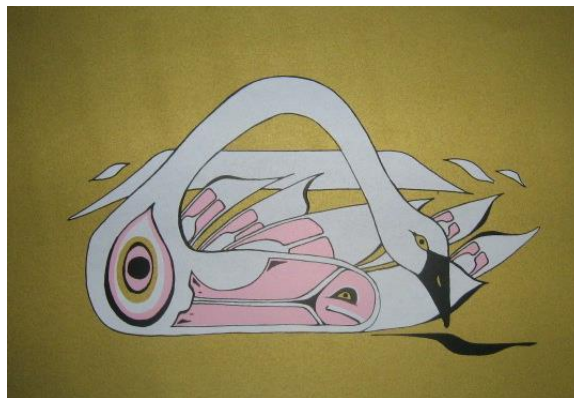


# Comox Valley Naturalists Society

November 2018 Newsletter



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## President's Corner

### 2018: The Year-End Review

*By Jim Boulter with contributions from Annette Boulter*

As the end of the year has always seemed a good time to take stock of where we have been, I felt that a year-end review would be appropriate. This has been another amazing year for Comox Valley Nature and one with many successes.

As always, the feature speakers at our monthly meetings were stimulating and informative. From “Go Batty” Bats with Jennie Blake to South Sea corals with John Tayless, our Vice President David Innes has brought a wide range of presenters to our monthly meetings who continue to provide an education in and promotion of nature.

CVN also hosted speakers on island geological features when Randal Mindell, a paleobotanist, and Dan Bowen, an amateur paleontologist, introduced us to the intricacies of the rocks below our feet and the fossils they contain. Steve Morgan who spoke on the condition of the Cumberland wetlands and Fred Newhouse who described sustainable logging brought us back to the land and forests around us. Scott Wallace provided details on the evolution of the Species at Risk Act (SARA) and if it can protect the Southern Resident Killer Whales, and the wildlife photography of Terry Thormin will round out this year's speakers. CVN would like to thank all our presenters for your time and

knowledge in your subject matter and for the opportunities you gave us to ask questions.

CVN has always produced materials which could be considered citizen science, and we continued to do so with the reissue of Betty Brooks's *Birdmen of Comox Valley*, Helen Robinson's new *Herbaceous Plants*, and the reprinting of our *Nature Viewing Guide* and the Birding group's *2017 Bird List*. It is encouraging that all these publications are still very much in demand by our members and the public.

Our groups have been very active with the weekly walks led by Loys, Alison's botany and seasonal Strathcona Wilderness Institute walks, and Kelly and Art's birding outings available to all members who wanted to join in. Ernie and Krista, who organize the fall and winter Swan counts, continued to do so this year. The Shoreline group is our newest addition with Randal taking the members to a number of coastal locations in the valley, teaching the science involved in understanding these sensitive and amazing ecosystems along our shores.

CVN has a committed set of volunteers who are always there to support us. Our activities are much more productive due to the dedication of Maris and Isabella in membership, Iris, Kelly and Judy in the refreshment committee. Kathleen and Lynn spend hours evaluating our bursary applications, and Frank organizes work parties weekly during the season, restoring native plants and removing invasives.

A focus of CVN efforts this year was the defense of the Mack Laing Trust in conjunction with the Mack Laing Heritage Society, a former CVN group. This effort is not over yet and will continue with Gordon Olsen's presentation at the Heritage BC Seminar in Vancouver later this month. In breaking news, the Town of Comox and the Attorney General of BC, at the request of the Supreme Court, has signed a Consent Order on November 12 giving MLHS a widened Intervener status

in any future hearings on Comox’s petition to vary the terms of the Laing Trust.

2018 has seen CVN host two gatherings outside of our usual meetings. In July, CVN hosted a public talk on “Whales, Dolphins and Porpoises in BC” with Jess Torode, project coordinator for the BC Cetacean Sightings Network. This well-attended talk promoted a number of citizen science projects such as reporting sightings of whales and dolphins. The lecture featured a number of videos which showed the complexity of the orca society. We were particularly happy to see the number of young families who attended the talk.

October saw CVN hosting a regional BC Nature seminar that had representatives of eleven conservation and naturalist groups from the Islands of the Salish Sea. This event was very well received and featured four experts speaking on issues of common concern to Island dwellers. CVN may have initiated a trend as two down-Island clubs are contemplating holding seminars in the future. Both the Cetacean talk and Regional Seminar were well-attended, helping us to meet our constitutional promise “to encourage the study of natural history; and to stimulate active interest in ecology, and the protection, conservation and wise utilization of natural resources.”

I must also mention our Board, and thank them for their support and guidance: Isabella for doing a spectacular job keeping the books and investments straight; Gabriel for maintaining accurate and informative minutes; and Sharon, our BC Nature Director, Murray, our Wetlands Director, and Loys, with his Garry oak education and conservation activities, for continuing their important core roles and dedicated work.

I thank the members of CVN for allowing me to get to know the best group of people I could imagine, as we develop innovative and forward-looking ideas. Our success is not the result of any one small group of people. I want to give every member a shout-out for their support through their dues and active participation. Your passion and love of nature are a gift to all. Thank you.

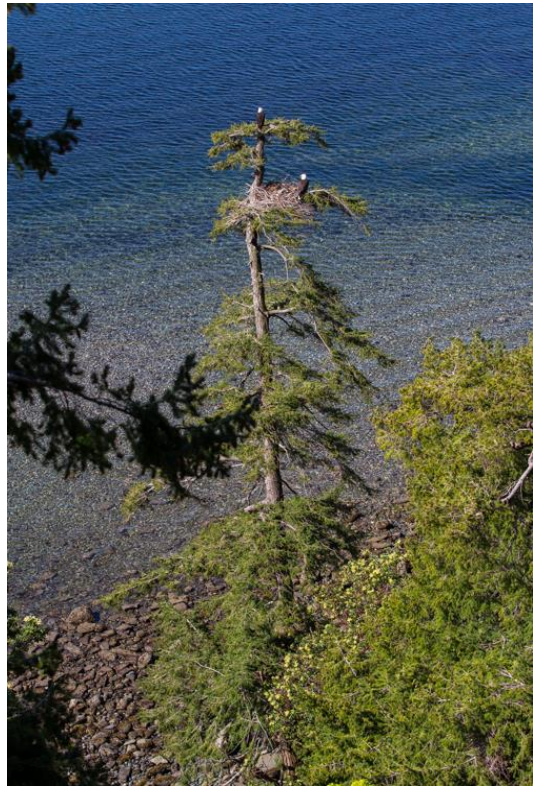
# Denman Island Bald Eaglets 2018

By Bruce Moffat

Bruce is a professional photographer, birder, and CVN member. You can see more of his fine photographs at [moffatphotography.zenfolio.com](http://moffatphotography.zenfolio.com).

This year a pair of bald eagles hatched two eggs in a tall nest tree just below the cliffs off Boyle Point. I learned of this event and set out to document the eaglets’ development over a series of trips to this Denman park which overlooks Chrome Island.

Bald eagles usually mate for life, generally about 20 years, and often use the same nest. The nest tree they used previously had apparently blown down and they took last year to build this nest in a new tree. As with the last nest, it is well situated for those with large camera lenses and no fear of heights! (See photo 1.)



(1) Denman eagle nest tree.

Photo: Bruce Moffat

Eagle eggs have an incubation period of 35 days and usually are laid a day or two apart. They hatch with this gap as well, and the first eaglet usually has an advantage over the second if conditions are difficult that season. The eaglets fledge over 10 to 14 weeks, in this case from April 23 through June 30.



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The first visit on April 30 found two small white fluffballs sitting in the nest being closely watched and fed herring by both adults (photo 2). The eaglets were barely able to lift their heads to take food at this point and mostly slept during the observation. One was noticeably larger than the other.



(2) Denman bald eaglets, April 30, 2018. Photo: Bruce Moffat

The May 7 visit was a little concerning for the first 15 to 20 minutes as only one eaglet was in view with an adult also in the nest. During this time thoughts turned to fratricide which can happen in such circumstances. There was good news when the adult left the nest for a bit and the smaller eaglet came into view where it was sleeping quietly behind the adult.

The May 23 visit found a big change, with the eaglets sitting proudly together and much more aware of their surroundings than the sleepy fluffballs seen before. They had lost 90% of the downy feathers and were left with a little white head trim to contrast their new brown feathers (photo 3). This was the only visit of five when food was not seen in the nest. However, there was a good amount of roughhousing between the eaglets and a little wing stretching from both.



(3) Denman bald eaglets, May 23, 2018. Photo: Bruce Moffat

The final visit was on June 18. Both eaglets looked very grown up, and both were testing their wings in the wind. They were playful and made the nest look quite small. No room for adults, although half a fish was apparent (photo 4).



(4) Denman bald eaglets, June 18, 2018. Photo: Bruce Moffat

### Membership Fee Reduced for Families!

We have simplified our fee structure and reduced the family rate to \$30 per year (same as for a single adult). For the details, see the Membership section near the end of this newsletter.

For more on these eagles here is a link to 100+ photos from April 30 thru June 18 with close-ups, feedings and a few videos you are welcome to view:  
[moffatphotography.zenfolio.com/p279319474](http://moffatphotography.zenfolio.com/p279319474).

## The Birth of Goose Spit...and Its Death

By Chris Pielou

This is a reprint of an article that was first published here in February 2010. It is still timely today.

Imagine the view from Goose Spit parking lot as it was 8,000 or 9,000 years ago. The sea level was 9 or 10 metres below its current level. Looking south, a long stretch of sand would have spread before you with Baynes Sound in the distance beyond it. Willemar Bluffs were some kilometres south of their present position and were linked by a broad dune-covered sandbank to Tree Island and Denman Island. This “sand-bridge” is now submerged and familiar to sailors as the shallow “Comox Bar”. The waves raised by winter’s strong southeast winds swept the sand they picked up along the shore toward the Courtenay Estuary. This sand, plus more, from the eroding and receding Bluffs, is what created the beginnings of the Spit and then kept on lengthening it.

The shape of the shoreline gradually changed as sand was carried north along the sand-bridge and then northwestward when it reached the Vancouver Island shore. At the same time, the sand was continually augmented by sand-slides from the eroding Bluffs. The sea level was gradually rising too, finally submerging the sand-bridge, which became Comox Bar. Willemar Bluffs continued to retreat northward. The direction in which the sand was carried kept changing to match the changing shape of the shoreline. The change must have been abrupt at one stage, causing the surprising “elbow” in the Spit (at the west end of the Park on the DND boundary).

These processes are still going on and the Spit’s existence depends on them. Continual erosion also takes sand away from the Spit itself, which must be continually “fed” to survive. Sand added from the east is only temporarily part of the Spit, before it is picked up again and carried farther westward. There it has grown into a submerged extension of the Spit, stretching some distance across the mouth of the Courtenay estuary before petering out. Just as most of the cells in your body are not the ones you were born with, the “living” Spit has a continual turnover of the sand grains, pebbles, and cobbles that it’s made of.

At the moment, the riprap that’s been put along the foot of Willemar Bluffs to “protect” them is preventing their erosion and starving the Spit. If this goes on long enough, the spit will eventually disintegrate – it may be

washed away and destroyed. But possibly, the riprap will slowly be buried, as more sand falls from the Bluffs, in time to save the Spit and lengthen its lifetime—just until the rising sea level (caused by global warming) washes it all away.

The question is: which will happen first, and when? On a geological time scale, no spit ever lasts for very long.



**The hardshoring began with Willemar Bluffs. In recent years whole stretches of beach along our coastline have systematically been buried beneath riprap.**

*Photo: Sharon Niscak*



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## Are You Serious About Global Warming?

By Sharon Niscak

Our foods are part of the global plant, fungi and animal kingdoms we all cherish. Are we cognizant of the source, the extent of our agricultural footprint and our collective food waste?



Photo: Sharon Niscak

The Natural Resources Defense Council's landmark food waste report reveals that up to forty percent of food in the United States goes uneaten. The Toronto Food Policy Council similarly reports that about forty percent of food produced yearly in Canada is wasted. Value Chain Management International reports that the direct cost of Canada's annual food waste is \$31 billion and that the true cost of Canadian food waste (including associated wastes of energy, water, labour, and other resources) is estimated at \$107 billion!

About forty percent of the waste occurs in the home, and additional food is wasted in commercially served and prepared food activities. The other fifty-three percent occurs where food is produced, processed, transported and sold.

Apparently, eighty percent of food wasted is "perfectly edible". Statistics Canada (2007) stated that in 2007 Canadians wasted 183 kilograms of solid food per person. For a household of four that would be 732 kilograms or 1614 pounds.

According to NRDC, wasted food is the number one contributor to landfills, and most of this waste could be curbed in the kitchen, not by the curbside. If we are serious about "keeping nature worth knowing" it is time to rethink our attitude, habits and methods of securing food. A few seeds nurtured can provide healthy food at

your doorstep, and neighbourhood gardens reduce the waste and damage occurring in our food chain. It is time to seriously examine indigenizing our food systems.

To quote the NRDC summary report:

Food and agriculture consume up to 16 percent of U.S. energy, almost half of all U.S. land and account for 67 percent of the nation's freshwater use. Those resources are used in vain if the food is never eaten, wasting up to about one-fifth of U.S. cropland, fertilizers, and agricultural water.

Canada's food waste parallels the food waste of our southern neighbour.

A quick online search for food waste will provide some strategies to reduce your personal food waste. For example, the Capital Regional District (Victoria region) and Love Food Hate Waste Canada provide some tips.

Reducing our agricultural footprint by eating wisely is an action that all of us can take. We all eat, and eating wisely is an activity that shows that we cherish this exquisite home, our Earth.

### References

<http://vcm-international.com/new-report-annual-food-waste-in-canada-is-31-billion/>

<https://www.nrdc.org/resources/wasted-how-america-losing-40-percent-its-food-farm-fork-landfill>

<https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/wasted-2017-executive-summary.pdf>

<https://www.crd.bc.ca/service/waste-recycling/kitchen-scraps/kitchen-scraps>

<https://metrofarm.com/michael-olson/worm-farmers/>

### Yellow-Billed Cuckoo

The elusive yellow-billed cuckoo was first reported in BC in 1881. By 1927 the yellow-billed cuckoo was extirpated. However, it was again sighted in 1989.

Interestingly, the yellow-billed cuckoo was among the specimens assembled and collected by Hamilton Mack Laing in the 1920s. For more information and an updated account from 1881 to 2013, refer to an outstanding summary and history of the species in *Wildlife Afield*:

[http://www.wildlifebc.org/pdfs/wa11\\_2%20Yellow-billed%20Cuckoo%20BC%20sm.pdf](http://www.wildlifebc.org/pdfs/wa11_2%20Yellow-billed%20Cuckoo%20BC%20sm.pdf)

### Membership Secretary Needed

After several years of service as CVN's Membership Secretary, Maris Ratel is retiring from the position, and a new volunteer is needed. Please contact Jim Boulter if you're interested. Maris will help you to transition into this role.

# The Town of Comox Tree Bylaw

By Gabriel Bau

Did you know that there is such a thing as a Tree Bylaw? What is it for? How does it affect the Town of Comox?

This fall, I took a course to learn how to better write policies, and as part of my assignments I chose to review and make recommendations regarding the Town of Comox Tree Management and Protection Bylaw, last updated in 1994.

This bylaw was implemented to manage and protect trees in Comox. It applies to you and requires a permit to cut trees if:

1. Your property is larger than 0.5 hectares,
2. Your property is within the protected area, and
3. You are planning to cut more than 75% of the trees in your parcel.

This bylaw gives plenty of flexibility to property owners to manage trees on their property however they wish as many owners fall outside the conditions of the bylaw. As a result it falls short of protecting trees. The Town's Official Community Plan (OCP), the main document that sets the vision of the Town, states that the recommended tree cover for a municipality like Comox should be 40% and that in 2014, when the OCP was amended, it was 23%.

According to the public consultation process undertaken for the review of the OCP in 2014, the protection of the natural environment was identified as one of the most significant issues raised by the public. As a result, the Town imposed the requirement to obtain a permit in some designated areas prior to the alteration of land.

Then, what is the problem? The problem is that the Tree Bylaw differs from the OCP. Imagine that I own a property outside the Bylaw's tree protection area, and I have a mature tree in my property that is just where I would like to build a secondary suit in the future. Currently, the Tree Bylaw cannot prevent me from cutting that tree down.

The OCP protects mature trees if you are planning to develop your property, but still you are allowed to cut trees on your property before applying to any development permit.

I contacted the Town's Park Superintendent and shared what I found in my analysis. The Town is striving to improve the protection of their trees through public

education and amending the Tree Bylaw, and they were pleased to see that I was working on this as well.

In order to help the Town I extracted the main OCP community values related to tree protection and offered some preliminary alternatives to better meet these values.

The OCP establishes the following community values:

1. Protect mature trees.
2. Retain unique natural environments.
3. Preserve the scenic and environmental values of the waterfront.
4. Develop through infill housing.
5. Strive for responsible, effective, and representative government.

Among all the alternatives analyzed, I made several recommendations to the Town.

First, I recommended to conduct a public survey to gather public opinion regarding the protection of trees. If these values are in line with what was found in 2014, the Town would have stronger support to extend the tree protection area to the whole municipality and establish a minimum number of trees per hectare target (in my recommendation I suggested 50 trees per hectare). This would better meet the OCP values 1 to 3 than the current bylaw.

Apart from this, the Town could extend the protection to a list of species, and increase the level of penalties and enforcement for noncompliance. This would limit the extent of tree protection to those trees of higher importance, ensure that noncompliance is properly addressed, and in the end, help the Town meet the community values 4 and 5.

So what's next? The review of the Tree Bylaw has been in the Town's Strategic Planning and Priority Setting, the main document used by Council to set and monitor their priorities, during the last few years, and hopefully we will see the review shortly.

I hope you will join me in helping the Town during its review of the Tree Bylaw to better manage and protect trees according to our current values.

## Is the Earth Going to the Dogs?

By Sharon Niscak

There is considerable discussion and concern about climate change and the impact of transportation, fossil fuels, deforestation and agriculture on global warming. One subject however remains mute—the impact of our beloved pets.

Whereas some people concerned with the environment are adamant about their dietary choices and advocate for a lower meat or meatless diet, the subject of the diet of pets is rarely included in the discussion. Research reveals that producing meat requires more land, water and energy and creates more pollution than plant-based food. There is no doubt that agriculture contributes to greenhouse gases. If you are concerned about the type of car you drive, or the food you choose to consume, perhaps some thought should be given to the choice of pets. As pet ownership is on the rise in many countries the demand for meaty pet food is also on the rise.

Dogs and cats do need protein and cats are obligate carnivores, meaning that they require meat. Some may argue offal and organ meats that pets eat is not popular with humans, however, the trend is for “gourmet” pet food from both land and water. Physiologically humans are omnivores capable of digesting meat and plant foods. This enables humans to secure food in a wide range of environments including the arctic and northern communities where plant food is seasonal. With humans what is edible is culturally specific, and in an ideal situation should be environmentally responsible and indigenized or local to the region where you dwell. Apparently pet food is also culturally specific to the pet owners. In the United States the pet food industry is worth nearly \$25 billion annually! There will be no doubt some resistance to modify our current view of pet ownership and species.

To quote the research of Greg Okin, a professor in the UCLA Department of Geography and the Institute of the Environment and Sustainability, using the numbers that he crunched for the United States, dogs and cats ate about 25 per cent of the animal calories consumed. “If these pets established a sovereign nation, it would rank fifth in global meat consumption”. There is no doubt that our current industrial agriculture system contributes considerably to greenhouse gases. Agriculture for our USA neighbours’ 180 million dogs and cats contributes to greenhouse gases, as Okin notes, as much as 64

million tons annually. Canada probably has a similar ratio.

To support the industrial complex of crops for animal feed and intensive feed lots, monocrops cover a large portion of land used for agriculture. This has contributed to loss of biodiversity, soil erosion and degradation of soil quality. Industrial monocrops are heavily sprayed with chemicals. Agricultural runoff frequently results in the contamination of water and land. Adding fossil fuel for agrichemical manufacturing, farm machinery, and transportation, the sum for our pets is substantially increasing carbon dioxide and methane emissions. Plus, it is contributing to loss of biodiversity and species.

### References

Karin Brulliard, “The hidden environmental costs of dog and cat food.” The Washington Post. August 4, 2017.

Callin Heinze, “A big pawprint: The environmental impact of pet food.” [theconversation.com](http://theconversation.com).

<https://news.mongabay.com/2017/08/ever-wondered-how-much-your-pets-diet-impacts-the-environment/>

<https://www.ioes.ucla.edu/person/gregory-okin/>

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## Morrison Headwaters Conservation

By Murray Little

Morrison Creek originates from the base of an escarpment below Bevan road, and enters the Puntledge River at Puntledge Park. Although it is only a short system, it is extremely valuable for salmon production and for hosting the red-listed Morrison Creek Lamprey. Due to its origins from springs, the waters of the creek and its tributaries run at consistent cool temperatures, and steady volumes through the summer. The springs, tributaries and wetlands between the escarpment northeast of Bevan Road and the Inland Island Highway are known as the Morrison Headwaters.

Over a dozen species at risk have been identified in the Headwaters, including mammals, fish, amphibians, birds, and a reptile. Efforts are under way to identify more species, and to note their habits.

Also, the extensive wetlands and beaver ponds in the Headwaters act as a holding area for water after winter storms, reducing the risk of flooding in parts of Courtenay.

Comox Valley Land Trust recently completed a comprehensive science-based study to prioritize areas deserving conservation in the valley, and the Morrison Headwaters emerged as a top priority. One 24-acre parcel is already protected by the B.C. Government as the “Linton Conservation Area”.

Recently a second 55-acre area came on to the market—the first of such private lands to become available—and CV Land Trust has negotiated an agreement to purchase it. CVLT has until March 31, 2019 to raise the funds required to close the deal. Fund-raising is well under way, and 90% has been raised already. In November, the Morrison Streamkeepers hosted a very successful fundraiser music evening at Creekside Commons.

There will be local projects to help raise the funds, and you will doubtless hear of them in due course. Also, as a means to publicize the campaign, and to make people more aware of the Headwaters, the Morrison Creek Streamkeepers led many interpretive walks during the summer and early fall. Walks will be ongoing through the seasons. If you are interested in upcoming walks, which due to weather and leaders’ schedules may be on short notice, please contact Jan Gemmell, President Morrison Creek Streamkeepers, at [jansgem@gmail.com](mailto:jansgem@gmail.com) to add your name to a contact list.

More information about the area, and the campaign, can be found at [www.cvlandtrust.ca/morrison-headwaters](http://www.cvlandtrust.ca/morrison-headwaters) and [morrisoncreek.org](http://morrisoncreek.org).

## 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.
- Meet either at the carpooling location or the trailhead 10 minutes before the specified time, unless otherwise announced. Carpooling locations are either the old Thrifty’s in downtown Courtenay or the Courtenay Country Market north of the city.
- Participants are responsible for their own safety.
- All walks take a minimum of 2 hours.
- Wear clothing and footwear suitable for the conditions.
- Bring water and a snack (or lunch for longer trips).
- 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.

**Sunday, November 25:** Seal Bay Park, marine side. Meet at trailhead on Bates Road at 09:00. Trail has some stairs.

**Sunday, December 2:** Oyster River, “pub-to-pub”. Meet at Country Market at 08:30. Level walk.

**Sunday, December 9:** Tsolum Spirit Park. Meet at trailhead on Tsolum River Road at 09:00. Level walk.

**Saturday, December 15:** Kye Bay Beach. Meet at trailhead at 09:00. Level with cobbles.

**Sunday, January 6:** (Public walk) Oyster River, “pub-to-pub”. Meet at Country Market at 08:30. Level walk.

**Sunday, January 13:** Puntledge Park, Ruth Masters Greenway. Meet at trailhead on Powerhouse Road at 09:00. Level walk.

**Saturday, January 19:** Goose Spit. Meet at trailhead at DND entrance at 09:00. Level walk with cobbles.

**Sunday, January 27:** Condensory Bridge to Airpark. Meet at trailhead at Condensory Bridge at 09:00. Level walk.



**Sunday, February 3:** Seal Bay Park: Melda's Marsh.  
Meet at trailhead on Bates Road at 09:00. Level walk.

### 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

[comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca](http://comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca)

### General Email Address

[coordinator@comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca](mailto:coordinator@comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca)

### Mailing Address

Comox Valley Naturalists Society  
Box 3222  
Courtenay BC  
V9N 5N4

### Board of Directors

President: Jim Boulter  
([coordinator@comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca](mailto:coordinator@comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca))

Vice-President: David Innes  
Secretary: Gabriel Bau  
Treasurer: Isabella Erni ([TreasurerCVNS@gmail.com](mailto:TreasurerCVNS@gmail.com))  
BC Nature Director: Sharon Niscak  
Project Director: Loys Maingon  
Wetlands Restoration Director: Murray Little

### Group Leaders and Other Volunteers

Membership Secretary: vacant (Maris Ratel filling in)  
Birding: Kelly Kline ([cvnbirds@gmail.com](mailto:cvnbirds@gmail.com))  
Botany: Alison Maingon, Joel Kositsky  
([botany@comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca](mailto:botany@comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca))  
Marine and Shoreline: Randal Mindell  
([cvnsshoreline@gmail.com](mailto:cvnsshoreline@gmail.com))  
Photography: Terry Thormin  
Conservation: Loys Maingon  
Garry Oak Restoration: Loys Maingon  
Environmental Heritage and Culture: Gordon Olsen  
([coordinator@comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca](mailto:coordinator@comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca))  
Swan Count: Ernie Stefanik, Krista Kaptein  
([ernie.stefanik@gmail.com](mailto:ernie.stefanik@gmail.com))  
Comox Valley Conservation Partners liaison: Murray Little  
Trip Planning: Loys Maingon  
Bursary: Kathleen Wilkinson, Lynn Gray  
([coordinator@comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca](mailto:coordinator@comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca))  
Website: Isabella Erni, Krista Kaptein  
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Facebook: Jillian Jones  
Newsletter Advertising: Kathie Woodley  
Newsletter Editors: Sharon Niscak, David Orford  
([newsletter@comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca](mailto:newsletter@comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca))

### Constitution and Bylaws

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

### Membership

Note the new membership fee and rules.

Membership form (including the Informed Consent and Assumption of Risk Agreement) is available at meetings or on the website.

Fee: \$30 per year per adult or family (2 adults plus children 16 and under)

Pay on the website using PayPal, or mail a cheque payable to Comox Valley Nature to:

CVNS Membership Secretary  
Box 3222  
Courtenay BC, V9N 5N4

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

Membership runs for one year from the date your fee is received, and is considered lapsed 90 days after your renewal date. Lapsed members are removed from the CVNS and BC Nature membership lists.

**Change of address, phone number or email:** 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 email to [cvnbirds@gmail.com](mailto:cvnbirds@gmail.com).

**Botany meetings:** Second Monday of the month at a member's home, 12:00 p.m. An email 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 email to [botany@comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca](mailto:botany@comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca).

## Newsletter

The newsletter is published 3 times per year (March, June, and November). The full-colour version is emailed to all members on the email list, and a few printed copies (black and white) are available at general meetings and in the CVNS outbox in the Evergreen Lounge at the Florence Filberg Centre.

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, unusual sightings, or a book review. You can send your contribution by email to [newsletter@comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca](mailto:newsletter@comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca).

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

All articles are subject to editing.

## NatureKids

CVNS has a cooperative relationship with NatureKids Comox Valley, a separate nature club for children which is part of the NatureKids BC organization. For more information, see <http://www.naturekidsbc.ca/>.