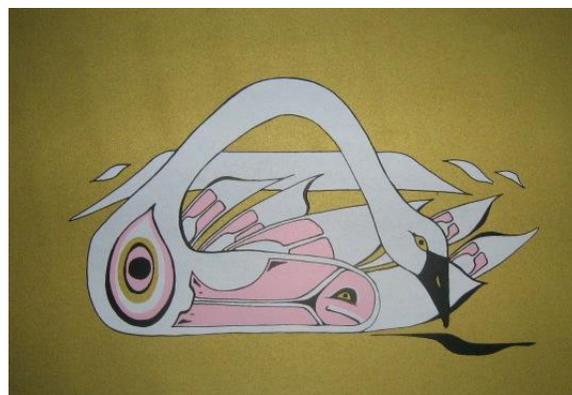


# Comox Valley Naturalists Society

November 2019 Newsletter



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## President's Corner

Facts and reality

By *Jim Boulter*

“Not merely the validity of experience, but the very existence of external reality was tacitly denied by their philosophy. The heresy of heresies was common sense.”  
(George Orwell, *1984*)

One thing that the current American president has taught us is that not everyone in America should have the ability to become president. Daily, he releases statements that do not seem to have any relationship to reality, most notable to me when one of his surrogates used the term “alternative facts” to explain the White House’s view of events.

Truth in many cases is a slippery thing, and one person’s truth is rarely another’s, especially when not all the facts and details are available or used in determination of the truth. One definition of truth is that it is an “obvious or accepted fact”, and therein lies the problem. We often mistake our beliefs and world views as fact, and rarely question or look beyond these ingrained and often subconscious prejudices.

This is not an unusual occurrence as we often extend specifics into a spurious generalization; all Mexicans are bad being one example we have become familiar with. Many prejudices in a particular culture are passed along to following generations without mindful reflection; replaying “old tapes” that are no longer accurate, and,

indeed, may have always been inaccurate. It has always been easier to accept supposed wisdom passed from others than to think for oneself, and difficult if not impossible for an individual to determine the veracity of the “facts” they are presented with.

The alternative facts sound bite was negatively received by Trump’s opponents and fully embraced by his supporters in the highly divided world of American politics, but does have a level of validity, even in science.

In the late 1600s two hypotheses concerning light were being promoted in Europe; Isaac Newton (1642-1727) promoted the ray or corpuscular (particle) concept of light in England, while Christiaan Huygens (1629-1695) felt that the wave concept more accurately fit the known behaviour of light. Newton selected the facts exposed in his experiments with prisms and straight lines of travel as proving his ideas. Likewise Huygens chose the experimental facts that supported his wave concept. Facts that supported one view or the other were selected, while facts that did not support each scientist’s views were rejected or ignored.

Although the English continued to support Newton’s view, the rest of the western countries favoured Huygens until the last century. Science moves forward by testing the facts by experiment, seeking predictions from the ideas being introduced and looking for confirmation or conflict with the prevailing understanding of the world. The conservative approach of science is not an attempt to limit new knowledge but rather an effort to ensure that any new hypothesis accurately accounts for current knowledge, as well as its ability to survive highly controlled and repeatable experiments, before it is accepted as the “truth”. That is to say that the concept is accepted as an accurate representation of physical reality.

In 1905 Einstein (1879-1955) published his groundbreaking paper that explained the photoelectric

effect (“the emission of electrons or other free carriers when light hits a material”: Wikipedia) as a result of light particles he called photons, and science briefly turned away from Huygens and wave concepts. The existence of the photoelectric effect was unknown until 1887 when Hertz and Hallwachs’s careful experimentation proved its existence. This new physical fact had to be incorporated in the understanding of light propagation, which is what Einstein accomplished. In 1921, Einstein was awarded the Nobel Prize in physics for his work. Research moved on, however, with the first steps towards a new and deeper understanding of light and atoms in the quantum theory.

Three years after Einstein was awarded the Noble Prize, Louis de Broglie (1892-1987) re-introduced the wave concept with a bang when he predicted the existence of electron waves in 1924. When experiments started to show that this new view made accurate predictions and was in-line with previous accepted knowledge, science finally accepted that light can be both a wave and a particle. This compromise could have happened in the 17th century.

Science develops both through experimentation and hypothesis, and when the one supports the other, and both are supported by existing knowledge that has stood rigorous testing, the new understanding of reality is eventually embraced. Einstein’s two relativity papers initially upset the Newtonian view of physics when they postulated variations from Newton’s three laws of motion. Although relativity was profoundly different than Newton’s mechanics, these differences become apparent only at the very ends of scale and velocity, and had to wait until devices and techniques capable of analyzing the very small, the very large and the very fast, for Einstein’s ideas to become mainstream.

Truth is slippery, but so far science has been doing a pretty good job of describing the physical realities around us. It has provided us with the instruments, hypotheses and understanding that give us the ability to discern the true from the false.



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## Invasive Plants at Kin Beach

What Brings Them Here?

By Helen Robinson

On two occasions, April 8 and May 6, 2019, members of the Botany Group helped remove yellow archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*) and goutweed (*Aegopodium podagraria*) from the forested campground at Kin Beach Provincial Park. This will be an ongoing problem as these are two exotic species that keep coming back.

Just recently, September 15, I was walking in the campground and noticed a plant I had never seen before. What caught my eye were the black berries. Upon research, I identified it as American black nightshade (*Solanum americanum*). Since the berries are poisonous, it is imperative that this plant be controlled in case children mistake it for berries of Oregon grape or salal.



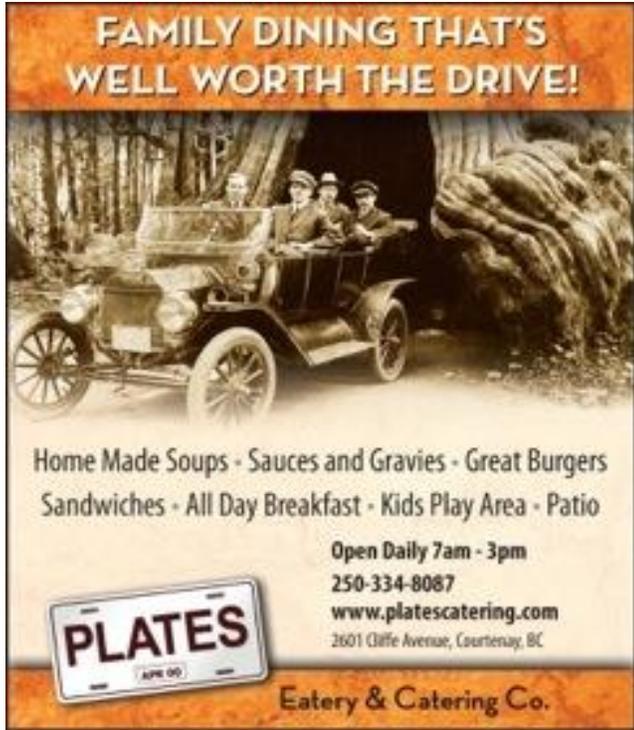
**American black nightshade at Kin Beach.**

*Photo: Helen Robinson*

Another plant in the same area, and new to Kin each, is prickly sow thistle (*Sonchus asper*). I pulled out at least 15 plants, some 4.5 feet tall. I believe the seeds of both plants were transported to the campground by equipment used to remove a huge maple tree which had split apart by high winds.

At the beach area, and again due to heavy equipment used in shore restoration, another exotic plant, new to Kin Beach was found – common chamomile (*Anthemis arvensis*).

Similar plant introductions are happening all over the Comox Valley. It seems that we can do little to stop their spread.



## Loons on Maple Lake

By Bruce Moffat

Maple Lake in Cumberland has had common loons on it for many years, but this summer was the first in a while that a breeding pair successfully raised a chick through to its migration to the Salish Sea. There was a breeding pair on the lake last year, but the two eggs laid were lost to predation before they hatched. With the hatching of one of two eggs laid this year I registered the lake for tracking in the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey of Bird Studies Canada and volunteered to monitor the chick's progress. From May through September 2019 I visited the lake over 35 times with the loons becoming more accepting of my paddleboard presence.



(1) Loon chick riding.

Photo: Bruce Moffat

Both parents take on incubation and rearing duties. The first week saw the attentive parents staying close, bringing food in the form of dragonfly nymphs and small fish while providing rides around the lake on their backs (photo 1). Over time as the chick grew, food became more varied to include crayfish, leeches, salamanders and the favorite, rainbow trout. I was surprised to learn that a breeding pair of loons with one chick is estimated to eat almost 1000 pounds of fish in the summer before they leave their lake (photos 2 and 3).



(2) Adult loon feeding chick.

Photo: Bruce Moffat



(3) Loon with rainbow trout.

Photo: Bruce Moffat

Development from chick to juvenile takes about six weeks during which there are profound changes in feathers, size and shape. The downy brown fuzz came off like a dog shedding, with smooth full feathers becoming more prominent from underneath. While remaining less dramatic than it's parents' black and white with green and purple sheen and bright red eye, the patterns and complexity of the juvenile feathers support the swimming and flight requirements to become self-reliant (photo 4). This timeframe, according to Bird Studies Canada, is a strong sign of viability to adulthood.



(4) Juvenile loon.

*Photo: Bruce Moffat*

Another six weeks learning to hunt, run along the water, flap and fly after becoming a juvenile (photo 5) helped develop the capacity and skills needed to leave in the fall. Several weeks prior to departing, the adults started showing changes from summer to winter plumage. The beautiful black face started to show signs of white at the edges of the mouth, and the black bill showed some ivory taking over. There are many common loons offshore from the Comox Valley area now, but they now look more like the juvenile shown here. Typically the parents leave their lakes 4 to 6 weeks earlier than their juvenile, but that did not happen here. Come September 11 they all left the lake.



(5) Juvenile loon learning to fly.

*Photo: Bruce Moffat*

Bruce photographed the loons on most of his visits to the lake. To view many of these images by month go to: <https://moffatphotography.zenfolio.com/f54785664>.

He will be showing some of these shots and talking about this experience at the monthly CVN Birding Group meeting on December 5.

## BCN Fall General Meeting

*By Kathleen Wilkinson*

The majority of this year's BC Nature Fall General Meeting consisted of a Strategic Planning Session chaired by Vice President Harry Crosby. Participants gave input into a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities) analysis with emphasis on opportunities and ideas which will be used to guide future endeavours of BC Nature. Sharon Niscak has proposed the possibility of just one general meeting per year, plus one regional meeting for each region to reduce our carbon footprint, and/or potentially making recordings of talks at the conferences to make them more accessible.

Some ideas discussed to increase membership, especially among younger people, were:

- Have meetup functions with day memberships rather than full year memberships; for example, sign up for a day's birding to see if you like it.
- Place more emphasis on getting people out for specific projects rather than increasing yearly membership.
- Ask young people what they want in terms of nature activities; for example, do they want to restore a particular site, help a local species at risk, and so on.
- Have a teacher(s) on board with a club to pass along information and opportunities to students at school, and in general liaise between local clubs and school environmental clubs.
- Each club could work with their municipality on a strategy to conserve biodiversity.
- Clubs could sponsor speakers for local community groups and events.
- We need more social media presence.
- Clubs should engage more with new members.

### Call for Nominations

Our executive officers currently in the positions of **President, Secretary, and BC Nature Director** have indicated that they will not stand for re-election for the 2020 term at our Annual General Meeting in February. Although nominations for the Board are not yet open, we urge all members to consider volunteering for these positions or being prepared to nominate somebody when the time comes.

## Regional Conference: Urban Forests and Sustainable Cities

By Jim Boulter

Comox Valley Nature hosted its second Vancouver Island Regional Conference on October 26, in the Evergreen Lounge of the Florence Filberg Centre. Unlike the 2018 conference, which dealt with items of concern to Island conservationists, this one focused on the need to bring trees into our cities. In particular, it was designed to inform local politicians and municipal staff of the benefits of including trees and other green spaces as a permanent part of a municipality's Official Community Plan (OCP).

The OCP is designed as a living document, and Courtenay's is coming up for a review in 2020. The City has done much to encourage retaining and increasing the forest coverage in the residential areas, and CVN feels that it is important to ensure that this development is included in the formal plan. As one speaker quoted, "the best time to plant trees was twenty years ago; the next best time is now". The selection and placement of these long-lived plants requires careful foresight and preparation as we assume this long-term commitment for ourselves and for our children.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was established in 1988 by the UN Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization to assess the risks expected from climate change, using relevant scientific, technical and socioeconomic information. Since its inception, five assessment reports have been released by IPCC, one of which was used to inform the Kyoto Protocol in 1997.

In keeping with IPCC recommendations, CVN believes the expansion and restoration of urban forests is a step in the right direction. Although the focus of the conference was Courtenay's OCP, the topics and information provided were of wide interest to all Vancouver Island municipalities and naturalists concerned about the spaces where they live, and the concepts covered at the conference can be widely applied.

The conference started with greetings from Courtenay Council, brought by Councillor Will Cole-Hamilton, acting Mayor of Courtenay. The first speaker was Nancy Gothard, Policy Planner for the Community and Sustainability Planning Division of the City of Courtenay, who spoke about *Courtenay's Urban Forest Plan* (see the document and an online photo tour

at [www.courtenay.ca/urbanforest](http://www.courtenay.ca/urbanforest)). Nancy continues to be directly concerned with a number of tree issues in the City, including the tree bylaw. She laid the groundwork for the presentations that followed.

Loys Maingon, a professional biologist and environmental scientist, followed with a presentation entitled *Re-thinking the Urban Forest in an Age of Climate Change*. Loys covered a number of expected outcomes predicted by current climate models, and a new understanding of forest ecosystem function—not as a centralized system, but as a distributed system of bioreactors.

Will Marsh then spoke to the importance of *Adaptive Design* in creating an OCP that retains functionality well into the future. Currently, most decisions on land use are based on economics and largely result in modifying the terrain to fit the developers' purposes, with little regard to the needs of the land itself. Draining wetlands for residential housing is an example of this thinking. Instead, Marsh would like to see the reverse—that the designs fit the terrain, and the lands' needs continue to be met, even after development.

The first speaker after lunch was Thomas Dishlevoy, a well-known architect noted for his forward-thinking ideas. As a participant in the *Comox Valley Living City Challenge* (see <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/e3t2t7wom19ufzt/AADM3NQ8ikyisrbmm5vyAe1Ga?dl=0>) he brought a number of novel and interesting concepts that support creating livable and sustainable cities into the future. He also discussed how current regulations, developed with little regard to the lands' needs are stumbling blocks to some of the changes in thinking that are required.

Alison Mewett, a landscape architect and past manager of CVRD Parks and Environment, presented *Street Trees*. In her presentation Alison described how trees contribute to a town's character and people's lives, but more importantly how trees provide us with other, hidden services. Trees in the city can help redistribute storm water into the ground, moderate urban heat islands, and even create microclimates in their vicinity that can lead to energy savings.

### Call for Volunteer: Secretary (Interim)

We have an immediate need for a member to take over the **Secretary** position on the Board of Directors until the next election of directors in February.

If you can help with this role, please contact the President for more information at [coordinator@comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca](mailto:coordinator@comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca).



“Visualization of [Duncan Avenue in Courtenay] transformed with mature street trees.” *From Alison Mewett’s conference presentation.*

The sixth speaker of the day was Royann Petrell, who spoke on *Urban Avian Ecology*. She is an ecological engineer who begins a project by looking for an engineering design that meets the needs of the organisms within their environment. Royann’s presentation focused on three bird species that have been locally decimated (rufous hummingbird, chestnut-backed chickadee, and band-tailed pigeon), and ways in which we can encourage and support their population increase.



“Most song birds would not fly more than 30-50 feet in the open.” *On one need for dense urban tree cover, from Royann Petrell’s conference presentation.*

The last event of the conference was a panel discussion with all 6 speakers taking questions and observations from the audience. Sixty-six people attended the conference, including 7 or 8 elected officials, a number of staff members from all 3 local municipalities and the CVRD, and members from CVN and other BC Nature affiliates. The lunch provided with admission was well received, and an exit survey provided to the audience indicates that most people felt the conference met their expectations and would like to be kept informed of any future events like this one that CVN may host in the future.

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## What is Food Sovereignty?

*By Sharon Niscak*

Currently the topic of indigenous foods and land use is restricted to a few marketable species. In industrial reports and in the financial sphere, in discussions concerning forestry, mining, agriculture and pipelines, the inclusion of indigenous food is absent or extremely rare. To include the importance of, protection of, and provision of access to indigenous foods prior to, during or after expansion of industrial activities or residential and commercial development is pertinent to food security.

However, other than the media reporting opposition to some of these industrial activities, few media sources delve into the reasons for these protests. In the general economic sphere there is almost no mention of indigenous food resources. Industry reports and financial sphere discussions concerning forestry, mining, agriculture and pipelines do not include the loss of Indigenous foods, medicines or potable water in their economic liabilities.

Most people interested in the environment recognize that many edible berries indigenous to this region were the local foods prior to settlers arriving. However, most do

not recognize the extent of the land and water management that provided the food and medicine and technology for Indigenous peoples.



An important food: speqpeq7úwi. Photo: Sharon Niscak

Food sovereignty is the ability to access and control the community's food within traditional territories or regions. Indigenous foods were gathered and harvested from the mountain meadows, forests, grasslands, marshes, waterways and ocean. Indigenous foods are part of the cultural identity. Many settlers have retained their foods, bringing with them foods of their homeland when they moved to new locations. Rice for example is integral to many Asian cultures and milk and wheat to many northern European cultures, as are olives and grapes to Italians and others in the Mediterranean areas. Scots enjoy oat cakes and barley. The Swiss enjoy cheese, and Ukrainians their sauerkraut and perogies.

The marketplace has enabled many of the settler's culturally important foods to be imported or transported to this area. Cattle and wheat fields replaced the buffalo, wetlands and meadows on the prairies. The dairy industry replaced the Garry oak meadows in the Comox Valley. Although settlers hunted and gathered foods from the land and waters, these foods did not define their cultural identify as caretakers of the land.

In the Pacific Northwest the Indigenous people often refer to themselves as the "Salmon People." Salmon was a keystone species in the diet and culture throughout BC. The Indigenous people of the land relied on empirical knowledge which was facilitated by careful observation. As Dr. Janice Billy notes, "we say the land and all it encompasses make up the essential 'classroom'".<sup>1</sup>

To the Indigenous people food sovereignty means not only the ability to access traditional foods but also implies the responsibility to know, protect and respect

indigenous foods and the land by keeping the ecosystem healthy and functioning. The next time you enjoy the food that is culturally relevant to your ethnicity remember how the generation that preceded you cultivated and cared for that food for generations.

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1. Billy, Janice. 2009. *Back from the Brink: Decolonizing Through the Restoration of Secwepemc Language, Culture, and Identity*. Thesis in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Education, Simon Fraser University.

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## Our Speakers in 2019

By David Innes

The Comox Valley is home to a diverse group of residents interested in various aspects of nature and conservation in our area. Comox Valley Naturalists Society has benefited from this local expertise by hosting presentations at our monthly meetings. In addition, we have also been able to host presentations by individuals from further away. Our monthly meetings consistently attract a large number of members and the general public. CVN is always looking for suggestions for speakers for future meetings.

Presentations for 2019 consisted of a wide-range of topics. **Dr. John Neilson** started our 2019 series with a presentation on the really big marine fish of Canada that include tuna, swordfish and sharks. John has had a long career with DFO heading the large pelagics program on the Atlantic Coast. Currently, he is a Co-Chair of the Marine Fish Specialists Subcommittee of COSEWIC, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. The webpage (<http://www.cosewic.ca>) has a wealth of information including status reports for many endangered wildlife species.

Our February AGM consisted of presentations by CVN members involved in local nature and conservation

programs. Frank Hovenden provided an overview of the ongoing Airpark restoration, particularly the challenges associated with restoring native plants and removing invasive species. Krista Kaptein, Ernie Stefanik and Kelly Kline presented information on the Trumpeter Swan counts and highlights from birders group observations. Comox Valley is one of the most significant areas for wintering and migratory waterfowl and waterbirds in British Columbia and is very fortunate in having the globally significant K'omoks Important Bird Area (IBA).

**Ann Eriksson** presented an overview of the Salish Sea Nearshore Habitat Recovery Project (SSNHRP). This is a restoration program that is part of the SeaChange Marine Conservation Society (<https://seachangesociety.com/>), a not-for-profit marine conservation organization based in Brentwood Bay, BC. Since 1998 SeaChange has focused on conservation and restoration of marine life in the Salish Sea, primarily through education and the recovery of native eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) habitats. Ann presented examples of recovery activities to transplant eelgrass that increases habitat for juvenile fish and other species.

In May, CVN held a special meeting at the Denman Island Community Hall with invitations to local conservation organizations: Denman Conservancy Association (<https://www.denman-conservancy.org/>), Association for Denman Island Marine Stewards (<http://adims.ca/>) and Conservancy Hornby Island (<https://www.conservancyhornbyisland.org/>). At the meeting, **Sarah Patton** gave a presentation on "The Whales in Our Waters". Sarah is a Research Biologist with Ocean Wise's (<https://research.ocean.org/>) Marine Mammal Research Program, and coordinator of its Southern Vancouver Island Cetacean Research Initiative (SVICRI). The Marine Mammal Research Program has conducted conservation-oriented research on killer whales, belugas, and other marine mammals. The program focuses on long-term studies of marine mammal populations and the threats these at-risk populations face. The program's particular strengths are in cetacean distribution and abundance, acoustic behaviour, population genetics, and photogrammetric monitoring of health and condition of killer whales and humpback whales.

Our September meeting hosted a presentation by **Howard Stewart** based on his book published in 2017 on the environmental history of the Strait of Georgia: *Views of the Salish Sea: 150 Years of Changes Around the Strait of Georgia* (<http://www.harbourpublishing.com/title/ViewsoftheSa>

[lishsea](#)). The presentation gave an overview of themes within the book that examined the relationship between geography, biology and resource economics with history from the 1850s to the modern era. Howard was born and raised on the shores of the Strait of Georgia or north Salish Sea. He has lived and worked in many other places but always returned to BC's inland sea. He currently lives on Denman Island.

As mentioned earlier, the Comox Valley is one of the most significant areas for wintering and migratory waterfowl and other bird species. **David Fraser** (<https://leaningoaks.ca/index.html>) is a naturalist, artist and biologist. Until 2018 he was the Unit Head of Species Conservation Science for the BC Ministry of Environment. David has been a member of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada for over 20 years. He is a keen birder and eBirder (<https://ebird.org/home>). David gave a presentation entitled: "Things I Learned Birding for 31 Years with Tom Briggs: – a man I never met." David's talk was stimulated by notebooks he received with nearly daily bird observations from Vancouver Island taken by Tom Briggs. These observations revealed some interesting changes in Vancouver Island birds, their distribution, behaviour and status.

**Paula Wild** (<https://www.paulawild.ca/>) is intrigued by the relationships between people, places and the natural world. For the final 2019 CVN presentation in November, Paula gave a presentation "In Search of the Real Wolf" based on her award-winning book *Return of the Wolf: Conflict & Coexistence*. Wolves once roamed most of North America and Eurasia but vigorous eradication programs drastically reduced their numbers and in some cases destroyed entire populations. Now wolves are returning to their former habitat and encounters with humans are becoming more frequent. In her talk Paula examined the complex web of myth and misconception that surrounds this predator. Paula has also published a number of books of local interest including *The Cougar: Beautiful, Wild and Dangerous*.

This brief summary of the CVN presentations during 2019 highlights the broad range of nature expertise we have in our area. We look forward to an equally diverse series of presentations for 2020.

Please send any suggestions for speakers to David Innes (dinnes at mun dot ca).

## 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 former Thrifty's location 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, November 16:** Nile Creek. Meet at the former downtown Thrifty's at 09:00 for carpooling. Leader: Loys Maingon.

**Sunday, November 24:** Ship's Point. Meet at the former downtown Thrifty's at 09:00 for carpooling. Leader: Loys Maingon.

**Saturday, November 30:** Campbell River Estuary. Meet at Courtenay Country Market at 09:00 for carpooling. Leader: Loys Maingon.

**Sunday, December 1:** Birding walk. Destination and time TBA. Leader: Kelly Kline.

**Saturday, December 7:** Goose Spit. Meet at the trailhead at the DND gate at 09:00. Leader: Loys Maingon.

**Saturday, December 14:** Fillongley Park. Meet at the trailhead at Buckley Bay at 09:00. Leader: Loys Maingon.

**Saturday, December 21:** "Pub to Pub" (from the Oyster River Nature Park to Salmon Point). Meet at the trailhead on Regent Road at the Oyster River, adjacent to the former Fisherman's Pub, at 09:00. Note that neither pub is operational now. Leader: Loys Maingon.

**Sunday, January 5:** Birding walk. Destination and time TBA. Leader: Kelly Kline.

**Sunday, February 2:** Birding walk. Destination and time TBA. Leader: Kelly Kline.

**Sunday, March 1:** Birding walk. Destination and time TBA. Leader: Kelly Kline.

**Sunday, April 5:** Birding walk. Destination and time TBA. Leader: Kelly Kline.

### 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

<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;  
Alternate: Karen Cummins

### Group Leaders and Other Volunteers

Membership Secretary: Dianna Colnett  
([cvnsmembership@gmail.com](mailto:cvnsmembership@gmail.com))  
Birding: Kelly Kline ([cvnbirds@gmail.com](mailto:cvnbirds@gmail.com))  
Botany: Alison Maingon  
([botany@comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca](mailto:botany@comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca))  
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

Speakers Planning: David Innes

Bursary Committee: Kathleen Wilkinson

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

Tree of the Year Committee: Cathy Storey, Fred Newhouse

Coffee Committee: Iris Stefan, Judy Chrysler, Kelly Kline

Website: Isabella Erni, Krista Kaptein

([site\\_info@comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca](mailto:site_info@comoxvalleynaturalist.bc.ca))

Facebook: Jillian Jones ([cvnaturefacebook@gmail.com](mailto:cvnaturefacebook@gmail.com))

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

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 or to be included on the birding group list, send email to [cvnbirds@gmail.com](mailto:cvnbirds@gmail.com). Birding walks are held weekly, most on Thursday mornings, and once per month on a Sunday.

**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) precede or follow the meeting and are also scheduled at other times. To be included on the botany group 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 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 such as natural history, conservation activities, trips, unusual sightings, or a book review. **Photos** are also appreciated, either with a story or stand-alone. 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/>.

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