

Meetings and outings 2018

- ✓ **Saturday, January 13 – Buttertubs Marsh, Nanaimo** – This is one of our most productive birding areas; the marsh is an easy morning's walk (2 km loop). Bill Merilees will be available to lead this. Lunch at the Black Bear Pub. Meet C&J 9:30
Leader: Roger Sims & Bill Merilees
- ✓ **Wednesday, January 24 – Cathedral Grove & 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. Bring lunch. Meet QBT 9:30. Leaders: Toni and Ron Wychoff
- **January 22, 2018 –General Meeting 7:30pm :- Member's Night.** Members are encouraged to share their nature photos with the group at this meeting. Up to 12 photos may be submitted. Please bring them on a USB stick to the meeting and be prepared to give a brief explanation of each photo!
- ✓ **Saturday, February 3 – Fanny Bay Conservation Area & Ships Point** – A walk along the dyke and shore- line for winter birds. Wear good footwear for mud. Meet at the QBT 9:30 or SB 9:45. Bring lunch to eat on the spit. Leader: Maggie Little
- ✓ **Wednesday February 14 – Courtenay & District Museum & Palaeontology Centre** – Join us for a self-guided tour of this fine museum and palaeontology display. Entry is by donation. Bring lunch or join the group for lunch at Kingfishers. Meet QBT 9:30 am. Leaders: Teri Hitch & Claire Summers
- **Monday, February 26 – General Meeting 7:30pm :- Member's Night part 2.** Members are encouraged to share their nature photos with the group at this meeting. Up to 12 photos may be submitted. Please bring them on a USB stick to the meeting and be prepared to give a brief explanation of each photo! There was not enough time for members to see the work of very talented photographers in our Club.
- ✓ **Saturday, March 3 – Deep Bay** – Birding – An easy birding and beach walk. In an area which often yields a good variety of seabirds. Hope to see some long-tail ducks! Lunch will be in the Deep Bay Restaurant. Please e-mail Roger Simms to reserve for lunch. (rogermsimms@gmail.com)
- **Wednesday, March 7 – Jack Point & Bigg's Park** – Good mixed birding in surrounding estuary, ocean and forest. Bring lunch. Wear good footwear. Meet C&J 9:30 or N&P 10:00. Leaders: Toni & Ron Wyckoff
- **Saturday, March 17 – 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 down to the river. Meet C&J, 9:30 Leaders: Judy & Mark Mazurski
- ✓ **Sunday, March 25 – Brant in the Bay** -Join the naturalists on 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 arctic to fatten

up. Public are welcome at this free Brant event. Hours 10 – 2 pm

Monday, March 26 – General Meeting 7:30pm – Catherine Conservancy Hornby Island Topic: Marine Conservation Initiative. Clean Marine BC Coordinator Topic: Southern Resident Orcas

- **Tuesday, March 27–Englishman River Estuary/San Paniel–Birding Walk** – Arrowsmith Naturalists ‘Birders’ will lead families/individuals to see birds and explain ‘Birding Techniques’. Meet :Plummer Rd Trail Head. Directions: Island Hwy (19A) to Plummer Rd, south side of Orange Bridge. Travel approx. 1 km on Plummer Rd along the Englishman River past Shorewood Dr. Meet at Trail Head on left 9:00am (\$1 fee for general public).
- **Wednesday, March 28 – Filongley Park & Boyle Point, Denman Island:** We are hoping for lots of blooms on these Denman Island Parks and also see some lingering scoters or loons off Filongley Park. Bring Lunch. **Meet QBT 8:30 a.m;** for 10:00 a.m. ferry. Leader: David Helem
- **Friday, March 30 – Rathrevor Provincial Park Beach–Birding Walk** – Arrowsmith Naturalists ‘Birders’ will lead families/individuals to see birds and explain ‘Birding Techniques’. Meet Main Parking Lot, Rathrevor Provincial Park, 9:00am Leader: Sandra Gray (\$1 fee for general public).**Saturday, April 7 – Little Qualicum Falls Park** – A beautiful location where the lighting can be spectacular. The flow over the falls should be heavy at this time of year. Proper boots are advisable but the steep sections can all be avoided. Bring lunch. *Cancelled due to wet weather.*
- **Wednesday, April 18 — 10 AM Englishman River & Morrison Creek Outing** – A woods walk along the river so be prepared for roots, rocks, mud and 2 bridges to negotiate, also several short steep hills, so poles would help. Approx. 3 hrs bring a camera, lunch and sit-upon to enjoy the beautiful river. Sorry folks for the short notice, but the FAWN LILIES bloom on their own schedule. Meet @ Craig & Jenson or the end of Middlegate Rd @ 10:15 setting. Leaders- Toni & Ron Wyckoff

Saturday, April 21 Mack Laing Nature Park, Comox Discover the amazing variety of flowers and plants in this park, near the town centre. Bring lunch. If weather is wet, the Black Fin Pub is an option. Meet: QBT for 9:30 start. *Change in plans: no flowers scheduled this month at Comox Bluffs.* Leaders: David & Pam Helem

Monday, April 23 – General Meeting 7:30pm – Peter deKoning, Professional Registered Biologist . West Coast Conservation Land Management Program. Peter will recap the work.

- **Saturday, April 28th: 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 to guide 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, go 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.

- **Wednesday, May 2 – Harewood Plain, Nanaimo** – This is a wildflower splendour well worth catching. Bring lunch. Meet: C&J 9:30 am; N&P 10:00 am. Leader: Kent Anders

Wednesday May 9 – Honeymoon Bay Eco Reserve, Skuz Falls – Anticipating spring lilies in bloom and more. We are most fortunate to have Genevieve Singleton to lead us and share her knowledge in this lovely area. Lunch: pack lunch. Meet: C&J 9:00 a.m.; N&P asap; Hwy 18 turnoff to Cowichan Lake asap (shortly after 10:00 a.m.) Leaders: Frank & Brenda Van Manen

Saturday, May 12 – NALT – Nature’s Abundance Native Plant Nursery – Tour include beaver pond, house & property where the owners are still living, a short but lovely trail and what remains of the once prosperous asparagus fields; an explanation and history of, and a view of trees of Canada/USA, the propagation shed; office & the history of the lands etc, how the trust operates, all the volunteers involved, directorate, the City of Nanaimo. Get your ideas here for gardening with native plants as well as seeing a display of native shrubs and trees. Outing time to coincide with Nursery’s 11:00am Opening time. Meet C&J 10:00am; 10:30am N&P. Leader: Judy Mazurski

Wednesday, May 16 – Beachcomber Park & Wall Beach: Tide Pool Tour – We are timing this Outing to co-coincide with the low tide – just after 1:00 pm for maximum sightings of pool critters. Eagle chicks may be in the nest at Beachcomber. Have an early lunch or bring lunch or we could go to the Rocking Horse Pub afterwards. **Meet C&J 10:30 am.** Leaders: Gary & Rhonda Murdock

Saturday May 26 – 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: Pam & David Helem

Monday, May 28 – General Meeting 7:30pm – Michelle Young, Georgia Strait Alliance CPA, CA Clean Marine BC Coordinator Topic: Southern Resident Orca’s.

Wednesday, June 6 – Summit Lake – 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: Toni and Ron Wyckoff

Saturday, June 16 – Rosewall Creek, south of Fanny Bay: 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 Qualicum Tourist Bureau at 9:30. Leader: Tom Constable

Monday, June 25 – General Meeting 7:30pm – Dave Manning, Pender Island
“*The Old Man and the Vultures*,” a book based on Dave Manning’s experiences with vultures.

Tuesday, July 24 – 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 for the raffle. Please see map for location of cooking shelter nearest gatehouse. Park in the north-end of parking lot # 1 and walk through the old growth trees to the cooking shelter.

Wednesday, August 1 – Hornby Island – Fossil Search with Graham Beard
Participants need to be able to walk over rough rocky beaches-not great big boulders, just not smooth and sandy when the tide’s out. Wear wellies or other waterproof footwear with fairly high cuffs to cope with wet beaches. Bring binoculars/cameras/lunch/sunscreen/rain gear etc.-whatever appropriate at the time. If anyone has a geology hammer they’re welcome to bring it with protective glasses. Graham mentioned that he’d bring a few extra hammers for anyone who’d like to try their hand at cracking open concretions which may or may not have fossils inside. He will be happy to show everyone how it’s done. People can participate and be a rock hound or simply watch and learn as Graham tells us all about the game. Pack lunch. All day event. Meet QBT: 8:00am for the 9:00am Ferry from Buckley Bay. Leaders: Terry & Rosemary Taylor

Wednesday, Aug 22 - Trent River, Courtenay. A walk up the river to see the fossils. Bring Lunch. Meet QBT for a 9:30 start. Leader: Tom Constable

Saturday, September 8 – Fossli Park, Port Alberni: We will visit the beautiful 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: David & Pam Helem

Wednesday, September 19 – Gabriola Island - Explore the famed Malaspina Galleries, shorelines and Parks. **Meet at C&J for 8:00 am start to catch the 9:30 ferry from downtown Nanaimo.** Bring Lunch. Car Pool. Ferry cost for car and passenger fare. Leader: Jim Goodwin

Monday, September 24– General Meeting 7:30pm – Dr. Ken Marr Curator of Botany Royal BC Museum Topic: New plant discoveries from northern BC Alpine.

Saturday, September 29 – Cable Bay, Dodd's Narrows, Cedar: We will try to time 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) Leader: TBD

Wednesday October 10 – Thames Creek– Mushroom Hike – Join Terry Taylor on the great mushroom hunt prior to the Annual Errington Mushroom Show. Pack lunch. All day hike; medium difficulty. Meet QBT 9:30 am. Leaders: Terry Taylor

Sunday, October 14 – ANats/NIWRA Mushroom Festival 11 am to 4 pm at North Island Wildlife Recovery Association, 1240 Leffler Rd. , Errington. Open to the public. Admission by suggested donation of \$5, children 12 & under free.

Saturday, October 20 – Nymph Falls Provincial Park - Nymph Falls Nature Park protects 61 hectares (151 acres) of second-growth forest located on the north side of the Puntledge River. The river and falls rage over series of exposed bedrock ledges, from fall to spring. Mushrooms should still present a decent display. Pack Lunch. Meet: QBT 9:30 am. Leaders: Toni & Ron Wyckoff

Monday, October 22 - General Meeting -John MacFarlane Go on a Naturalist Field Trip Without Leaving the Room: Exploring Nature with a Microscope.

Wednesday, October 31 – Heritage Forest & Grandon Creek – Explore the unique flora and fauna of the Heritage Forest. After lunch we can shift to Grandon Creek and follow the Trail down to the new viewing platform at the new Sea Side Nature Park. Wear proper footwear. Prepare for a long walk – especially after lunch – some steep areas along Grandon Creek. Meet QBT – 9:30 am. Leaders: Lynne Brookes

Saturday, November 10 – Westwood Lake: One smallish hill and a 6 km walk round this attractive lake created about 1906. Lunch at the Jingle Pot Pub. Meet C&J 9:30 or 10:00 N&P. Leaders: Sue Wilson

Wednesday, November 21 – Pacific Biological Station, Nanaimo (penciled in with Trish McLeod 250.756.7169 About 10:30 am (McLeod@df-mpo.gc.ca)) (This Outing to be confirmed with PBS prior to Nov. 1st) Leaders: Teri Hitch

Monday, October 22 - General Meeting - TBD

Saturday, December 1 - Pheasant Glen GC/Landfill Trail: Extensive easy hiking forested trail network at the south end of Qualicum Rd, Qualicum Beach. Meet QBT @ 9:30am. Leaders: TBD

Wednesday, December 12 Hemer Park: A forest walk to round out a great year. In the Cedar District, south of Nanaimo with good trails around by Holden Lake. Some waterfowl will probably be seen on one of the lakes. Meet C&J 9:30, N&P 10 am. Bring lunch. Leaders TBD

Sunday Dec 16 - Christmas Bird Count Be part of the 119th 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 the count.