on January 28th.

Monday, January 26th : GENERAL MEETING - at Parksville Community Centre, Parksville @ 7:30 p.m.

Please note the one time venue change! TOPIC: Members Night with slides and photos. Bring your pictures on a flash drive (maximum 12 pictures.)

✓ Saturday, January 28th - Nanaimo River Estuary

Birding in a prime area at a great time of year. The possibility of seeing Western meadowlarks along with many other species. Rubber boots are advisable. Restaurant: TBA, C&J 9:30, N&P 10:00. Leader: Roger Simms

Wednesday, Feb 8th, Moorecroft. Regional Park offers peace, tranquility and some of Vancouver Island's loveliest vistas. Lunch at Rocking Horse Pub. Meet at C&J 9:30
Leader: Tom Constable. *The Notch Hill cancelled due to the snow on steep trail.*

Saturday, February 18th - Neck Point, Nanaimo Little Qualicum Falls cancelled due to too much snow and the parking lot not ploughed. An interesting park with well developed trails. Bring binoculars to view the oystercatchers, turnstones, cormorants and ducks

Leaders: Toni and Ron Wyckoff. Meet at C&J 9:30

Monday, February 27th : GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, Parksville @ 7:30 p.m.

TOPIC: Daune Yochim from Qualicum Bay with the subject - Dyeing Fibre with Mushrooms.

Daune will talk about the process and show samples of colorful dyes found within the flesh of certain fungi.

Wednesday, March 1st - Geology Field Trip in Nanoose Bay (12:40pm)

Steven Earle, a geologist, will give us a very interesting tour of the interesting diverse rocks in Nanoose Bay. Recommend good treads on footwear. **C&J 12:40 pm** or **Nanoose Place 1:00 pm** (across from Red Gap Centre). Leader: David Helem. Steve's **field-trip guide** can be viewed and printed. 42 people came out!

Saturday, March 11th - Hemer Park The marsh area at Hemer Provincial Park is also a favourite destination for bird watchers and ornithologists. A viewing platform over the marsh, approximately 1 km from the parking lot, provides the opportunity to observe various types of ducks, Trumpeter swans, Bald eagles and turkey vultures, as well as beavers. C&J 9:30, N&P 10:00. Restaurant: TBA. Leader: Chris and Dave Hutchings.

Wednesday, March, 22nd - Enos Lake & Beaver Ponds. Enos Lake is home to the endangered Enos Lake Stickleback. Nearby ponds & wetlands support a wide diversity of birds & aquatic life and the rocky uplands feature Arbutus. Bring lunch. C&J 9:30. Leader: Terry and Rosemary Taylor

Monday, March 27th : GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, Parksville @ 7:30 p.m.

Speaker: Tessa Danelesko - Coordinator, B.C. Cetacean Sightings Network Cetacean Research Lab, Vancouver Aquarium.

British Columbian cetacean identification, natural history and conservation. The title of the talk will be "Wild Whales: What's in our Waters?"

Saturday, April 1st -- The Holland Creek Trail and Falls, Ladysmith:

A lovely forest walk 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. C&J: 9:30 or N&P: @10:00am Leader: Duncan Campbell and Lois King

✓ **Sunday April 2nd -- Brant in the Bay**

Join the naturalists on the east side 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 Arctic to fatten up. Public are welcome at this free Brant event. Hours 11 - 3 pm. Please visit the **Brant Festival Website** for all the events.

✓ **Wednesday, April 19th -- St. Peter's Churchyard and Mt Tzouhalem-** (Postponed from April 12th)

Easy to moderate walk to enjoy spring flowers, including fawn lilies. We will first go to Mount Tzouhalem to see the eco-reserve and later we'll do the easy to moderate walk to enjoy spring flowers, e.g. fawn lilies, in St. Peter's Churchyard. Meet at C&J: 9:30 am , N&P: 10 am. Bring lunch. Leader: Dave Hutchings

✓ **Sunday, April 23th -- Hamilton Marsh -**

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. Bring your friends and family to explore this amazing marsh in Qualicum Beach and learn about the interesting plants and wildlife with Friends of French Creek. Our club acts as tour guides for groups of children and parents from the parking lot to the Marsh, where there will be opportunities to experience and learn about pond critters. Also a display table will be in the parking lot with information about the Marsh, the Young Naturalists and Arrowsmith Naturalist club. By donation. 10 am to 2 pm. To get there, drive south from Qualicum Beach on Hwy. 4 to Hilliers Rd and turn right. Drive 1.4 km. to the second parking lot on the left.

Monday, April 24th : GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, Parksville @ 7:30 p.m.

Speaker: Paul Manly researcher, filmmaker and communications specialist has produces films that educate, inform and adds to public dialogue on issues of importance. (possible topic: local rivers)

Wednesday, May 3th -- Hornby Island

An easy walk along the bluffs at Helliwell, Park, spectacular ocean views, spring flowers. Bring lunch. Meet **QBT 8:30 a.m** for 10:00 a.m. ferry. Will be visiting the tide pools - bring wellies. Leader: Duncan Campbell and Lois King

Saturday, May 13th -- Oyster River Pub to Pub Walk, North of Courtenay

Amble along the sandy dunes and marshes and take in the wide variety of flowers, birds and butterflies. Easy 6 km loop walk. Salmon Point Pub lunch half way. Bring cameras. Meet QBT 9:30. Leader: Maggie Little

Monday, May 22nd : GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, Parksville @ 7:30 p.m.

Speaker & topic: —Dr. Sarah Dudas is Canada Research Chair at the Shellfish Ecosystems Interactions Research program at Vancouver Island University. Dr. Dudas will be speaking about Microplastics in the environment and its impacts on marine food chains and implications for the Salish Sea.

Wednesday, May 24th -- Piper's Lagoon, Nanaimo

Come out to participate in seaside birding and Garry Oak meadow wildflower identification. Moderate walking with some rise Meet at Craig & Jenson in PV at 9:30 or Northfield at 10:00 a.m. Bring a bag lunch for a picnic. Leader: Terry Taylor

Saturday, May 27th at 12:00 pm -- Fish traps and intertidal zone near Deep Bay

We have Ian Birtwell, a biologist, give us tour intertidal zone where Qualicum First Nations trap fish over hundred years ago. Recommended to use a hiking stick on steep trail to beach. We will be puddling through shallow water so maybe bring a change of dry shoes. One foot low tide is at 1:30 pm. **Meet at 12:30 noon at QBT** Leader: Maggie Little.

Saturday, June 3rd -- Rogers Creek, Alberni Valley

This is a lovely walk of easy to moderate difficulty through riverside woods near Port Alberni. Bring lunch and sturdy footwear. Bring lunch. Meet at the QBT 9:30 am. Leader: Toni & Ron Wyckoff

Wednesday, June 14th -- Springwood Park, Parksville

Good birding area; centrally situated. Bring lunch. Meet: C&J for a 9:30 start. Leaders: Dave Erickson and Catherine Watson.

Saturday, June 24th - Stamp River, Alberni Valley **Canceled**

A beautiful walk along the river through an old growth forest in a remote corner of this park. Fortunately this end of the park was never logged and has some big trees left for us to admire. Also, quick visit to falls and fish ladder to see the migrating salmon.

Sunday, June 25th - Deep Bay Tidal Pools

Ross Peterson is looking to lead another group to the Deep Bay Tide Pools on Sunday June 25th as there is a low tide that day at 12:15 pm. First gathering should be at **QBT @ 11:30** am. to carpool and again to coordinate in Bowser. Leader: Lynne Brooks.

Monday, June 26th : GENERAL MEETING - at Knox United Church, 345 Pym, Parksville @ 7:30 p.m.

Speaker & topic: Don Hare, the new Executive Director with the Coastal Invasive Species Committee. Don will speak on What are Invasive Species and Why you Should Care? Don's presentation will address priority invasive species in Parksville & Qualicum Beach area and what is being done on a local, provincial & provincial level.

Saturday, July 15th -- Paradise Meadows & Battleship Lake: A lovely walk through mountain meadows to see the flowers and then lunch at an alpine lake. Battleship Lake return is about 6 km. Bring lunch, wear sturdy footwear and dress with layers - just in case of a change in the weather. Meet at the QBT 9:30 am or at the Horne Lake Rd and Hwy 19 intersection (Exit 75) at 9:50. Leaders: Frank and Brenda Van Manen.

Monday, July 24th -- Club Picnic @ Rath Trevor, picnic area #1 @ - 4:00 p.m. Come out for the Arrowsmith Naturalists Annual club picnic. Bring folding chair, plate, utensils, BYO coffee/tea, jacket, etc. according to weather and a potluck dish to share. Also, please bring a 'nature' related item(s) for the raffle. Please see the **map** for location of cooking shelter nearest gatehouse. Park at the north-end of parking lot # 1 and walk through the old growth trees to the cooking shelter.

Wednesday, September 6th -- Mid-Island Wildlife Recovery Centre - Join Dave Erickson as he leads us for a tour through the Recovery Centre explaining the history and services provided here. Meet C&J 9:30am. Leader: Dave Erickson.

Saturday, September 16th -- Newcastle Island -- *"If you heard Bill Merilees presentation at the general meeting you won't want to miss this. Bill has agreed to guide us in person around this historic and beautiful place."* May involve a fair amount of walking. Bring lunch and meet C&J 9:30 am, or Maffeo Sutton Park ferry Terminal 10:30 am Leaders: Toni & Ron Wyckoff.

September 25th, 2017-General Meeting 7:30pm - Speaker: Ross Peterson

Speciesism is the assumption of human superiority leading to the exploitation of animals. It involves the assignment of different values, rights, or special consideration to

individuals solely on the basis of their species membership.

Wednesday, September 27th -- Somass Estuary / Port Alberni Lagoon - This conservation property is located on the site of the earliest pioneer farm in the valley (1850s). A gentle walk of under 2 km that will include birding at the sewage treatment plant. Bring suitable clothing and bag lunch or depending on weather - lunch in Port Alberni, at "Bare Bones" or if you prefer, bring picnic lunch. Meet: QBT 9:30 or at the Port Alberni Visitor Centre at 10 am.. Leaders: Margaret & Martin Hill.

Saturday, October 7th -- Thames Creek Trail - Mushroom walk - mushrooms, mosses, lichens. Join Terry Taylor in one of his usual fall mushroom walks. This is a new site for the Club's "Outing's List". Meet QBT 9:30 am. Bring Lunch. Leader: Terry Taylor.

Sunday, October 15, 2017 - ANats/NIWRA Mushroom Festival 11 am to 4 pm at North Island Wildlife Recovery Association, 1240 Leffler Rd. , Errington.
Admission by suggested donation of \$5, children 12 & under free.

Wednesday October 18th -- Rosewall Creek - south of Fanny Bay: **Canceled** Join us for a moderate walk up this picturesque creek to a falls. No paddle needed! Carry a lunch to eat at the falls. Meet at QTB 9:30. Leader: Catherine Watson.

October 23rd, 2017-- General Meeting, 730pm, Speakers: Terry & Rosemary Taylor

Terry ANats members Terry & Rosemary will be providing Paleontology presentation.

Saturday, October 28th -- Morrell Sanctuary, Nanaimo - A walk along some of the 11 km of trails in a protected 2nd growth rain shadow forest, which is important for the very large number of native plants that thrive here. It is also a notable birding area. Lunch: Jingle Pot Pub; Meet: C&J 9:30 or N&P 10am. Leaders: David & Pam Helem.

Wednesday, November 8th -- Qualicum Beach Museum - Special showing of the Museum's fossil collection with expert, Graham Beard. Meet at the **Museum at 1pm**. Parking at the Qualicum Beach Train Station. If weather permits afterwards, we can take a walk along trails in Heritage Forest with Terry Taylor. Leaders: Rosemary Taylor & David Helem.

Saturday, November 18th -- Courtenay Airport & River Walk - Easy, wheelchair accessible. Always enjoyable and generally good winter birding. Approx 1 km. Lunch at a Courtenay Restaurant. Meet QTB 9:30. Leader: Roger Taylor.

November 27th, 2017 - General Meeting, 730pm, Speakers: Ken Marr-

Curator of botany (since 2001 Royal BC Museum. Dr. Marr's interest is in the classification, biogeography and conservation of terrestrial vascular plants-in particular the alpine flora of northern BC. (presentation subject TBA)

Wednesday, November 29th -- (weather permitting) -- Riefel Bird Sanctuary, Delta --

NOTE - Date to be confirmed by e-mail to members. 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 to walk. Bring lunch. **Meet C&J 6:30 am**, depart C&J at 6:45 am for the 7:45 am Duke Point ferry and return 3:15 pm from Tsawwassen. Please confirm with leader: Dave Erickson.

Saturday, December 9th -- 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: Maggie Little.

Sunday, December 17th -- Christmas Bird Count -- Be part of the 118th 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.