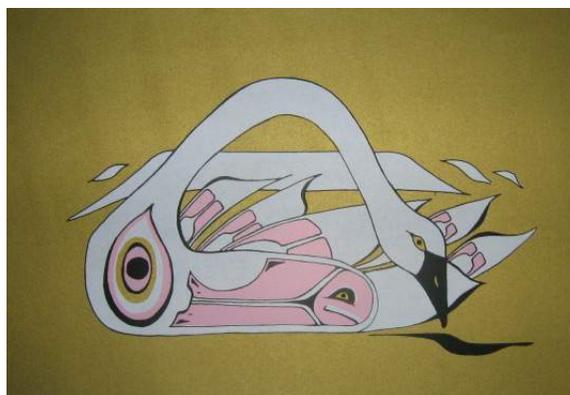


Comox Valley Naturalists Society

March 2019 Newsletter



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President's Corner

"To know nature, and to keep it worth knowing"

By Jim Boulter

The motto of BC Nature, and by extension that of Comox Valley Nature, short as it is, contains a number of important ideas that have driven CVN for its 53 years of existence. While it may have become a banal phrase and a cliché through repetition, I would like to take this opportunity to expand on this simple slogan, and see where it takes us.

The first part, "to know nature", suggests our desire to learn the reality about nature and to actively work towards a deeper understanding of nature in all her forms. A PhD instructor I took a course from had a phrase that has stuck with me many years later. When a student started to respond to one of his in-class questions with "I think..." he would respond with this: "Don't tell me what you think. Tell me what you know."

My internet dictionary provides a succinct definition: "Know: to be aware of through observation, inquiry, or information"¹. Knowing nature requires all these things, and is probably the basis of CVN's practice of inviting subject experts to inform us through their research and knowledge. A person (Aldrovandi, 1646) may believe that barnacle geese come from goose barnacles,² but it is

impossible to know such a thing as it is factually untrue; it has no reality in this world.

The second part of the motto has a wide range of possible meanings³ because of its use of "to keep" and "knowing". The best definition I see for "to keep" is probably "to preserve, to maintain, or to protect", while "knowing" is best defined as something "...done in full awareness or consciousness". However you may define it, this fragment seems to require our action to preserve and protect nature, and to take an active part in doing so with the current best practices, and to actively seek out expert knowledge of nature. Unlike the first phrase, this one requires that we act, that we get out in nature and protect and preserve her.

Since its inception as Comox Strathcona Natural History Society in 1966, CVN has worked to fulfill this promise as well. Past examples of our successes include Strathcona Provincial Park (our earliest defence of nature), Seal Bay Park, and the Courtenay Air Park. We promote knowledge to our members and the general public at our meetings, our walks and our outreach at public events such as open houses.

CVN does not, however, live in the past, and our activities continue in the same vein as those of the members who have led the way. One of the ongoing initiatives that CVN is working on today includes starting a dialogue with BC Parks over the expansion of Comox Lake Ecological Reserve. CVN is asking the government to include in the reserve all the bluffs, almost doubling the current area, and to provide some level of protection for the fragile and rare ecosystems represented there. Ecological reserves have a unique place in the Parks system as they are created to preserve ecosystems which can be easily damaged by becoming too popular. They exist as public spaces, but require a high level of control over public access to prevent removal of plant material and compaction of the soil by high foot traffic. Additionally, motorized vehicles that would disturb the soil, erode hillsides, and damage stream beds must be kept out. All these are proactive

activities required to protect and maintain the ecology of the area.

CVN was instrumental in getting the existing area placed in a reserve, and we hope that the BC Government will see the wisdom in protecting the wider area into the future. Actions we take today will have consequences well into the future, and often the best action is the least action, in this case the minimum would be to increase the protection of the bluffs.

A second initiative is our discussion with the City of Courtenay and others regarding access to the Vanier Garry Oaks Park, a little used but important property behind Vanier High School. This area has one of the highest densities of publically accessible Garry oaks in the Comox Valley. The presence of Garry oak here is thought to be the furthest north these oaks exist in Canada,⁴ but their prehistoric numbers⁵ in the Valley are a result of the First Nations' culturally modified ecosystem.

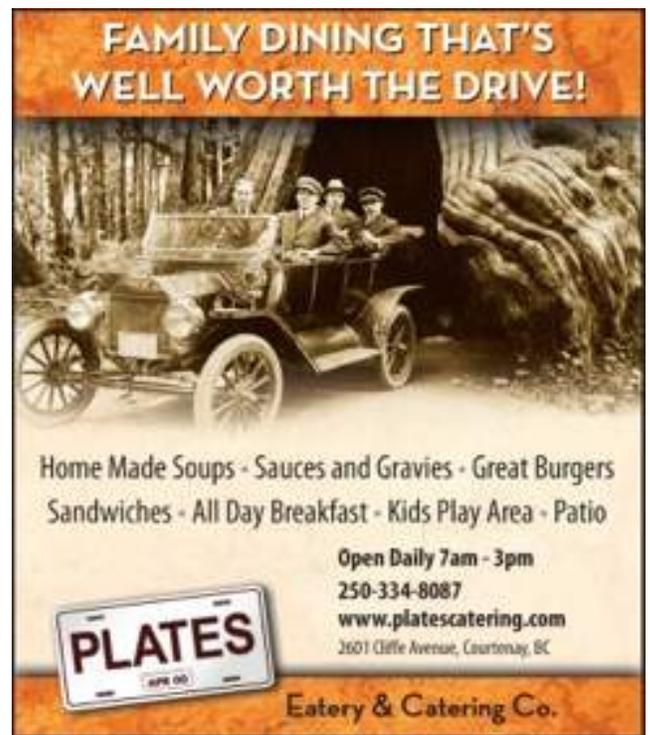
Oak acorns were a staple of the coastal people long before Europeans came here, and the Pentlatch actively cultivated Garry oaks along with camas as agricultural crops in oak meadows and savannahs. They dominate certain areas on Vancouver Island due to selective removal of native species such as the *Abies*. Oaks cannot compete with the native conifers, as the taller firs and cedars will overshadow the oaks. Unlike holly and other understory trees and bushes, Garry oaks do not survive in the shade.

The preservation of a population of Garry oaks then becomes a continuous battle—to retain some, we need to remove the taller conifers. This is the same issue many towns find themselves having to deal with when it comes to heritage sites such as Shakesides in Mack Laing Park, another project CVN is associated with. Should we keep the house, or let it fade into the past? Should we throw the house and oaks away in order to preserve the natural order of succession? Should we ignore segments of the area's culture and history and let the west coast rainforest remove all trace?

We as humans are constantly changing our surroundings to better serve our lifestyles, and so I would have to come out on the side of preserving the oaks and Shakesides. For the same reason we spend money on museums and parks, they are an important part of our past, and we need the physical remains of these things to remind us of where we came from, and what we hold important. As a species, we engineer everything to suit ourselves, often to the detriment of nature. In these two cases, let us preserve the past, even if this means an active involvement in the process. Nature is too important, and too under-represented in today's world, to

be left to survive, or not, on her own resources. CVN must act to keep nature worth knowing.

1. <https://www.bing.com>.
2. <https://www.zsl.org/blogs/artefact-of-the-month/barnacles-darwin-and-geese%E2%80%A6>.
3. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/>
4. SD 71 Vanier Oak Property Ecological Assessment and Protection Plan, 2013.
5. Baker, Shanna. "Coastal Oakscapes", Hakai Magazine, April 24, 2018: <https://www.hakaimagazine.com/videos-visuals/coastal-oakscapes/>.



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Eagles and Midshipman Fish

By Bruce Moffat

You know about the herring run and it's importance to wildlife, but do you know about the midshipman fish and their relationship to bald eagles? This species of toadfish serves as an important food source for eagles and their young just as the herring spawn ends. (photo 1).



(1) Midshipman fish.

Photo: Bruce Moffat

For those who followed the eaglets on Denman Island that I wrote about in the November 2018 CVN newsletter article, you could see a change of fish prey species from herring to midshipman fish over a few short weeks.

Midshipman fish spend most of their lives in deep water, down to 360 m, but during breeding spend a few months in shallow tidal waters hiding under large rocks where they have created small pools. Their eggs are deposited on the underside of these rocks and the males stay to protect them for these few months.

Local eagles gather in large numbers in the trees nearby and on the rocks in these intertidal zones and pick off adult fish over and over again. They catch them while on the wing (photo 2) or walk through the shallows and stick their heads in the seaweed-choked water (photo 3). Fights are routine when a fish is caught, as is usual with gatherings of eagles. Seeing 50 to 60 eagles sitting on exposed rocks at low tide is a sure sign that midshipman fish are being served!



(2) Eagle airstrike for midshipman catch. Photo: Bruce Moffat



(3) Eagle wading for midshipman catch. Photo: Bruce Moffat

If you decide to view the eagles while feeding, keep in mind your possible effect on their success. They will move off if you get too close. If you move slowly and remain quiet there is no reason you can't watch them catch midshipmen fish. Expect some to be eaten on the spot but watch for some to fly away back to a waiting family at a nest (photo 4).



(4) Eagle flies away with midshipman catch.

Photo: Bruce Moffat

Another wonder of the Comox Valley and surrounding area! If you'd like to see more photos, here is a link to my collection of eagles and midshipman fish. These are best viewed in full screen slideshow mode:

<https://moffatphotography.zenfolio.com/p440034219>.

Seal Bay Nature Park

We have three related articles about Seal Bay Nature Park in this issue. First is an edited reprint of an article published here in 2010 on the long-running efforts to preserve the area, followed by a postscript on that history from today's perspective. Finally, we have the latest information from the CVRD about their plans for the park.

Seal Bay Nature Park History to 2010

By Dulcie Hamilton

Xwee Xwhyte Luq – a place of beauty and serenity, a name given to the area by the Comox Indian Band. Many people have made this park happen. Of course we are still waiting to see the whole 1600 acres officially become a nature park. At least we do have 360 acres, and as many of you know, this area is well used. So the addition of the approximately 1200 acres is of great importance to reduce the pressure. In 1970 Keith and Norma Morton, Phil Capes, several others I can't recall, and myself went on a hike through the forest. We found an old railroad right of way, the path about overgrown, but we walked over old rotting ties till we encountered a huge patch of sword fern nearly as high as our heads.

We became a little confused at this point, it was quite wet underfoot, but eventually we emerged onto Loxley Road, at the north end. A great nature park was our reaction!

1971-73: This was the start of a long campaign to realize it as a protected nature park. The first step was to get information and a history of the area. It had been offered to returning war veterans as a settlement project but the land was not suitable. Water was not readily available and the land was very rocky, or boggy! Several evident attempts were found – a half dug well, old rusted implements scattered about.

On one of our exploration tours we discovered a marijuana patch. We decided this was not an attraction we needed. A few days later it was cleared out!

We checked with local residents, the Comox Strathcona Regional Board and Forestry Ministry. Eventually we obtained permission from the Government to use the area- providing there was no tree cutting. Phil arranged 2 Local Initiative Projects (L.I.P.) grants, a winter make-work program for the unemployed, to brush out trails using the old logging rail lines, deer trails at times and woodcutters' trails, who had been using fallen trees. Phil also started writing letters, which she continued to do for the next 25 years. Files are stored at the museum containing all her correspondence. Melda Buchanan also pitched in with her inimitable style, strongly urging various officials to 'get with it'. She, along with Ruth Masters, another environmentalist, made signs; lugging ladders around throughout the trails to put up directions, so not too many hikers were lost! Many club members spent hours on work parties each year. The Comox District Mountaineering Club, Back Country Horse Club, and other groups as well, were all very supportive.

1975: A 330 acre lease was arranged, taking in the beach side from Bates Road and also access following the creek to the swamp. This was officially granted in 1984. (Quick work eh!)

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1980: Alice Bullen wrote to the Ministry of Forests stating the need for this whole area (1600 acres) to be saved: more than \$100,000 has been spent, many groups use the area, thousands of letters from individuals support saving these crown lands! School District 71, The Chamber of Commerce, The Economic Development Board, Senior Citizens Organization, Tsolum Parent/Teachers Association, C.D. Mountaineering Club, were all in favour of saving the whole area.

Government reply: the area had logging prospects, they proposed 10-25 acre clear cuts and the use of Roundup to clear brush. The public outcry was such that they withdrew that idea.

Next they put out tenders for woodlot cutting and claimed 17 applications were received; this was short term employment benefiting a few.

James Egan, Regional District A, was an active supporter. Campbell River Forestry prepared an extensive study on the land's logging potential. More protests followed. In reply to Egan's letter of protest, Forestry's reply was "The land wasn't that suitable for just park purpose because it didn't have a view of the ocean"!! As Egan said, "This gives you an idea of the kind of dinosaurs we are dealing with. I think their idea of a park is B.B.Q's and porta-potties."

1983: Still the Regional District continued discussions – they decided a Tree Lot licence might be a good idea. More research needed, start up costs would be high for a small area. Area C Director, Les Cartwright, said that Seal Bay was the last remaining area of any large size in the Comox Valley.

The Regional District created a Parks Management Branch to look after Goose Spit and Seal Bay Nature Park and others. A bylaw was passed for public use, including no removal of logs with a penalty of \$500.

1987-88: Six months work for 7 people – Federal grants totaling \$145,000 for two summers.

1992: Moe Sihota, B.C. Environment Minister, announced in Courtenay that the Seal Bay forest would be preserved under the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan. Unfortunately it was not to be. The NDP were defeated in the ensuing election.

2000: Comox Strathcona Regional District finally announced a lease of 1400 acres with licence of occupation. Work continues in the Nature Park: Russell Coupland, Murray McLeod and Don Apps have been quietly carrying on with a great deal of work. Each year the Regional District has supplied grants for the upkeep of trails, vegetation clearing and repairs to the swamp area. "Coupland Loop" is evidence of Russell's long

duty in the park. He just celebrated his 90th birthday! The Back Country Horse Club continues to do their share by keeping up the trails dedicated to riding. The Comox District Mountaineering club is still very supportive and the residents living around the perimeter of the park are very hopeful that it will remain an unspoiled and natural forest.

Melda and Phil are no longer with us. We can almost hear them cheering us on: "Go get that park for us!"

2010: This is the date we have before us: do we get our wish? What more do we have to do to SAVE SEAL BAY NATURE PARK?

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Postscript

By Loys Maingon

Dulcie Hamilton passed away five short years after writing this article. Rereading it I find that it reflects her selfless appreciation of the contributions of others to what was in fact one of her own great contributions to the conservation of nature in the Comox Valley. Her many achievements and dedication as CVN president were memorialized by Sharon Niscak in a 2016 CVN newsletter.

The park that Melda Buchanan worked tirelessly to set aside, and for which Dulcie organized parties to establish trails was incorporated by the Comox Valley Regional District into the parks system and is now very ably managed for recreation and conservation by CVRD staff in collaboration with K'omoks Nations Guardians. As with much of the valley's green spaces it is part of the "unceded territories" that form part of the Treaty negotiations. Those negotiations will shape the future of the park, our relationship with the land, and K'omox Nation. Anyone interested in understanding what the ongoing treaty negotiations will mean for the future of Seal Bay Park should take a few minutes to view and listen to the "Lands and Resources" section of the informational videos prepared by K'omoks Nation to

promote a better understanding of their treaty process. This section includes a clip of the conservation work being done by K'omoks Guardians

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VrPYnWpNHCI&index=2&list=PLBNxwf0zebTtsehfc8S5NbSLC6H41TXNQ>).

I am saddened to consider that in the many discussions surrounding Seal Bay Park, it seems that people forget the role that activists like Melda played in securing these and other lands and which are all too often taken for granted. Nothing ever comes easily or without some struggle. We owe those who took time out of their lives to secure green spaces and preserve them from development a tremendous debt of gratitude, especially in these difficult times when biodiversity is more than ever threatened by an unsustainable economy.

As Dulcie would say: "Best get on with it, there is work yet to be done."

New Park Plan Guiding Changes at Seal Bay

By Brian Allaert, CVRD



Trail users entering Seal Bay Nature Park.

Photo: Kim Stallknect Photography, courtesy CVRD

The Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) board adopted the 2019 *Seal Bay Nature Park and Forest Management Plan* on February 26, replacing the 1998 park master plan. The updated 20-year plan identifies park values and uses, defines a park vision, provides management goals and actions, and outlines priorities for improvements.

Parks staff have already begun work on this list of priorities including plans to open a 62 stall parking lot in a grassy clearing off Hardy Road by early summer. This extra parking will feature an area for horse trailers and offer picnic tables, an outhouse and a new park kiosk. The kiosk will be part of new, way-finding signage throughout the park which is being prepared for

installation by September. With the fresh signs will come new trail names that reflect park features and first nations vocabularies.

You can also expect some changes to the trail system this year. To foster conservation values portions of Mitchell Grade and Twinflower Lane trails will be closed. The south end of Mitchell Grade will be opened to cyclists and equestrians providing these riders with some additional loop opportunities. These two user groups will also appreciate the changes to the 10 km multi-use loop that will allow riders to circumnavigate the park without needing to cross or use Bates Road. To create this safer loop option the Bridges trail will be designated for horses and bikes. As well 800 m of new trail will be constructed to link Bridges and Twinflower trails eventually connecting with the existing multi-use trail. This trail work is scheduled for late spring. Proposed trail changes are identified on park brochures available at the main entrances to Seal Bay.



Ravine at Seal Bay Nature Park.

Photo: Kim Stallknect Photography, courtesy CVRD

To review the plan, and learn more about the projects mentioned above, please visit the CVRD website at <http://comoxvalleyrd.ca/projects-initiatives/past-current-projects/seal-bay-nature-park-management-plan-update>.

Be sure to check back to this project page for updates as well as implementation of other priorities in this forward looking park plan.

CVRD Park Naturalists Programs Begin April 14 at Seal Bay

The CVRD is pleased to offer park visitors an opportunity to learn more about the natural landscape. A series of five programs run between April and July. The programs coincide with Earth Day, Endangered Species Day, World Environment Day, Parks Day and the BC Shellfish Festival.

The first walk is April 14 at Seal Bay from 2 to 4 pm. Meet at the Bates Road parking lot for an early Earth Day adventure amongst the tall, mossy firs of Seal Bay.

For more information visit

<http://comoxvalleyrd.ca/natureprograms>.

An Ecological Approach to Riparian and Shoreline Restoration

By Sharon Niscak

Repairing the damage caused by human activities is more than mitigating a stream channel or placing debris along a shoreline. Focusing on manipulating the stream channel may result in short-term cosmetic enhancement; however, it does little to actively enforce the cessation of the anthropogenic activities that are causing the degradation. And, placing debris or quarry rock along a beach more often accelerates damage along the shoreline and exacerbates the degree of degradation.

The high monetary cost of ecological restoration often defines the work locally; however, it fails to address the issues in and between connecting ecosystems. For example, diking or a levee along the river channel may temporarily address the flooding issues of a low back channel, but it increases the stream flow rate and accelerates the erosion in downstream areas resulting in a serial degradation. Rivers are dynamic and undulate as they meander through the landscape. The source, the land, the flora and the activities along the stream all contribute to stream dynamics. Restoring the flora using indigenous species suited to the site reduces erosion, allowing the ecosystem to thrive.

A local example is the alteration of the water flow into the bay at Goose Spit. The early military intervention caused damage to the flora and fauna of the spit. To gain access to the spit a bridge was built, and later replaced by dumping fill and creating a road. The tidal water flow and flushing and restoring effects of the tides were permanently altered, unless humans admit their folly and open the channel allowing for replenishing tidal flushing.

Another initiative that has proved to be not ecologically sound is the placement of a sewer line along the Comox shoreline. Although some environmentally conscious citizens iterated their concerns, the “experts” proceeded and the repercussions are obvious. First of all, the erosion of the Willemar Bluffs continues to accelerate and the homes that were build on the sandy bluffs continued to experience a retreating bluff that threatens (or enhances) the prospect of a tumultuous descent to the

shoreline. The option that the home owners chose was to hard-shore the base of the bluffs using riprap.

Anyone with a fundamental knowledge of long shore currents could have predicted the outcome. It is obvious today that the Goose Spit requires sand to replenish the spit. However rather than remove the riprap a choice was made to place vertical wood debris along the Spit that is furthering the degradation of the Spit and Comox estuary.



The observed local damage is most often the result of ecosystem-wide problems—degradation brought about by focusing on short-term monetary gain that does not account for the full cost of the activities.

Photo: Sharon Niscak

The scenario has been repeated and repeated all along the Comox peninsula. In the long-term it would be much more practical to retreat from the shoreline, restrict building dwellings and roads along the shoreline and allow the dynamic action of wind, rain and waves to model the shore and replenish the ecosystem complex.

This is only an example of the many poorly understood interventions around the Comox peninsula and Comox Bay. Humans have over-harvested the kelp beds, dredged, dumped and diked, and misused the abundance of our precious home, all the while dumping carbon into our air that is accelerating the impacts. All is vanity and chasing after the wind.

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Member Profile

An occasional series in which we recognize the contributions and learn the personal story of a CVNS member.

Norma Morton

By Betty Brooks



Norma Morton receiving a CVRD Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012.
Photo: Comox Valley Record

Norma Morton is the only living founding member of Comox Strathcona Natural History Society, now called Comox Valley Naturalists Society. Norma Haas was born in Comox Hospital in 1931. She attended Comox Schools where she made friends with Betty Hatfield (now Brooks). Together, sans binoculars, they learned the birds by stalking and referring to the Allan Brooks illustrations in *Birds of Western Canada*.

Norma attended Business School in Courtenay and worked as a bookkeeper for many years. She also attended night school and UBC where she studied entomology. Later she enrolled in a BSc program at UVic but settled for an M.A. when she married Keith Morton in 1965. Norma worked for Theed Pearse typing the manuscript for his book *Birds of the Early Explorers in the North Pacific*. She also worked as a seasonal B.C. Park Naturalist at Miracle Beach and Manning Park.

The Mortons were active in various conservation issues throughout the valley. They built an energy efficient home beside the Tsolum River where Norma found the rare plant western wahoo (*Euonymus occidentalis*), establishing a new record for B.C. and Canada. Many remember the wonderful New Year's Eve parties held at the Mortons' with turkey dinner and dancing. In 1966 the Mortons and eight others including David Guthrie and Theed Pearse formed the Comox Strathcona Natural History Society.

When Keith became ill they moved to Kye Bay. Keith died in 1996. Norma continued to be active doing botany and bird surveys as well as a study of the Trent River Estuary along with Betty Brooks, Gordon Bush and others. The study was published by the Canadian Wildlife Service. Norma now resides in Stevenson Place in Comox.

When Project Watershed formed, Norma became an active member. She was nominated and received the Queen's Jubilee Medal for her archival work for the Society. She is an honorary member of CVN and Project Watershed and holder of awards for Keeping it Living and CVN club service.

Tree of the Year Musings: About Tree Canada

By Cathy Storey



Tree of the Year 2019: Garry oak in the Recreation Centre parking lot, nominated by Annette Boulter.

Photo: Annette Boulter

Well, I keep bumping into interesting websites about trees as I do research for Tree of the Year. Recently, I discovered Tree Canada (<http://treecanada.ca>). Maybe some of you already know about this organization.

This is how they describe themselves: "We're a registered charity proudly dedicated to planting and nurturing trees. For 25 years, we've engaged communities, governments, corporations and individuals in the pursuit of a greener and healthier living environment for Canadians. Since 1992, we've planted more than 80 million trees, greened more than 600 schoolyards, helped restore places hit by natural disasters and brought together urban forestry experts greening cities all across Canada."

Their mission is to bolster Canada's urban forests and inspire people to participate in, and advocate for, community greening. If you look at their website, you will see a time line of their activities since inception in 1992. Check out the Resources section for some interesting topics, like "tree killers" and "tree planting guide".

I have enjoyed the learning involved in this TOTY project as I poke along with my research, creating many files of related material. One of my personal goals is to recognize our native trees more readily. I plan to do some drawings of trees to help with this, along with a little bit of watercolour painting. Maybe this is my New Year's resolution!

I will also take a moment now to thank Fred Newhouse for his help and guidance along the way. The best part of the job? Going out to see the nominated trees—a bit of an adventure and another learning experience.

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 usually the old Thrifty's in downtown Courtenay or the Courtenay Country Market north of the city.
- Participants are responsible for their own safety.
- Walks typically take at least 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.

Saturday, March 16: Campbell River estuary. Meet at Courtenay Country Market at 09:00 or at the trailhead in Campbell River behind The Brick (just north of the bridge over the Campbell River) at 09:30.

Sunday, March 24: Cumberland Marsh. Meet at old Thrifty's at 09:00 or at the trailhead ("Jumbo's cabin" at the entrance to the historic Chinatown on the road to Comox Lake out of Cumberland) at 09:30.

Saturday, March 30: Ripple Rock Trail (see <http://www.sitesandtrailsbc.ca>). Meet at Courtenay Country Market at 09:00 or at the trailhead just off Hwy 19, 16.5 km north of Campbell River (Campbellton traffic light) at 09:45. Pack a lunch.

Sunday, April 7: Puntledge River from Comox Lake (south side). Meet at old Thrifty's at 09:00 or at the trailhead at the upper dam at 09:30.

Saturday, April 13: Hornby Island: Helliwell Park. Meet at Buckley Bay ferry. Pre-arrange carpooling. See weekly notices for more detail.

Saturday, April 20: Comox Lake Bluffs Ecological Reserve. Meet at old Thrifty's at 09:00 or at the trailhead past the upper dam at 09:30.

Sunday, April 28: Tsolum Flats. Meet at the trailhead at the Comox Valley Exhibition Grounds at 09:30.

Sunday, May 12: Allen Lake. Meet at old Thrifty's at 09:00 or at the trailhead in Cumberland (parking lot by Town Hall, corner of Dunsmuir and Sutton/Egremont) at 09:30.

Saturday, May 18: The Campbell River below Elk Falls. Meet at Courtenay Country Market at 09:00 or at 09:30 at the trailhead (lower end of Canyon View Trail) on Hwy 28 (Gold River Hwy) about 0.5 km west of Haig-Brown house, parking on roadside just before the bridge over the river.

Sunday, May 26: Quadra Island: Cape Mudge petroglyphs. Meet at Courtenay Country Market. Remaining details TBA.

Sunday, June 2: Lower Landslide Lake trail. Meet at Courtenay Country Market. Remaining details TBA.

Saturday, June 8: Snowshoe hike in Strathcona Park to see avalanche lilies. Meet at parking area at bottom of Strathcona Parkway. Remaining details TBA.

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

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 BC Nature Director: Sharon Niscak
 Project Director: Loys Maingon
 Wetlands Restoration Director: Murray Little;
 Alternate: Karen Cummins

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 Tree of the Year Committee: Cathy Storey, Fred Newhouse
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 Facebook: Jillian Jones (cvnaturefacebook@gmail.com)
 Newsletter Advertising: Kathie Woodley
 Newsletter Editors: Sharon Niscak, David Orford
 (newsletter@comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca)

Constitution and Bylaws

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

Membership

Includes membership in BC Nature.

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

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

Pay at general meetings, on the website using PayPal, or mail a cheque payable to Comox Valley Nature to:
 CVNS Membership Secretary
 Box 3222
 Courtenay BC, V9N 5N4

Membership runs for the calendar year, and is considered lapsed 90 days after year end. 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 Centre Soroptimist Lounge, Courtenay. For information, send email to 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.

Newsletter

The newsletter is published 3 times per year (March, June, and November). The full-colour version is emailed in PDF form 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. You can send your article to 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/>.