



# Vancouver Naturalist



*Red-tailed Hawk / Photo by Tony Tong*

**Newsletter of Nature Vancouver**

**September 2010   Volume 12   Issue 3**



# Nature Vancouver

Nature Vancouver was founded as the Vancouver Natural History Society in 1918 by Professor John Davidson with the following objectives:

- To promote the enjoyment of nature
- To foster public interest and education in the appreciation and study of nature
- To encourage the wise use and conservation of natural resources
- To work for the complete protection of endangered species and ecosystems
- To promote access to, and maintenance of, natural areas in the vicinity of Vancouver.



## Vancouver Naturalist

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### Nature Vancouver

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# Society News and Information

## From the Board

by Margaret Coutts, President

The following topics have been ongoing items on the agenda of recent Board meetings.

One topic is that of field trips. The Release of Liability form is being revised again. As well, a more detailed description of field trips is being provided so that participants can be more knowledgeable about the difficulty level of the trip before signing the waiver form.

Another topic is that of finding ways to promote Nature Vancouver's visibility in the region and increase membership. Our Outreach now will include a display in Mountain Equipment Co-op on Broadway during the month of October. As well, we will be advertising our Evening Programs in a variety of media and at branches of the Vancouver Public Library.

Several suggestions have been put forward as to ways in which we can increase members' participation in activities. For example, more field trips have been proposed. To accomplish this, we would need more, and some younger, field trip leaders. We would look to current leaders being mentors for younger recruits. Another idea is to have an annual social evening similar to the one we had at UBC for our 90th Anniversary celebration. If any member has other suggestions, I certainly hope that you will contact me.

We regret that Juliet Pendray has stepped down as the Chair of Conservation Section. Juliet has made valuable contributions to the Section for a number of years, and will be missed.

While on the topic of the Conservation Section, we would welcome the participation of more members. We have a number of issues that we are following, e.g. the Lulu Island Wetlands, the Hastings Park / PNE Master Plan, oil tankers in Burrard Inlet, etc. If you have concerns about a particular area / issue, or would just like to help, please attend Conservation Section meetings. More information is on page 7.

I trust that you all had a good summer of outings, and look forward to meeting with you at our Fall events.

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## Discovery

*Discovery* is an annual journal of natural history published by Nature Vancouver as a service to its members. Non-members may also subscribe. Co-ordinating Editor, Jeremy McCall, [jpmccall@telus.net](mailto:jpmccall@telus.net) or 604-876-7694. Book Review Editor, Christine Adkins, [adkins@zoology.ubc.ca](mailto:adkins@zoology.ubc.ca) or 604-731-6377.

## Archives

Nature Vancouver archives are maintained at Vancouver City Archives by Mike McNulty. For more information, please contact Mike at [mj.mcnulty@gmail.com](mailto:mj.mcnulty@gmail.com) or 778-235-1303.

## Reference Binder

Up-to-date information about past and present activities, by-laws, procedures and policies of Nature Vancouver is compiled in a reference binder. Volunteers can obtain a copy from John Rawsthorne at [john\\_rawsthorne@telus.net](mailto:john_rawsthorne@telus.net) or 604-922-3585.

## Summer Camp

Annual Summer Camp is organised by a committee chaired by Don Griffiths. For more information please contact Don at [nangregory@shaw.ca](mailto:nangregory@shaw.ca) or 604-228-1450.

## Nature Vancouver Scholarship

Every year a scholarship of \$500 is awarded to a student registered in an institute of higher learning in BC. More details available on the website or from the Finance Committee Chair.

## Finance Committee

Chair: Bob Dyer [bob\\_dyer@telus.net](mailto:bob_dyer@telus.net) 604-922-9798.

## Membership Committee

Chair: Jeremy McCall [jpmccall@telus.net](mailto:jpmccall@telus.net) 604-876-7694.  
Secretary: Sandra Booth [boothsj@shaw.ca](mailto:boothsj@shaw.ca) 604-926-6914.

## Nature Tours

Occasionally, nature tours to areas farther afield are organised by Nature Vancouver. Please contact Adrian Grant Duff at [angrantduff@gmail.com](mailto:angrantduff@gmail.com) or 604-263-7957.

## Nature Vancouver Photo Competition

This annual competition is held in March. Members are eligible to enter digital photos in five different categories. Photos by Young Naturalists are eligible as a separate category. Send your photos to Ron Long at [rlphoto@shaw.ca](mailto:rlphoto@shaw.ca) or 604-469-1651 between Jan 1 and Feb 28.

## Weekly E-mail Bulletins

To receive weekly news and updates about programs and field trips, please contact Kelly Sekhon at [info@naturevancouver.ca](mailto:info@naturevancouver.ca).

## Volunteers

All programs, field trips and other activities of Nature Vancouver are made possible by a dedicated group of volunteers. New members are always welcome to contribute their time and expertise. To find out more about how you can help please contact Margaret Coutts at [margaretcoutts@shaw.ca](mailto:margaretcoutts@shaw.ca) or 604-512-1413.

# Membership News

By Jeremy McCall, Membership Chair

Nature Vancouver has a new Membership Secretary. Sandra Booth has kindly agreed to take on this demanding role. She can be reached at boothsj@shaw.ca or 604-926-6914. If by any chance Sandra should be out of town I would be happy to field questions about specific memberships as usual.

At our evening meetings we have membership representatives: Muren Schachter (Birding), Wally Kiel (Botany), Sheila Byers (Marine Biology) and Janice Wilson (General Evening Programs). Renewing your membership at our meetings is economical and efficient; it also pre-empts reminder e-mails and letters. The membership representatives can also provide you with the latest copy of *Vancouver Naturalist* or *Discovery*, if you did not receive your copy in the mail.

For some time now members joining or renewing have been given the opportunity to opt out of receiving a hard copy of *Vancouver Naturalist*. The membership data base has recently been modified to record this option. Beginning with the December issue of the newsletter, those who have opted out will not receive a hard copy but will instead be advised when the issue has been posted on the website and receive instructions on how to download it. This option will be extended to the BC Nature newsletter in the near future.

## Welcome New Members

by Sandra Booth, Membership Secretary

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members who have joined Nature Vancouver since May 2010:

Carol MacMillan, Elena Klein, D. Reeser, Kirsten Richter, Caroline M. Johnson, Marion Shikaze, Joseph Hind & Betty Drury, Rob Leeson, Patricia Lynn, Duane Sept, Bea Ingram, Kyla Hunter, Rodney Gray, Kim Stoller, Dr. Anne Adkins, Rosanna Wong, Eric Watts.



All illustrations in this issue are by Jenny Hards. Thank you Jenny! Other members are welcome to contribute similar art work for future issues of the newsletter.

# Nature Vancouver Evening Programs

**Chair:** Jude Grass judegrass@shaw.ca 604-538-8774

*The General Evening Programs of Nature Vancouver are held from January through April and September through November on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the **Unity Church, 5840 Oak Street, Vancouver.** These programs are open to the public and members are encouraged to invite their friends. For more information and suggestions for future programs please contact Jude Grass.*

*Thursday, September 23*  
**An Introduction to the Beaty Museum**  
*Wayne Maddison*

UBC's rich biological collections are housed in the Beaty Biodiversity Museum, a new public museum dedicated to enhancing the public's understanding and appreciation of biodiversity, and making the research conducted by the scientists of UBC's Biodiversity Research Centre more accessible to the public. Director of Museum Staff, Wayne Maddison will introduce us to the new Museum.

*Thursday, October 28*  
**Wolf Eels and Rock Fish and More....**  
*Jeff Marliave*

Dr. Jeff Marliave is a marine biologist specializing in early life history studies. His degrees are from the University of Washington (BSc Fisheries, 1970) and the University of British Columbia (PhD Zoology, 1975). Dr. Marliave's career has been at the Vancouver Aquarium, initially as Resident Scientist, and progressing to become Senior Scientist, Director of Conservation and Research, Director of Operations and Vice President Marine Science. He has produced over seventy scientific and technical publications, and has reared 55 marine fish and 15 crustacean species from hatching to juvenile stages. His talk will be about his research on wolf eels and rockfish.

*Thursday, November 25*  
**Thinking Big About Ecosystems, Evolution and Life**  
*John and Mary Theberge*

The "mystery of mysteries" is how life has managed to persist, despite repeated global catastrophes, for almost four billion years on such a restless and changeable planet, resulting – today – in the richest diversity of all. The secrets of success lie in organization. In this illustrated talk, John and Mary Theberge take us on a journey of discovery to the wild places where they have studied wildlife. Using the rapidly expanding knowledge about the natural world, they extract meaning from the Wood Duck's plumage, and the ways Labrador caribou illustrate the principles of population regulation, and the significance of *the ptarmigan's dilemma* – which is the title of their newest book.

Wildlife ecologists John and Mary Theberge are internationally known for their research into the ecology of wolves and their prey. They are known across Canada for their work in parks and wildlife conservation. They are authors of several books including *Wolves and Wilderness*, *Kluane: Pinnacle of the Yukon*, *Legacy: A Natural History of Ontario*, and *Wolf Country: Eleven Years Tracking Algonquin Wolves*. They currently live in the southern interior of British Columbia.

# Nature Vancouver Birding Section

**Chair:** Jude Grass judegrass@shaw.ca 604-538-8774

**Committee Members:**

Martin McNicholl sterna@shaw.ca 604-294-2072

Adrian Grant Duff angrantduff@gmail.com 604-263-7957

Wayne Weber contopus@telus.net 604-597-7201

June Ryder jmryder@telus.net 604-736-4189



## Wandering Tattler

The newsletter of the Birding Section, *Wandering Tattler*, includes articles on almost all aspects of birding: behaviour, optics, field trips, humorous anecdotes, site guides and much, much more!

The *Wandering Tattler* runs from September through April and is available at Birders' Night for \$1.50 or by mail subscription for \$20. To subscribe or to submit an article, please contact Editor, Jude Grass at judegrass@shaw.ca or 604-538-8774.



## Bird Checklists

**Vancouver Area Bird Checklists are available from:**

- Wild Birds Unlimited, 1302 West Broadway, Vancouver and 1190 Marine Drive, North Vancouver
- Reifel Bird Sanctuary giftshop
- Birders' Nights
- [http://www.naturevancouver.ca/Main\\_Birding](http://www.naturevancouver.ca/Main_Birding)



## Vancouver Area Rare Bird Alert 604-737-3074

Observations can be reported on the alert line or on the Nature Vancouver website at:

<http://www.naturevancouver.ca/node/add/rare-bird-form>

The Rare Bird Alert is operated by volunteers from the Birding Section and is sponsored in part by Wild Birds Unlimited.



## Birding Section Committee Election

The annual election of the Birding Section Committee will be held at October Birders' Night. If you are interested in joining the committee please contact Peter Candido, who is the election chair, at pcandido328@shaw.ca or 604-736-3652

## Birders' Nights

*Birders' Nights are held on the first Thursday of each month from September to May at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall of St. Mary (Kerrisdale) Anglican Church, 2490 West 37th Avenue (at Larch Street), Vancouver. The programs start with introductions and items of general interest. The main presentation begins after a short break for light refreshments. These programs are open to the public and members are encouraged to invite their friends. For more information and suggestions for future programs please contact the Program Coordinator, Jude Grass.*

*Thursday, September 2*

### **Birding in Saint Lucia**

*Jo Ann MacKenzie*

Saint Lucia is a Caribbean island in the Lesser Antilles. The island is one of the Caribbean's cruise ship destinations, but cruise passengers see little of it other than Castries, the capital city and main port. Consequently, most people are unaware of the island's birding potential. There is also the conservation success story of how the beautiful St. Lucia Parrot, the National Bird, was saved from extinction. St. Lucia offers birders much more than sun, sand, and sea.

*Thursday, October 7*

### **Delta Farmland and Wildlife Trust**

*David Bradbeer*

The Delta Farmland and Wildlife Trust recently received a grant from the Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk and will be underwriting a project to create farm fields as winter and potential breeding habitats for Barn Owls and Short-eared Owls and winter foraging grounds for Great Blue Heron. In addition David will talk about other key project and activities of the DFWT.

*Thursday, November 4*

### **Marbled Murrelets of the Caren Range**

*Paul H. Jones*

Paul came to Canada from India where he spent his first eighteen years. His ornithologist father, A. E. Jones, taught him how to make museum specimens of birds and find the nests of rare birds. After retiring as a forest economist, Paul devoted all his time to finding the nest of the Marbled Murrelet. With three others he found the first active nest in Canada in August 1993. On his own he found a second nest in 1997. His book *The Marbled Murrelets of the Caren Range and Middlepoint Bight* tells us of the quest and of the extraordinary breeding habits of this mysterious seabird. He has now put together a visual presentation of the best images coming out of the twelve years he spent studying the Marbled Murrelet.

*Thursday, December 2*

### **Christmas Bird Counts**

A great time to learn about and sign up for the Vancouver CBC on December 19, the Ladner CBC on December 27 and the White Rock, Surrey and Langley CBC on January 2. In addition birding identification tips will be shared by our experienced birders.

# Nature Vancouver Marine Biology Section

**Chair:** Joan Lopez joan.lopez@live.com 604-682-1617

*The Marine Biology Section evening programs are held from January through April and September through December, on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Unity Church 5840 Oak St., Vancouver. These programs are open to the public, and members are encouraged to invite their friends. For more information and suggestions for future programs, please contact Joan Lopez.*

*Thursday, September 9*  
**Coastal Fishes of the Pacific Northwest**  
*Andy Lamb*

While the fish are essentially unchanged since *Coastal Fishes of the Pacific Northwest* first appeared in 1986, our many relationships with them have drastically altered. The new and revised, 21st century version of this popular field guide addresses conservation issues that have surfaced in the interim. Andy has been a certified scuba diver since 1967. He is the co-author of 3 books and author of multiple articles. He will share his dive stories and relate his concerns for the uncertain future facing many of our coastal fishes. Andy's two recent books will be available for purchase at the meeting.

*Thursday, October 14*  
**Aquatic Conservation in Brazil  
From Blackwater to Belo Horizonte**  
*Jen Reynolds*

Jen Reynolds, Senior Aquarium Biologist at the Vancouver Aquarium, travelled to Brazil to learn more about aquatic conservation in the region. An exploratory journey up the Rio Negro in the heart of the Amazon rainforest revealed the incredible aquatic biodiversity in South American rivers, while a visit to the busy city of Belo Horizonte in South Eastern Brazil shed light on some of the conservation issues in the region. Jen's talk will introduce you to some of the incredible fishes that call Brazil home and will focus on what Brazilians are doing to protect their natural resources - and what we can do at home to help.

*Thursday, November 11*  
**Ocean Wise Seafood**  
*Mike McDermid*

Seafood is enjoyed by many of us, in restaurants and in our homes, however, selecting the best choices for sustainability and responsible harvesting can be a challenge. The Ocean Wise program, administered by the Vancouver Aquarium, can assist you in making the best choices. Mike McDermid will discuss different fishing methods, and explain why some species receive the Ocean Wise stamp, while others fail to make the grade. Mike is the Program Manager of Ocean Wise and he is passionate about his job. Join us to learn more about this important conservation endeavour.



# Nature Vancouver Botany Section

**Chair:** David Cook cookeco2@yahoo.com 604-924-0147

*Botany Nights are held from January through April and September through November on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Unity Church, 5840 Oak St., Vancouver. These programs are open to the public, and members are encouraged to invite their friends. For more information and suggestions for future programs please contact David Cook.*

*Thursday, September 16*  
**Cypress through the Seasons**

*Katharine Steig, Rosemary Taylor and Terry Taylor*  
Join Katharine Steig and the Taylors for a photographic tour of Cypress Provincial Park's rich natural history through the seasons. The Cypress people are returning after a three-year absence with a new and equally entertaining photographic cornucopia of what this mountain park has to offer the naturalist.

*Thursday, October 21*  
**The Vegetation and Flora of Mount Kinabalu, Sabah**  
*Dr Keith Wade*

An illustrated lecture on the vegetation, altitudinal zonation and the extraordinary species-diverse flora of Mount Kinabalu, the highest peak between the Himalayas and the island of New Guinea. This magnificent peak is a botanical crossroads, where plant families of Asian and Australian origins combine in spectacular diversity. The flora of the Genting Highlands and Taman Negara in peninsular Malaysia will be touched on for some comparisons.

Keith taught biology, botany and biogeography at Capilano University for 39 years. He received his education from UBC and the Australian National University in Canberra. He is well known as a natural history lecturer and international tour leader.

*Thursday, November 18*  
**Wind as a Natural Disturbance Agent in Coastal BC Forests**  
*Dr. Stephen Mitchell*

The December 2006 windstorm that damaged Stanley Park was a surprise to many Lower Mainland residents, but was in fact a typical event in the life of a coastal BC rainforest. Wind is a significant natural disturbance agent in Coastal Western Hemlock zone forests and we recognize three broad disturbance regimes that produce distinctive vegetation structure and species composition and differing soil properties. These are small gap dynamics, cohort replacement, and whole stand replacement. Dr. Mitchell will discuss the storm climatology of coastal BC, illustrate the resulting vegetation communities and soil conditions and comment on the implications for forest conservation and management.

A former youth member of the VNHS, Dr. Steve Mitchell is a registered professional forester and an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Forestry at UBC.

# Nature Vancouver Conservation Section

**Chair:** TBA

Conservation Section meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month starting at 7:30 p.m., in the **Society Promoting Environmental Conservation (SPEC) Boardroom at 2150 Maple St. (6th and Maple) in Vancouver.** Most meetings take the form of round-table discussions on conservation issues brought to the Section by Nature Vancouver members or others for consideration and action.

The Section relies on members to identify local concerns related to conservation and development. The Section also invites guest speakers to make presentations to larger audiences on conservation issues of special interest. Action arising from Section meetings usually takes the form of letters to municipal, provincial or federal decision-makers and may be undertaken in conjunction with other associated organizations such as Nature BC. Other forms of action may be through meetings with decision makers, presentations to municipal councils, or use of the media.

The meetings of the Conservation Section are open to all members of Nature Vancouver. If you have a conservation concern to bring to our attention, or if you would like to assist with the Section's research, letter-writing and other projects, please contact Margaret Coutts at [margaretcoutts@shaw.ca](mailto:margaretcoutts@shaw.ca) or 604-512-1413.



# Nature Vancouver Geology Section

**Chair:** David Cook [cookeco2@yahoo.com](mailto:cookeco2@yahoo.com) 604-924-0147

The Nature Vancouver Geology Section conducts field trips throughout the Vancouver region during the year. The present Geology Section is a relatively recent reintroduction of a Section that was strong in former years of Nature Vancouver.

In most instances the geology field trips also include observations on the ecology of the area visited, the purpose being to show the relationship between natural ecosystems and the substrate upon which they depend.

The Geology Section also has an ongoing program of compiling outlines of self-guiding geology field trips. These can be found on the Nature Vancouver website.

For details of the geology field trips refer to the Field Trips section of *Vancouver Naturalist* and the Nature Vancouver website.



**VanDusen Botanical Garden**  
5251 Oak St. Vancouver, B.C. V6M 4H1  
**Lectures & Courses**

## Cedar Lecture Series

*7:30 p.m. in VanDusen's Floral Hall*

*Lectures sponsored by GardenWise magazine.*

**GMO & Terminator Seeds, The Old and New**  
*with April Reeves*  
September 9, 2010

**Unique Plants of Southern Oregon**  
*with Ron Long*  
October 14, 2010

TICKETS \$10 (Garden Members) and \$15 (Non-Members).  
Available at the door or in advance by calling 604-257-8335.  
Members of Nature Vancouver receive the VanDusen member price by showing membership card.

## Courses

**Cultivate your Landscape Business**  
Cost: Members: \$65 / Non-member: \$80  
Tuesday, Sept. 21 & 28: 7pm - 9pm

**The Secret's in the Soil**  
Cost: Members \$52 / Non-member: \$68  
Saturday, Sept. 25 & Oct 2: 9:30am - noon

**Design a Small-Space Garden**  
Cost: Members \$106 / Non-member: \$121  
Thursday, Sept. 23, 30 & Oct 7: 6:30pm - 9:30pm

**Create magic in your Garden with Bulbs**  
Cost: Members \$43 / Non-member: \$53  
Sunday, Sept. 26: 11am - 2pm

**Fungus Among Us: An Introduction to Mushroom**  
Cost: Members \$56 / Non-member: \$72  
Oct. 26: 7-9pm & Oct. 30: 9:30am - 12:30pm

FOR MORE INFORMATION on courses and lectures,  
please see the Adult Education section of the  
website at [www.vandusengarden.org](http://www.vandusengarden.org)

# Nature Vancouver Field Trips

**Co-ordinator:** Cynthia Crampton [cynthiacrampton@yahoo.ca](mailto:cynthiacrampton@yahoo.ca) 604-738-1405

## General Information

Field Trips are offered almost every weekend by Nature Vancouver and are the most popular activity for members. Non-members are welcome to join in these trips as a way to review the activities of the Society but are asked to limit their participation to three events. Our liability insurance coverage only applies to members in good standing. Those who participate do so at their own risk. Participants will be required to sign a Release of Liability form at the start of the trip. Copies of the form are available on the Nature Vancouver website.

## Important Information for Participants

Members planning to join these trips should contact the leader in advance to confirm carpool arrangements, especially when ferry travel is planned. Please do not call after 9 p.m. An adult must accompany children under 15. On trips to the United States, a valid passport is now required for identification and it is advisable to have extended medical insurance as the BC Medical plan covers only a small portion of most medical costs in the US.

## Safety Tips for Participants

Consider the weather in the trip area (it's often very different from where you live) and bring suitable clothing! Depending on destination and season, bring insect repellent, sunscreen, a hat, lunch if necessary, more water than you think you'll need, raingear and boots with good ankle support. Stay together and stay on the trails. Keep behind the co-ordinator (and ahead of the tail person, if there is one). To avoid false alarms, please tell the co-ordinator if you're leaving the group.

## Guidelines for Field Trip Leaders

Field trips, leaders do not need to be especially knowledgeable about birds, plants or other aspects of nature, since that sort of expertise is generally found among the participants. However, it is essential that one person co-ordinate the organization of the trip for the safety and well-being of all participants and field trip leader is that person. These guidelines are

important both for your own legal protection and that of Nature Vancouver. Please read them carefully. The full text of the Guidelines for Field Trip Leaders and the Field Trip Registration and Release of Liability forms are available from the website at [http://www.naturevancouver.ca/Main\\_Field\\_Trips](http://www.naturevancouver.ca/Main_Field_Trips). Please return the completed forms to Field Trip Co-ordinator, Cynthia Crampton, 1230 Shorepine Walk, Vancouver, BC, V6H 3T8.

## Public Transit Information

For public transit information in the Lower Mainland, contact TransLink at 604-953-3333 or <http://www.translink.ca/>. For trips requiring a ferry journey, please confirm ferry sailing times. Contact B.C. Ferries at 1-888-223-3779 or <http://www.bcferries.com>.

## Information for Carpooling

On long-distance trips, passengers should share gas expenses with their driver. The suggested cost of carpooling is \$10 per car / per hour of driving. The total cost to be shared by all passengers excluding the driver.

**For trips to West Vancouver, Cypress, Howe Sound, Squamish and Whistler**, car pool at McDonald's in Park Royal, West Vancouver. Take bus #250 or 257 Horseshoe Bay from any stop on Georgia Street downtown. From North Vancouver, take #239 or 255 Park Royal. Get off at the first stop after Taylor Way. Cross on the pedestrian crossing directly behind the stop, turn right and walk underneath the first overpass to the McDonald's car park.

**For trips to North Vancouver, Fraser Valley and Mt. Baker area**, car pool at Franklin & Penticton in Vancouver. From downtown, take bus #10 Hastings or #16 29th Avenue Station. Get off at Kamloops Street (the first stop after Nanaimo) and walk one block east and one north. From points east, take bus #16 Arbutus from 29th Avenue or Renfrew station and get off at Hastings and Penticton. From north Burnaby, take bus #135 and from Coquitlam or Port Moody, take #160 and get off at Nanaimo.

**For trips to South Vancouver, Richmond, Delta and the Islands**, car pool at Oak & 42nd in Vancouver. Take bus #17 Oak from downtown and get off at Oak and 41st. Or bus #41 between Dunbar and Joyce Station, get off at Oak St. and walk to 42nd.



Elfin Lakes / Photo by Bill Kinkaid



# Nature Vancouver Field Trips Schedule

September - December 2010

**Sunday, September 5**

**Ascent of Mt. Strachan, Cypress Provincial Park**

Full-day (5-6 hrs.) geology hike from the down-hill ski area at Cypress Bowl up the Collins Ski Run to the peak of Mt. Strachan (elevation gain 500 m). We will also make a short side-trip to look at an area of sub-alpine pasture, recovering back to forest after an ancient lightning fire. The geological highlight will be the southern peak of Mt. Strachan where the glaciation has smoothed a remarkable pavement over metamorphic rocks of the Bowen Island Group, the oldest rocks to be found in the area.

Bring lunch, water and dress for changing weather conditions. The trails are rough and very slippery because of the loose, rubbly surface of the ski run. Deep-tread hiking boots with ankle support are essential. Sneakers not recommended. Walking poles are recommended for the descent. The route is exposed to the sun so wear a hat. Carpool at 9:30 a.m. at McDonalds, Park Royal, West Vancouver. **Leader:** David Cook, cookeco2@yahoo.com or 604-924-0147.

**Monday, September 6**

**Shorebirds at Iona Beach Regional Park**

Shorebird numbers should be high as adults and the summer's juveniles continue their journey south. We'll concentrate on some simple techniques for identifying these birds to species, age, and even sex--and discover that shorebird identification is not nearly as hard as myth would have it. Meet at 4:30 p.m. near the restrooms. **Leader:** Rick Wright, birdaz@gmail.com.

**Saturday, September 11**

**Birding at DeBoville Slough / Minnehada RP**

Half day birding trip to look for fall migrants. Meet in the parking area at Victoria & Cedar Drives in Port Coquitlam at 9:00 a.m. Several vehicles will be positioned in the Minnehada gravel parking lot off Quarrie Road for the return trip. **Leader:** Larry Cowan, lawrencecowan@shaw.ca or 604-465-1402.

**Saturday, September 18**

**Hike in Brandywine Meadows**

This is a moderately strenuous hike, gaining 500 metres in elevation in 4 km, most of which is at the beginning. Some parts may be rough and wet so good footwear is essential. Bring lunch, rain gear, sunscreen and insect repellent. Carpool at McDonald's in Park Royal at 7:30 a.m. or meet at Brandywine Falls Provincial Park, 47 km north of Squamish, at 8:45 a.m. Please note that the highway improvement project has changed access to both the trail and the park. Contact the leader in advance if you plan to meet at the park. **Leader:** Bill Kinkaid, billkinkaid@gmail.com or 604-710-6329.



**Saturday, September 18**

**Birding at Iona Beach Regional Park**

An afternoon birding trip to look for returning shorebirds and other migrants. The high tide is at 4:30 p.m. so we'll work our way through the outer ponds before exploring the inner ponds. If you're interested, you can walk the South Jetty before or after the field trip. Dress for chilly and / or wet weather. Meet in the parking lot by the washrooms at 3:30 p.m. **Leader:** John Chandler, john@alandalettraining.com or 604-274-4117.

**Sunday, September 19**

**Return of the Jaeger - Birding and Marine Mammal Trip to Point Roberts**

This is the time of the year when we are fortunate to have pelagic seabirds such as Parasitic Jaegers and alcids visit the Point. We will meet in the parking area of Lighthouse Marine Park at 9:00 a.m. The incoming tide is at 1.6 m / 5.2'. Upwelling currents on the incoming tide stir up schools of fish, creating a bit of banquet for seabirds and marine mammals. Please bring proper ID for border crossing. **Leader:** Viveka Ohman, ohmanv@hotmail.com or 604-531-3401.

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# Nature Vancouver Field Trips Schedule

September - December 2010

**Sunday, September 19**

## **Geology and Natural History Hike to Dog Mountain, Seymour Provincial Park**

This 4 km hike with only 50 m elevation gain is ideal to learn the geology and Natural History of this Provincial Park. Carpool near the entrance to Safeway in Parkgate Village Shopping Centre (corner of Mt. Seymour Parkway & Mt. Seymour Road in North Vancouver) at 10 a.m. Bring change for pay parking, lunch, water and dress for possible changes in weather. Wear deep tread hiking boots with ankle support as the trail is steep, rocky and slippery in places. Sneakers not recommended.

**Leader:** David Cook, cookeco2@yahoo.com or 604-924-0147.

**Sunday, September 26**

## **Geology and Natural History Hike to Norvan Falls in Lynn Headwaters Regional Park**

This is an intermediate level hike (13 km / 6 hours) for experienced hikers that provides an opportunity to view the geomorphology and forest ecology of the Lynn Creek valley. Wear deep tread hiking boots with ankle support. Sneakers are not recommended. Bring lunch and water and be prepared for changes in weather. Meet at 10 a.m. in northern parking lot near the Ranger's house, accessed from the top of Lynn Valley Road. Please contact the leader for carpooling information at 9:30 a.m. at the Phibbs Bus Exchange. **Leader:** David Cook, cookeco2@yahoo.com or 604-924-0147.

**Sunday, September 26**

## **2nd Annual Marine Mammal Rescue Centre Visit**

Visit the baby harbour seals at the Centre located at Vancouver north foot of Main Street in Vancouver. Under the careful attention of the wonderful staff and many volunteers, seals are rescued, rehabilitated, and successfully released each year. They have even seen the occasional turtle, elephant seal, and harbour porpoise come by for a visit. You will have a tour of the facility and an explanation of the rehabilitation routine, and you will also have ample time to see and photograph the "patients". **Contact:** Jennifer Ingram to register at 604-942-9908 or jingram@surfnaked.ca. If you register and have to cancel, please let us know as SPACE IS LIMITED. The precise time for the field trip will be announced closer to the date; however, it will be at approximately noon. Suggested donation is: \$10.00 per adult 16+ years, \$5.00 for others. All proceeds to the Marine Mammal Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre.

**Saturday, October 2**

## **Shorebirds at Iona Beach Regional Park**

Shorebird numbers should be high as adults and the summer's juveniles continue their journey south. This is also the beginning of peak migration for some of the West Coast's less common species. We'll concentrate on simple techniques for identifying these birds to species, age, and even sex--and discover that shorebird identification is not nearly as hard as myth would have it. Meet at 1:30 p.m. near the restrooms. **Leader:** Rick Wright, birdaz@gmail.com.

**Sunday, October 3**

**Shoreline Park (Port Moody Nature Park), Port Moody**  
A 6 km nature walk along board walks and well-groomed trails along the shoreline of Port Moody Inlet. The trail will lead you through coniferous forests, open meadows, wetlands and mixed deciduous forests to a sandy beach. The tide will be low allowing examination of intertidal & mudflat habitats. Bring lunch, water and binoculars. Some points of interest will be First Nations middens and Pacific crabapple thickets with their associated avian fauna. Learn what a clam show is and hear about the peculiar habits of the band-tailed pigeons. Carpool at Franklin and Penticton in Vancouver at 9:00 a.m. or meet at 10:00 a.m. in the parking area of Rocky Point Park, east of the Port Moody Museum, 2734 Murray St., Port Moody. **Leader:** David Cook, cookeco2@yahoo.com or 604-924-0147.

**Wednesday, October 6**

## **Birding at Jericho Beach Park**

Look for migrants and arriving wintering birds on the ponds, in the woods, and along the coast at one of Vancouver's finest urban birding spots. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the eastern parking lot. **Leader:** Rick Wright, birdaz@gmail.com.

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# Nature Vancouver Field Trips Schedule

September - December 2010

**Saturday, October 9**

## **Birding at Colony Farm Regional Park**

There should be a good variety of late migrants and returning over-wintering species. We have had a few notables over the years on this outing; Anna's Hummingbird, Northern Mockingbird and Short-eared Owl. Meet in the parking area at the end of Colony Farm Rd. adjacent to the Community Gardens at 9:00 a.m. **Leader:** Larry Cowan, lawrencecowan@shaw.ca or 604-465-1402.

**Saturday, October 16**

## **Birding Trip to Boundary Bay Regional Park**

A joint trip with Delta Naturalists to see birds and learn all about Boundary Bay as an important area for birds. Meet at 42nd and Oak at 9:00 a.m. to carpool and then meet the leaders, Anne Murray and Tom Bearss at 9:30 a.m. at Camridge House, 498 Boundary Bay Rd, Delta. Bring a lunch and dress for the weather. **Co-ordinator:** Nellie Bacou, nellieba@telus.net or 604-221-1620.

**Sunday, October 17**

## **Half-day Birding Trip to Reifel**

We will be looking for late migrants and returning Snow Geese as well as raptors. Remember to bring some money for the small admission fee and dress for chilly and / or wet weather. Bring lunch and a hot drink to enjoy in the warming hut after your walk. Meet near the Reifel gift shop at 9.00 a.m. **Leader:** John Chandler, john@alandalettraining.com or 604-274-4117.

**Friday, October 22**

## **Birding at Jericho Beach Park**

Look for migrants and arriving wintering birds in the woods, on the ponds, and along the beach at one of Vancouver's finest urban birding spots. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the eastern parking lot. **Leader:** Rick Wright, birdaz@gmail.com.

**Saturday, November 6**

## **Birding at DeBoville Slough / Minnehada Regional Park**

This area is home to many over wintering waterfowl in the ponds and raptors over the fields. Meet at Cedar & Victoria Drs. in NE Coquitlam at 9:00 a.m. We will position a vehicle or two in the parking area off Quarry Road in Minnehada RP for the return trip to our vehicles. **Leader:** Larry Cowan, lawrencecowan@shaw.ca or 604-465-1402.

**Saturday, December 4**

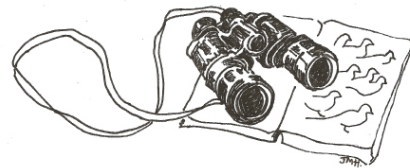
## **Birding at Pitt Meadows / Maple Ridge**

This half day outing is our annual search for American Dippers. We have been successful on all four previous years finding our quarry. After locating a Dipper or two we will spend the balance of the morning travelling the Pitt Polder in search of overwintering raptors, waterfowl and Northern Shrike. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the McDonald's parking lot, on the SW corner of Lougheed Hwy & Harris Rd. in Pitt meadows. **Leader:** Larry Cowan, lawrencecowan@shaw.ca or 604-465-1402.

**Sunday, December 5**

## **Birding Trip to Lost Lagoon and Second Beach Seawall**

Get ready for the Christmas Bird Count! Practise your identification skills on the ducks and waterfowl. Cathy Aitchison will help sort out Greater and Lesser scaup, Common and Barrow's goldeneyes, Double-crested and Pelagic cormorants and those pesky gulls. We will also look for various sparrows which present ID challenges. Meet in the parking lot at the end of Nelson Street at 9.00 a.m. This will be a half-day walk. Bring a snack and water and dress warmly. **Leader:** Cathy Aitchison, catherine\_aitchison@hotmail.com or at 604-685-7460.



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# Conservation Issue

## Oil Risks on the B.C. Coast

by Peter Baker, M.Sc. Oceanography

Despite pictures of white sand beaches and a swimming presidential family, the story of the recent Gulf Oil spill is far from over. Even with the offending well capped, the massive resources deployed succeeded in removing only 25% of the spill from the environment. This leaves an estimated 3.7 million barrels to cause ongoing ecological and economic damage. Determination of the remaining oil's location and fate is complicated by the water depth and by the first-time wide spread use of chemical dispersants. The full story will only be told over the next years and decades as demonstrated by recent reports on the Exxon Valdez spill after more than 20 years.

The oil industry has had a long-term small scale presence on the B.C. coast. Small coastal tankers delivered refined products for domestic use from Burrard Inlet refineries to coastal and island communities. But British Columbia is now fully involved with the global oil industry and the bulk transportation of crude oil exports from Alberta to markets in the U.S. And British Columbia is the only way for this oil to reach its markets.

After 9-11 (2001) the U.S. deliberately reduced their dependence on middle eastern oil. With north-south pipeline capacity inadequate, west coast pipelines and tanker traffic are the solution. This same solution can also serve new markets in the Asia Pacific. China is one rapidly expanding economy desperately needing imported oil. Encouraged by the federal and provincial governments, China has recently invested heavily in the Alberta tar sands.

Two oil tanker options exist. On the north coast the Enbridge Northern Gateway proposal is starting to work its way through the required multi-year process of environmental, stakeholder, and regulatory reviews. If approved, a new pipeline (520,000 barrels per day) from Alberta and a new oil terminal in Kitimat will be built. Very Large Crude Carriers (VLCCs, 300,000 dwt, 1.5 million barrels) would transport crude oil from

Kitimat via Douglas Channel, Wright or Camano Sounds, and the Pacific. From the perspective of the oil industry this capacity is very much desired but it is still some years away.

In the south, the Port of Vancouver provides a current option for crude oil exports. The Trans-Canada pipeline terminates at Burnaby's Westridge oil terminal. Originally serving four local refineries but now just serving one, this pipeline has been recently upgraded to 300,000 barrels per day. Despite this re-purposing and expansion for export use, no environmental, stakeholder, or regulatory review is required for existing pipelines and oil terminals. And crude oil exports are now growing rapidly. In 2009, the Port of Vancouver exported 29 million barrels of crude oil. In 2010 the Port is on track to increase these shipments further.

The location of the terminal is especially concerning. Located inside the narrow and shallow confines of Second Narrows it's approaches and passage were never designed to accommodate large tankers. Each AFRAMax tanker (120,000 dwt, carrying up to 500,000 barrels) used is approximately 245m long, 42 m wide, and draws as much as 15 m of water. To depart these large ships must safely transit through a dog-leg eastern approach to an energetic tidal channel under two major bridges (134 m between the bridge piers, and just 121 m wide for navigation) all with minimal steerageway. Second Narrows is only 16 m deep, and therefore outbound transits must occur at slack high tide. But this still means as little as 1.5 m of depth clearance. Large ships in narrow and shallow channels affect the waters they travel through, and so perhaps even less clearance is experienced than expected.

Coastal pilots are used but piloted vessels do have accidents especially in confined waters. In 1978, the much

*continued on page 13*



Photo by Peter Baker

The Crude Oil Tanker IBLEA passes outbound under the Lion's Gate Bridge

# Oil Risks on the B.C. Coast

*continued from page 12*

smaller “Japan Erica” hit the Second Narrows railway bridge, dislodging a span, and interrupting rail service for 4 1/2 months. In September 2009, the freighter Petersfield hit the beach in Douglas Channel near Kitimat because of gyro failure. And there are other similar incidents. Fortunately these were both small freighters and not large tankers carrying crude oil.

Second Narrows provides no margin for error for such large vessels. And no time and space for recovery. At 5 knots, a tanker can cover the ground to the channel margins in under 30 seconds. Tethered tug escorts are employed but can unexpected issues be correctly assessed, and tugs correctly vectored to prevent a grounding or worse in this short time? What human and communications factors could also be at play? Human errors, rudder, engine and other mechanical failures are all factors in accidents.

Loaded tankers only transit outbound at slack high water. Should a grounding occur for any reason, it is potentially very serious. The ebbing tide quickly builds to as much as 5 knots. Water levels will drop by as much as 5 m severely stressing the hull and frustrating attempts to re-float the tanker. In an effort to contain a spill, booms might be deployed. But strong currents have been shown to easily pull oil under a boom. Oil would be quickly carried by the ebbing tide into the main harbour and beyond. Estuarine outflow currents and the prevailing winds would then rapidly spread it further. The Exxon Valdez spill extended over 400 miles, the entire Gulf of Georgia is less than 100 miles from Vancouver to Campbell River to Nanaimo and the Gulf Islands to Puget Sound - and so at risk is the entire Salish Sea should a major accident occur.

In comparison, the Exxon Valdez spill was a partial spill of 230,000 barrels. A larger spill being prevented by quickly off-loading crude into another tanker brought alongside. In Second Narrows, each Aframax tanker carries at least twice the capacity of that spill. And should

a tanker ground in Second Narrows, there is no room to bring another tanker alongside to off-load it.

The evolution of an existing oil terminal into a major crude oil export facility is certainly timely, convenient, and inexpensive for the oil companies. However this evolution has occurred without the wide awareness and without stakeholder, regulatory and environmental reviews. Port Metro Vancouver’s oil export facility provides some stark lessons for all British Columbians. Does anyone really believe that a major crude oil export terminal and storage facility belongs within the narrows? While the port may be fulfilling its commercial mandate to facilitate cargo movement between Canada and its trading partners, is it being a good commercial citizen? Where is Port Metro Vancouver’s strategic planning?

Concerns over expansion extend to the north coast. For example, once built can the Northern Gateway be expanded without further regulatory, environmental and stakeholder process? The Vancouver experience indicates yes. Kinder Morgan has proposed an additional pipeline to Kitimat to deliver a further 400,000 barrels per day. Added to Enbridge’s 520,000 barrels per day, the north coast could easily be facing twice the tanker traffic they expect in the current review process. Why has the federal government and its Departments of Transportation and the Environment allowed for this loophole to exist?

And additional oil terminal expansion is also proposed for Vancouver. Proposals in the public record include twinning the Transmountain pipeline to Burnaby to deliver an additional 400,000 barrels per day (for a total of 700,000). Still larger Suezmax (200,000 dwt, 1,000,000 barrels) tankers are proposed to transit Second Narrows. But is the location and expansion of major crude oil terminal and storage facilities within the GVRD wise? Any accident could release toxic volatiles such benzene in large volumes next to major and dense human population. Synthetic crude also contains higher than

normal levels of hydrogen sulphide.

A major oil spill anywhere on the B.C. coast would certainly be an ecological disaster. But in addition a major oil spill situated in Vancouver harbour would also be an economic disaster. For example if a major spill occur, the port would be forced to shut down while the spill is cleaned up. Tourism and cargo would be diverted to other destinations. Would that business ever return? Studies show that economic impacts of oil disasters are not compensated for and are long lasting. Litigation goes on for years. And with so much invested by B.C. and the Vancouver region in its natural and green image why would we risk so much especially in the very heart of our economy?

Recognizing the risks, Vancouver city council moved to convene an Oil Tanker Expert’s panel as a public special meeting on July 5, 2010. In the brief period to speak, I and others involved in this issue were able to raise some of the key issues at that panel. Port and Transportation Council officials provided confirmation of the evolution of Vancouver into a major crude oil export terminal. However they provided only general assurances with respect to risks by comparing the metres wide confines of Second Narrows to tanker traffic in the many kilometers wide Straits of Dover, Gibraltar, Hormuz, and Malacca. In short no assurance of minimal risk at all. And they provided no indication of their understanding of the impacts of that risk. Unfortunately, the port is under federal jurisdiction, but as a major stakeholder Vancouver has requested the involvement of Metro Port Cities committee, and informed the federal and provincial governments and relevant agencies of Vancouver’s interest and concern.

The Gulf Oil Crisis gives us reason to be skeptical of oil industry assurances of corporate responsibility and ethics. In a news conference shortly after the spill President Obama stated:

*“Where I was wrong was in my belief that they (the oil industry) had their act together when it came to worst case scenarios”.*

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# Ongoing Nature Walks and Bird Surveys

## Hastings Park Sanctuary

The Hastings Park Conservancy's Environmental Committee and guest naturalists lead monthly nature walks in the Sanctuary. All walks leave from the northeast corner of the Sanctuary (near the red barns and the Playland restrooms). There is free parking on site for visitors to the Sanctuary, or take the bus to Hastings & Renfrew Streets. For a schedule of walks go to <http://hastingspark.ca> or contact Pat Miller at 604-294-1272.

## Maplewood Flats Conservation Area

The Wild Bird Trust's monthly bird survey of Maplewood Flats Conservation Area, North Vancouver is conducted on the first Saturday of each month. Meet at 8 a.m. in the parking lot of the Pacific Environment Science Centre, 2645 Dollarton Highway. For details, please contact Janice Wilson at 778-279-3216. On the second Saturday of each month, you're welcome to join Al and Jude Grass for a nature walk starting at 10 a.m.

## Terra Nova Natural Area

This bird survey of the Terra Nova Natural Area in Richmond is conducted on the third Saturday of each month. Meet in the Terra Nova parking lot at 8 a.m. (October-March) or 7 a.m. (April-September). For details please contact the co-ordinator, Eric Greenwood at 604-737-4724.

## Bird Surveys at UBC Farm

Every third Sunday of each month, join in a bird survey at the UBC Farm. Meet at 8 a.m. (March to September) and 9 a.m. (October to February) at the main gate to the farm located off Westbrook Mall between 16th Ave. and Southwest Marine Drive. Please contact Sue Kay-Downs at 604-569-3058 for more information.

## Reifel Bird Sanctuary

Every Sunday, enjoy a bird walk with volunteer birders at Reifel Bird Sanctuary in Delta. Meet at the reception area at 10 a.m. Admission fee is \$4.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children (2-14) and seniors (60+). Phone 604-946-6980 for more information.

## Squamish Estuary

Squamish estuary monthly bird counts are held on the first or second Sunday of each month, depending on the tide. For more information, contact Judith Vetsch at 1-604-892-3340.

## Stanley Park Ecology Society (SPES)

Discovery Walks are two-hour guided walking tours leaving from the Lost Lagoon Nature House, every Sunday at 1 p.m. Fee: \$10 public, \$5 members and under 18. More information at 604-257-8544 or [www.stanleyparkecology.ca](http://www.stanleyparkecology.ca).

**Birding in Stanley Park:** On the last Sunday of every month, join naturalist, Catherine Aitchison, for a two-hour birding walk. Meet at the Lost Lagoon Nature House at 9 a.m. Fee by donation.

# Oil Risks on the B.C. Coast

*continued from page 13*

I have been asked what can we, as naturalists do? We can all inform the public as to the risks of this activity to our environment. We can let local officials know of our interests and concerns on these issues. For example, Vancouver City Council could move quickly this July only because of the attention this issue received from the public. They and other GVRD municipalities will need to your continued support on this issue to maintain strong positions against senior governments. This support will also be necessary to sponsor and pass any meaningful proposed resolutions on this issue at the Metro Port Cities committee this fall.

We must also urge municipal, regional, provincial and especially the federal government to take actions to:

- Stop further expansion of oil terminals and tanker traffic without full regulatory, stakeholder and environmental review
- Update legislation to reflect the realities of the current issues with oil transportation as major crude oil exporter
- Require similar regulatory processes for both the upgrade and evolution of existing and the establishment of new oil terminals
- Require strategic planning with wide community consultation by the Port both with respect to the location of major oil terminals and the safest approach routes
- Ensure that there are sufficient resources available to do everything possible to prevent accidents - standby tugs, sufficient inspections, and sufficient training.
- Ensure the safety of all citizens with respect to potential vapour emissions should an accident occur
- Update their emergency planning to ensure that the possibility of a major oil spill in a densely populated area is included.
- Given the costs of oil spill cleanup and its ecological and economic impacts ensure that sufficient processes exist to identify any offending parties ensure all incurred liabilities are quickly and fully compensated.

Perhaps in reflection the risks are just too great for some. Remember this is not oil for domestic consumption - and the bulk of the profits of these enterprises go elsewhere. But should a spill occur, the downsides will be felt right here in British Columbia.

Write your MP, MLA, and regional government representatives stating any concerns you have on this issue. Write often.

Volunteer for or support your environmental group of choice. Insist on campaigns on both south and north coast oil tanker and industry issues. Money from lottery grants have been cutoff. They have never needed your support more.

*Peter Baker is a member of Nature Vancouver and lives in North Vancouver.*



# YOUNG NATURALISTS' CLUB of British Columbia

www.ync.ca 604-985-3057

President: Daphne Solecki Executive Director: Jennifer Swanston  
YNC Vancouver Co-ordinator: Eva Nagy evnagy@shaw.ca 604-929-4286

## YNC Vancouver Trip Report

by Eva Nagy

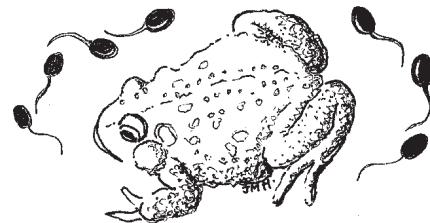
Life in the Rocky Intertidal Zone was the title of our outing in June, a program by Sheila Byers, a member of Nature Vancouver's Marine Biology section. She is a great organizer, worked very hard to prepare the outing and thought of every little detail in advance that may have to be dealt with. First we met in the Vancouver Aquarium, where she gave us the guidelines, making sure we are all prepared to navigate shallow water, rocks and slippery surfaces. Then walked us over to the beach where we had a very exiting exploration of the rocky shores of Stanley Park.

It was a hands-on expedition searching for a variety of interesting creatures such as crabs, barnacles, sea stars, worms, mussels and seaweeds; at the same time learning where they live and how they interact with each other. We also learned how to practice good beach manners while getting our feet wet and our hands dirty. We had a full capacity house, luckily Sheila brought helpers and by dividing the members into three smaller groups, she gave us a better chance to learn more while enjoying the fresh air and spring tides at their lowest. She even

had a time keeper who told us when we had to move over to the next task. At the end each participant received a copy of Nature Vancouver's excellent, waterproof pamphlet: Explore the Rocky Shore at Stanley Park, so now we can go back and enjoy many more informative trips to the beaches.

For the July and August programs we joined programs by Metro Vancouver Park Interpreters. At Burnaby Lake we went on a short walk learning about aquatic plants. These all grow in habitats that are submerged at least part of the year. Some grow entirely underwater ('submerged' or floating) and some have their feet in the water and heads in the air ('emergent'). Water supports them, so they don't develop strong stems and collapse when removed from their watery home. Aquatic plants are food upon which all other aquatic organisms feed, they also provide habitat for a wide variety of organisms living in, or near, streams, lakes, pond or ditches. The shores of Burnaby Lake are covered with numerous aquatic plants and our interpreter brought a pale full of these for us too see. Among these were the Floating-leaved Pondweed (*Potamogeton natans*), Canadian Pondweed (*Elodea Canadensis*), Cattail (*Typha latifolia*), Common Tule (*Schoenoplectus acutus*), Green Sedge (*Carex viridula*) and, White Water Lily (*Nymphaea sp*), which is invasive from the Eastern regions. We also learned that there are about 25 Beaver lodges on the lake, and the beavers are mostly feeding on alder trees thereby not doing any damage to the mature forest.

In August, Bren Simmers presented a free family program in Tynehead Regional Park called Critter Capers - Case of the Missing Berries. Who stole the robin's ripe berries - the bear, the snowshoe hare or the cedar waxwing? It was up to us to find out, to uncover hidden motives, match tracks and explore clues. Sounds very interesting, but this program was not well attended, presumably due to the hot weather and traffic problems along Hwy.1.



YOUNG NATURALISTS' CLUB of British Columbia is for young people aged 5 to 14. A one-year individual or family membership is \$25. Family memberships receive one copy of NatureWILD magazine, four times a year and a membership pack for each child of 5 and up. For more information go to

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## Nature Vancouver Membership Information

Founded in 1918 by Professor John Davidson, Nature Vancouver is a not-for-profit charitable society, registered under the BC Societies Act. All donations to the Society other than membership dues are tax deductible. Membership in Nature Vancouver is open to all.

Nature Vancouver is a federated club of BC Nature; so members of Nature Vancouver are also members of BC Nature and receive its quarterly newsletter, *BC Nature*.

BC Nature also provides third-party liability insurance for members who participate in field trips organized by Nature Vancouver, BC Nature or other member clubs.

The programs offered by Nature Vancouver include weekend field trips, and evening programs on birds, botany, marine biology and natural history topics. Workshops on bird identification and digital photography are also available to members.

An annual week-long summer camp is organized in various alpine wilderness areas of BC.

The Conservation Section of Nature Vancouver undertakes nature conservation initiatives, with emphasis on BC's Lower Mainland.

*Discovery*, an annual journal of natural history, and *Vancouver Naturalist*, a quarterly newsletter, are included with the membership.

**Privacy Policy:** Nature Vancouver does not share personal information with third parties. The information collected on membership forms will be used solely for the purpose of providing services to members or for the organization of the Society's programs and activities.

For more information please contact:  
Jeremy McCall 604-876-7694  
or  
Judy Sullivan 604-983-2026.

### Membership Application and Renewal Form (Please Print)

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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- ( ) Junior (under 18) \$10
- ( ) Reduced-dues (after 30 yrs) Family \$25
- ( ) Reduced-dues (after 30 yrs) Individual \$20

#### Donations (optional)

An income tax receipt will be issued for donations.

- ( ) Operating Fund
- ( ) VNHS Endowment Fund
- ( ) Conservation Fund
- ( ) Education Trust Fund
- ( ) YNC Fund

Membership entitles you to membership in BC Nature. If you are already a member of BC Nature through another club, please check here ( ) and deduct \$14.00 from either Family / Individual or Reduced-dues memberships.

Dues enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donations enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this application form and a cheque or money order, payable to Nature Vancouver, to:

**Membership Secretary, Nature Vancouver, P.O. Box 3021, Vancouver, BC V6B 3X5**

