

Comox Valley Naturalists Society

November 2017 Newsletter



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President's Message

UNESCO World Heritage for the Salish Sea

By *Jim Boulter*

Several West Coast organizations, including the Salish Sea Trust and the Georgia Strait Alliance, have been active in trying to provide the Salish Sea with some level of government protection. These groups organized due to the increase in the risk of pollution, species loss, and habitat destruction in our inland waterways that they saw coming. On the other side of this debate are the various economic and municipal entities which have free use of the Salish Sea, and do not want that taken away.

Caught in the middle, the provincial and federal governments have jurisdiction over the Sea but provide less than adequate protection for the waters. The issue is further complicated by the fact that, although the federal government controls the salt water column off the east coast of Vancouver Island, the BC government controls the foreshore rights and the seabed,¹ and these two parties rarely agree on much. In addition, most governments, caught between industry and the electorate, tend to side with business, except of course when seeking re-election. Then, promises come cheap, for our memories are short.

In August 2016, during the federal election campaign, Justin Trudeau promised to increase Canada's protected marine resources by 5% in 2017, and by 10% by 2020.² Parks Canada has studied the southern Georgia Strait as

a candidate National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA) reserve³ since at least 1991⁴. On October 12, 2011 Parks announced a proposal for NMCA status for the Salish Sea. Six years later the proposal has gone nowhere, with the last "What's New" update on the Fed's website dated July 2012.⁵

What makes this new proposal by the Salish Sea Trust different is its appeal to a higher court of sorts, namely the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) World Heritage Centre. This is a long strategy, only recently started, and it faces many road bumps that could derail the initiative. Fortunately, the road is relatively straight, with no alternate routes easy to understand, but that makes it no less problematic.

An early step in the process is to get federal support for adding the Salish Sea to Canada's inventory of heritage sites, referred to in UNESCO documents as the Tentative List. Fair enough; if the country that has jurisdiction does not see it as heritage property, why should a world body? Once on the Tentative List, the Salish Sea would have to be added to Canada's Nomination List, which is submitted to UNESCO. Various committees within UNESCO evaluate the proposal, and, if a favorable decision is made, UNESCO declares the nominee a World Heritage Site. Currently Canada has 18 sites listed in WHS, and another six, including Gwaii Haanas (nominated in 2004) on the Nomination List at UNESCO.

The full process starts with Canadian recognition of the Salish Sea as having an "outstanding universal value", defined by UNESCO using ten criteria⁶, including both cultural and natural features of the site or area. A proposed site must meet at least one of the ten criteria. In this case, the Salish Sea Trust has identified (in its electronic petition E-1269) three criteria that the Salish Sea meets:

V. "is an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture, or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change";

VI. "is directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance";

VII. "contains superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance".

Petition E-1269 is following the process laid out by the federal government which allows citizen-based initiatives to reach the floor of the House of Commons. Once the petition originator has five citizen signatories, the sponsorship of a Member of Parliament, and passes the Clerk of Petitions review, the petition is posted on the government's website for 120 days.⁷ This has all been done, and citizens of Canada can sign the petition until January 23, 2018. The next hurdle is getting 500 signatories on the petition so it can move forward. As of October 27, there were 442 names on the list.

The sponsor MP can then bring the petition before Parliament, where the petition will be tabled for a response. The big step here is to get Parliament to vote in favor of adopting the petition, but even if the Salish Sea is accepted as a heritage site, Canada has no legislation to protect it.⁸

Once the Salish Sea is on our Tentative List, the government has to place it on the Nomination List for UNESCO. The list goes to the World Heritage Centre and gets reviewed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and if found acceptable, goes to the World Heritage Committee, which has a single annual meeting. This Committee may reject or accept the site, or request further details on the site before it decides, and does not have any target dates imposed on it for decisions.

The largest roadblock to cross on the path to World Heritage is one that Canadian citizens can help overcome—Canada does not provide protection to its heritage sites. The designation is largely meaningless because there is no binding legislation. But once the site becomes a World Heritage Site, several conventions and international treaties come into force. Of most interest is the *Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural History*⁹, in which Part II identifies the need for "identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations." Other international agreements that would come into force are the *Hague Convention for the Protection of*

Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1956), and the *Geneva Convention* (1949).

And therein lies the rub. Canada can freely, and at no risk to vested interests, declare the Sea a heritage site at no real cost to itself, while leaving it to the mercy of users and misuse. Even Canada's environmental laws as they stand now would have little effect. But a World Heritage Site brings with it regulations and enforcement to preserve the site, and this would not sit well with industry and other well-funded lobbyists who have the ear of politicians. Risk of pollution, over-fishing, destruction of habitat, and other insults to the Salish Sea would have to be proactively prevented, and a regulatory framework created to establish and support its protection into the future.

Will this initiative come to fruition? There remain at least ten steps to gaining world heritage status, with, I suppose, our federal government being the hardest one to get past. The Salish Sea Trust has initiated a long game, and until our politicians see a rising tide of interest in protecting the Sea, I fear irreparable damage may be done.

1. [http://www.salishsea.ca/resources/Riparianrights/Gre enshores%20JurisdictionIssuesheet_finalVer4.pdf](http://www.salishsea.ca/resources/Riparianrights/Gre%20en%20shores%20JurisdictionIssuesheet_finalVer4.pdf)
2. <http://salishseatrust.ca/>
3. <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/amnc-nmca/cnamnc-cnmca/dgs-ssg>
4. <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/trust-council/advocacy/marine-environment/national-marine-conservation-area-reserve-advocacy/>
5. <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/amnc-nmca/cnamnc-cnmca/dgs-ssg/neuf-new>
6. <http://whc.unesco.org/en/criteria/>
7. <https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-1269>
8. <http://www.nationaltrustcanada.ca/issues-campaigns/legal-protection/federal>
9. <http://whc.unesco.org/archive/convention-en.pdf>



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Changing Coastal Dynamics

By Sharon Niscak

The variety of habitats along the Northwest Pacific Coast provides a rich diversity of seashore life. It is only by exploring the habitat, observing the seashore life, and researching the history that an understanding of the dynamics of the ecological–human interface may start to be understood.

The shoreline topography of the northwest Pacific Coast includes boulders, rocky beaches with tide pools, sandy beaches, reefs, fiords, estuaries, and quiet bays fed by a multitude of streams and rivers. The rivers and streams carry minerals, nutrients and, unfortunately, pollutants from agriculture, mining, industry and man's waste materials.

Especially noteworthy is the Fraser River that winds its way from the Rocky Mountains and is fed by many tributaries. The extensive river management and human geography along the lower Fraser River may have provided areas for agriculture; however, they also resulted in the loss of productive marine and food-producing areas because of human activities.

In the Baynes Sound–Comox Estuary complex, loss of kelp beds and sea grasses and modification of the shoreline and estuary by humans have also resulted in a loss of productive habitat for a number of species. The Courtenay river has been dredged, channeled and diked. Comox Road was constructed many years ago to accommodate settlers' demands for a flat access to Comox harbor (Mackie 2002). The road dike changed the tidal flow and greatly reduced transition zones for salmonids, and limited deposits of the rich sediments that created fertile land and rich seagrass beds in the tidal estuary.

Wind, tides and currents and water temperature also play a vital role in the dynamics of the shoreline. All of these diverse features influence the sea life within the water column and along the shoreline. Each habitat has a characteristic assemblage of organisms that depends upon the food and environment provided. The tidal zones also provide specialized zones along the shoreline. Altering the environment stresses the organisms that reside and depend upon the nutrients and topography for survival. Small changes can cause large impacts on diversity and severely impact the viability of foundation species such as herring and forage fish.



Herring spawn on beach, and a groyne constructed to reduce sediment drift caused by longshore currents.

Photo: Sharon Niscak

Perhaps one of the most observable changes is along Goose Spit. Longshore drift played a large role in the development and hydrodynamics of the spit. Hard-shoring of the Comox Bluffs has interfered with sand deposits along the spit. A slight change in the sediment supply, modification of the wind direction and other coastal influence can dramatically impact the formation and the profile of the beach and sea life dependent on specific seaside conditions and food availability. Removing the bridge to the spit and constructing the road to the spit many years ago impacted water circulation and tidal flushing in the inner bay.



Modification of shoreline and erosion of attempted shoring at Cape Lazo, 2017.

Photo: Sharon Niscak

Rocky shores vary in topography, rock type and composition and their situation with respect to climate, current, wave action and slope. Some sea life can only live in rock crevices, and their success depends upon the velocity of the wind and temperature. Observing and knowing the sea life, the seaside zones, and the outer

reefs, and monitoring our shores and waterways are essential in providing healthy functioning habitat for our precious marine flora, fauna, and fungi.

References:

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<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/delta/>

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Comox Council Ignores Good-Faith Shakesides Offer

By George Le Masurier

This article is reprinted with the kind permission of the author from his website Decafnation. For other articles by the author on topics of local and global interest, visit <http://decafination.net>.

The purposeful neglect of the Mack Laing heritage house by the Town of Comox has reached a new low.



Mack Laing's house Shakesides. Photo: George Le Masurier

Hamilton Mack Laing gave his house, known as Shakesides, along with a substantial sum of money in his Last Will and Testament for the purpose of converting it into a public natural history museum. Laing, an internationally respected naturalist and ornithologist, died in 1982.

But the town has done nothing over the intervening 35 years to comply with Laing's last wishes, and has intentionally let the building fall into disrepair. Council members apparently hope their neglect will garner support for the effort to tear it down.

But the Mack Laing Heritage Society (MLHS) hopes to preserve Shakesides in its current condition, at least until the B.C. Supreme Court rules on the town's application to demolish the building. That seems reasonable.

And it was in that spirit that MLHS offered to place a tarp on the roof of Shakesides to prevent moisture from entering the building through a decades-old roof and to stop further deterioration of the famous naturalist's home on Comox Bay. With another wet winter in the forecast, council members should have accepted the offer. Especially because MLHS members proposed to pay the entire labor cost of a professional installation.

And they made this offer with plenty of time to get such a simple task done over last spring and summer.

Vandals recently attacked Shakesides for the second time, but no other structure in Mack Laing Park. That suggests the vandalism is politically motivated. See the full gallery of photographs of the vandalism on <http://decafnaion.net>.

MLHS President J-Kris Nielsen first presented the group's offer verbally at a Committee of the Whole meeting on March 22, 2017, complete with projected costs. He followed that up with an April 17 letter to the town detailing a work plan that included drawings and itemized material costs totaling \$1,892.80.

The letter was officially stamped "Received" on April 20, 2017.

Seven months later, the town has yet to respond. Not a letter. Not an email. Not a phone call.

The Town of Comox voted unanimously in February to ask the B.C. Supreme Court to release the town from the terms of the trust established by Laing's Last Will. That would allow them to demolish the house. No court date has been set [as of the original publication date].

So the council might have figured, why spend even \$1,800 to preserve a building we hope to tear down? Fair enough, but doesn't decency require a reply to well-intentioned citizens, at the least?

And consider this:

The town has hired the law firm Young & Anderson to make their case for demolition to the province's high court. If they succeed, the town has committed to spend around \$300,000 of taxpayer's money to pay lawyers, demolish the building and build a viewing platform.

Yet council members can't find \$1,800 for a group of passionate citizens to tarp the roof? The MLHS might have even paid the whole bill if council had made a civil response.

It's shameful. But no surprise.

For 35 years, the Town of Comox has neglected the last wishes of this important literary and ornithological person, and mismanaged his trusts. It's shameful how the town has claimed Laing's celebrity, when convenient, but has always ignored his desire for a legacy.

Those who prefer to save Shakesides have criticized council and pressured them to act. But that's no justification for a town government to disrespect its citizens. Or act vindictively. They deserved a reply.

And, really, it seems only fair to put a tarp on a leaking roof until the Supreme Court hears the case, because there's no guarantee how the court will rule, or view the town's behavior in this matter.

Meanwhile, Shakesides recently suffered another attack by pretend graffiti artists.

Like the graffiti attack in April, vandals again spray-painted the historical home with lame images. It wasn't serious tagging, much less artwork.

These latest vandals might be the same person or group of people. They just made a better effort. We'll never know for sure.

But it is interesting that, like the last attack, no other sign, bridge, post or tree was spray-painted. That makes it likely that this defacing of public property is somehow connected to the political and legal battle over the preservation of Laing's home.

And, of course, the defacing fits nicely with the Town Council's policy of intentional neglect.

Vice President Position Filled

As of the General Meeting on September 17, the position of Vice President left vacant since the Annual General Meeting has been filled. David Innes was elected by acclamation. Thanks for stepping up Dave!

Short Notes

Rivers Day Cleanup

By Murray Little

CVN has for over 20 years held a fall clean-up at the AirPark walk, and for several years now have coordinated this with Project Watershed, who concentrate on Simms Park. This year we aligned ourselves with Rivers Day. This year B.C. Rivers Day fell on the same day as National Rivers Day, on the last Sunday in September. The Rivers Day connection is not ideal for us, because some years the tide is not out far enough for us to cover it all, and this year it was at about half-tide. I suppose most groups on rivers do not have a tidal situation to affect their shoreline accessibility.

Eight volunteers were teamed up, and combed the area. There was nothing this year of particular interest—no fridge doors, no tires, no bras, etc. Again, the most frequent items were smoking related – fag-ends and cigarillo butts. There were also plastic pieces from all kinds of things, including combs, drink tops, and candies.

We started outside the Park Café, and finished up inside for a post-mortem. Thank you to all those who came out.

MARS Open House

By Murray Little

As we know, the Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society (MARS) has obtained a new and larger facility, and has spent much of the summer moving from the old site and setting up again at the new, more spacious, location.

They held an open house on September 23, and CVN took up our display. It was a beautiful day, and we were located next to the Project Watershed booth. There were over 1300 visitors that day, and a lot of interest at our booth.

As well as the usual CVN booth content, we had a display that showed our fawn lily rescue, and information about our invasive plant removal. Thanks to Frank, we also had several live potted (invasive) plants as examples, and a HUGE stump of broom, which Frank lent us for the day.

I think all the booth-sitters took the chance to tour the site, and it is really a most impressive location. Not all the cages are up yet, as they are still working hard on funding, but they have most of their planned structures painted out on the ground, so it was possible to see where it will all go.

They also plan a wetland pond just behind the (planned) visitor centre, and we have about 100 plants ready for them (in addition to the 30 we gave them in the spring). They should have been in by now, but Mother Nature's white surprise has put that on hold. You probably heard that Rick Mercer was up in late August to record one of his exploits, and we hope that this helped with their funding drive.

Thank you again to the volunteers who came and answered the tough questions at the booth.

Trip to VIU's Deep Bay Marine Field Station

A 90-minute guided tour of Vancouver Island University's Deep Bay Marine Field Station has been arranged for December 1 at 10 am. You will be given a 30-minute talk by staff on the activities carried on at the Station, then proceed with the tour. Topics likely to be covered include VIU's Platinum LEED certification, local marine species in their upstairs tanks, the grey whale skeleton on display, and current research in their labs. You will also have time at the touch tanks and for a Q&A.



Reports back from the group who visited the Station during the BCN Conference in May 2016 were very positive, and we expect no different with this trip.

We will meet at the Harmston Road marshalling location in Courtenay at 9 am to arrange the car pool. We may also book a lunch location if enough registrants so desire.

Cost for this tour is \$17 for adults, which includes the \$12 admission and \$5 tour charge. Students aged 6 to 17 are \$11 each. VIU can handle up to 35 people on this tour, but seats are likely to go fast as we have twelve members signed up already in only five days (as of this writing).

Ruth Masters, 1920–2017

CVN joins in mourning the passing of Ruth Masters, who died on November 7 at the age of 97. Ruth was an avid and vocal member of CVN and always took the front row at meetings. She was well known in the Comox Valley and beyond for her advocacy for environmental and other causes. For a brief summary of her life, see <https://www.cheknews.ca/comox-valley-environmentalist-384975/>.

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Books

Gardens Aflame: Garry Oak Meadows of BC's South Coast

By Maleea Acker

New Star Books (#21 in the Transmontanus series),
2012, 108 pages, paperback, \$19.

Maleea Acker is a published poet, environmental journalist, and self-described "amateur gardener and ecosystem restorationist" who lives in Saanich. She is currently working on a PhD. in geopoetics, a discipline which she has quipped has about ten practitioners in the world. In this enlightening account of Garry oak meadows, she focuses mainly on southern Vancouver Island, but we know her themes are equally applicable to our area.



Camas in Uplands Park.

Photo: Maleea Acker

The book is not a scientific treatise, but includes plenty of scientific information. Nor is it a history book, but it's rich in historical details that give context to our present situation. The author makes clear from the outset that the extensive Garry oak meadows of former times, and now mostly lost, were entirely the work of the First Nations who inhabited the area. She states bluntly: "A Garry oak meadow is a garden." And the primary tool for managing these gardens was fire, hence the main (but perhaps not only) reason for her title.



Burning the meadow in Cowichan Garry Oak Preserve.

Photo: Maleea Acker

Neither is the book an autobiography, but the author weaves her own narrative through the text, bringing an appealingly personal touch to the work. It is her journey to knowledge and activism.

In a series of chapters titled Home, Meadows, Nomenclature and History, Gardens Past, Restoration, and Gardeners, Ms. Acker describes in graceful prose the nature and location of Garry oak ecosystems, their management by First Nations, their near extirpation by European settlers (which still continues), and the efforts of dedicated volunteers and professionals to protect and preserve them. Along the way, she details many of the key species of these meadows, including the endangered ones; the threat from invasive species; the difficulty of restoration in the face of legislation that seeks only to preserve endangered species but lacks an ecosystem view, and in the face of fire suppression measures. All these chapters are illustrated with black-and-white photographs, presumably to keep the book affordable, but you can see the full-colour photos on the author's website (<https://maleeaacker.com/>).

But perhaps even more important than these factual matters are the author's aesthetic and emotional responses (another kind of flame?) to the beauty of these meadows. These responses are probably shared by most people who experience the meadows. Besides our rational desire to preserve the biodiversity of these ecosystems, it is also these more personal experiences that can motivate the hard work of restoration.

In the final chapter, the author tells the story of her efforts to extend these natural meadows to her own small front yard, and the usual complaints that ensued. Astutely, she brings media attention to her dispute with

the authorities, and garners much public support. Happily, in the end, the local bylaws were changed to allow “naturescaping.”

In addition to what we learn about Garry oak ecosystems, we also learn more broadly from this and other First Nations’ stories that the whole non-Indigenous concept of the North American wilderness was flawed—it wasn’t uninhabited. This relates to the author’s deeper theme: to see ourselves not as humans *and* nature, but as humans *in* nature.

Slightly irritating to this editor are several lapses of editorial care: “Courtney” for Courtenay, “Scott” for Scot (the nationality), “Okanogan” for Okanagan, an introduction to subsections that says two plants and a mammal when the subsections are about two plants and a bird, and a few others. However, these will not mar the enjoyment of this book by most readers.

Given what we now know about climate change and the likelihood of our present forest ecosystems giving way to those more adapted to the coming drier and warmer conditions, the importance of Garry oak ecosystems and their restoration can’t be overstated. This lovely small volume can go a long way to educating the public about them.

Reviewed by D.O.

Hornby Island Marine Conservation Atlas

Prepared and published by Conservancy Hornby Island

2017, 32 pages (including covers), coil-bound paperback, \$20 (plus \$3 shipping)

If you missed CVN’s General Meeting in October, you’ll want to know about this little book. At the meeting, Mike Berman and Grant Scott, the editors of this volume, presented this impressive work that describes and maps the major types of marine life of the waters around Hornby Island. How did the book come about? The editor writes:

In 2016, after many years working to conserve 39% of the land base, Conservancy Hornby Island (CHI) and the people of Hornby recognized the value of the sea life around us and the need to protect and conserve it for future generations.

The organization started by engaging islanders with local knowledge of the most important fish, shellfish, birds, mammals, and plants of the surrounding marine environments and representing that knowledge in a series of distribution maps. The next step was to

combine the maps with informative text and illustrations (mostly attractive photographs) for each animal or plant group, and to preface all these with a basic description of the marine food web, to present an overall picture of the state of these environments. To these were added information about the K’ómoks First Nation’s traditional use of the marine resources of the area and their current Marine Use Plan for their territory, and a brief description of the governance of these marine areas and some associated issues. The result is this first edition of the atlas.

The descriptions of animals and plants here are not detailed or technical, and the main new information for CVN members is likely to be the distribution maps. But overall, CHI has done a great service in assembling this information in a colourful and engaging package. The atlas should lead readers to better appreciate the rich marine life around us and to be more aware of the threats that local marine ecosystems face.

Purchase this book to help CHI continue its excellent work. For information about how to order the book, visit CHI’s website at <http://conservancyhornbyisland.org>.

Reviewed by D.O.

Have you read a book recently that would be of interest to CVN members? Consider contributing a review, short or long, to the newsletter.

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Upcoming CVNS Activities

General Instructions for Field Trips

- All walks are club events and reserved for members only, unless otherwise stated. Typically, one walk each month is open to the public.
- Usually, meet at the Old Church Theatre, 755 Harmston Avenue in Courtenay and consider car-pooling, or meet leaders at the trail head, unless otherwise announced. Arrive at the meeting area 10 minutes prior to the appointed time.
- Wear clothing and footwear suitable for the conditions.
- Bring water and a snack.
- No dogs please.

Schedule

This information reflects planning as of our publishing date and is subject to change. Watch for the latest information and additional details in the President's weekly announcements and on the website.

Saturday, November 18: Bear Creek Park walk. Meet at the Country Market for car pooling at 9:00 am, or at the Bear Creek Park parking lot off Macaulay Road (off Hamm Road) by the yellow gate at 9:20 am. There is a steep hill down from the parking lot, but otherwise the walk is mostly flat along Bear Creek and the Oyster River. A toilet is available near the Hatchery building.

Sunday, November 26: Seal Bay Park walk (Bates Road entrance). Meet at the main parking lot on Bates Road at 9:30 am. Featured items will be trees and lichens. Leader: Loys Maingon.

Saturday, December 2: Kye Bay duck viewing. Meet at 9:30 am at the Kye Bay parking lot (Elks Park) at the corner of Kye Bay Road and Windslow Road. Wear sturdy boots with good traction for the slippery rocks, and dress for the weather and wind. Bring water as there are no facilities on the beach. Leader: Loys Maingon.

Sunday, December 10: Seal Bay Park walk (Fitzell Road entrance). Meet at the Fitzell Road entrance at 9:30 am on the west side of the Seal Bay Park. Access is via Grieve Road and Langlois Road. The walk is mostly flat, under the tall trees and along well maintained trails.

Reminder for Field Trip Leaders

All field trip participants who are not members must sign our Informed Consent and Assumption of Risk Agreement.



About the Society

Website

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Board of Directors

President: Jim Boulter
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Past President: Loys Maingon
Vice-President: David Innes
Secretary: Gabriel Baubaiges
Treasurer: Isabella Erni (TreasurerCVNS@gmail.com)
BC Nature Director: Sharon Niscak

Group Leaders and Other Volunteers

Membership Secretary: Maris Ratel
Birding: Herb Gaskill, Steve Ellis (cvnbirds@gmail.com)
Botany: Karin Franzen, Alison Maingon, Joel Kositsky
(botany@comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca)

Nature Kids: Haley Dato
 Photography: Terry Thormin
 Conservation: Loys Maingon
 Wetland Restoration: Murray Little
 Garry Oak Restoration: Loys Maingon
 Environmental Heritage and Culture: Gordon Olsen
 (coordinator@comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca)
 Swan Count: Ernie Stefanik, Krista Kaptein
 Comox Valley Conservation Partners liaison: Murray Little
 Trip Planning: Loys Maingon
 Bursary: J. Harrison, M. Stewart, K. Wilkinson
 Website: Jim Boulter, Isabella Erni, Krista Kaptein
 Facebook: Jillian Jones
 Newsletter Advertising: Kathie Woodley
 Newsletter Editors: Sharon Niscak, David Orford

Constitution and Bylaws

Available in PDF form on this web page:
<http://comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca/about-us/>

Membership

One adult: \$30; Family: \$40;
 Junior (12-17): \$10; Student (18-22): \$15

Pay on the website using PayPal, or mail a cheque payable to Comox Valley Nature to:
 CVNS Membership Secretary
 314 Aitken Street
 Comox BC, V9M 1N4

Receipts are provided at meetings, or include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Membership fee is due January 1. If not paid by March 30, names are removed from the CVNS and BC Nature lists. New memberships started after September include the following full calendar year.

Change of address, phone number or e-mail: Please advise the Membership Secretary.

Meetings

Monthly general meetings are held on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Florence Filberg Centre, 411 Anderton Avenue, Courtenay.

June meeting: Potluck at a member's house.

No general meeting in July, August, or December.

Bird meetings: First Thursday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at the Filberg Soroptimist Lounge, Courtenay. For information, send e-mail to cvnbirds@gmail.com.

Botany meetings: Second Monday of the month at a member's home, 12:00 p.m. An e-mail is sent prior to the meeting to confirm location and topic.

Botany walks (weather permitting) follow the meeting and are also scheduled at other times. To be included on the botany list, send e-mail to botany@comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca.

Newsletter

The newsletter is published 3 times per year (March, June, and November). The full-colour version is e-mailed to all members on the e-mail list, and a limited number of printed copies (black and white) is available at the general meetings. If you wish to receive printed copies by Canada Post (within Canada), the fee is \$5.00 per year.

The newsletter depends on your contributions. Please consider contributing an article or note on any topic of general interest to other members—for example: natural history, conservation activities, trips, or unusual sightings. You can send your contribution by e-mail to newsletter@comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca.

We would appreciate receiving articles by the first day of the publication month.

All articles are subject to editing.