



www.centralvalleynaturalists.org

Meetings are held the second  
Wednesday of each month  
(except July and August) at 7:30 p.m.  
in the Seniors' Resource Centre  
Michael Collins Room  
2478 McCallum Road, Abbotsford

Mailing address: P.O. Box 612  
Abbotsford, BC V2T 6Z8  
Email: haroos@shaw.ca

# NEWSLETTER

## May 2007

*“To know nature  
and to  
keep it worth knowing”*

### *The objectives of the Central Valley Naturalists*

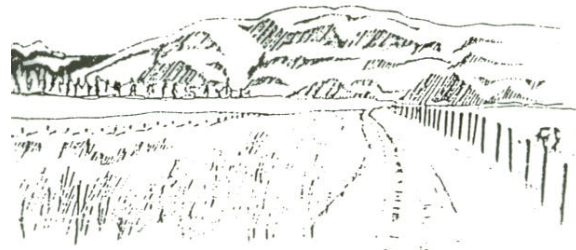
- *To enjoy and interpret natural history*
- *To promote an understanding and an appreciation of natural ecosystems*
- *To promote the concept of stewardship of natural resources*
- *To participate as naturalists in public consultations related to questions of environment and development in the Fraser Valley*

### Election of Directors

Elections will take place on **May 9**. Nominations will be accepted from the floor. Make sure you have permission from the person you are nominating.

President	Vice-President
FBCN Director	Secretary
Treasurer	Program Coordinator
Field Trip Coordinator	Conservation
Displays	Hospitality
Newsletter	

## Meeting Schedule



May 9, 2007

“The City’s Plans for McKee Peak”

**Darren Brown**, Environmental Coordinator for the City of Abbotsford and **Caroline Astley** a consultant from Madrone Environmental Services will be our speakers.

June 13, 2007



*Annual Picnic  
at Saaltink’s place  
at 6:30 pm*

Their address is 7271 Lefevre Road. To get there take Bradner Road north to McTavish, then turn left. In the bend where McTavish becomes Lefevre turn right in the driveway and keep left. It will be a “potluck picnic”. Strawberries and ice cream will be provided. **Bring a main dish or salad enough to share.** Potlucks seem to attract big appetites.

Bring your own cutlery, dishes and chairs. Afterwards we will go for a walk through the trails in the escarpment on their property.

Don't forget to  
renew your  
2007 CVN  
membership!!



## FIELD TRIPS

The **FIELD TRIPS** could be of 2 to 4 hours in duration.

Please remember that all participation in field trips is at your own risk. For details on any of these Field Trips and carpooling, contact Jacqui Reznick at 604-557-1828

**N.B. PLEASE CONTACT THE LEADER A DAY BEFORE THE FIELDTRIP OF YOUR INTENT.**

This will greatly help in planning and carpooling, etc.

### May 12 - Saturday

#### *Hogan Family Nature Park*

At 9 o'clock we will meet at the entrance to the Park and spruce up the NATURESCAPE flower bed there. Many hands make light work and so it would be great to see more volunteers than the usual clean-up crew, mostly consisting of the members of the Executive committee! *We don't really want to keep the good times all to ourselves.* Fresh air, exercise, good company and a sense of accomplishment! After the work and a coffee break we walk through our adopted park and if we're lucky Glenn will tell us which other life forms have adopted the park too!

For more info call Johanna at 604 856 4982

### May 26 – Saturday 6:00 am -12 noon

#### *Glen Valley Bird Count and BBQ*

We will join the annual Glen Valley Bird Count.

Meet at 6:00 am at the Fort Winery on 84th Ave. just west of 264 St. Everyone is welcome. For more information phone Lisa at 604 532 3517.



## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

### *West Creek Wetlands March 24, 2007*



The media have filled the airwaves with the latest and most current state of the weather. Their latest report was to verify the fact that we have not had sunshine and that the level of rain is very close to reaching another milestone. They not only were correct but as I began my drive to Aldergrove I realized that their faint talk of a relief from the deluge was far fetched from reality.

I had received some calls from CVN members and you know who you are that I really should cancel. Looking outside the thought did cross my mind but only for a fleeting moment ...I then perked up and decided I needed a good input from Mother Nature and from the rebirth of spring.

I was concerned but as I turned onto 72nd there they were. Nathan Douglas was eager to give us a terrific walk. We were joined by members of the Brae Island Park Association. Off we went and experienced a true wet land filled with the magic of the spring smell.

We meandered through many paths observing its native plants in bloom. The Indian Plum and Trilliums adorned our path. Salmon berries, miner's lettuce, and many sprouting trees.



The Huckleberry's foliage appeared like lace. We reached Duck Lake and the beavers have been busy. There is a great vista of the lake with overflowing sides but filled with life. Glen Ryder joined us and gave a talk and a few followed his walk. We emerge two hours later filled with energy and ready to come back.

*Jacqui Reznick*

## ***Earth Day April 21, 2007***



It was wonderful to see Earth Day celebrated in Abbotsford again and this time to welcome more participants than we've seen on previous occasions. The nature walks led by the University Women and the bike ride led by John Vissers were well attended. John had Patricia Ross, Ed Fast, John van Dongen and Mike de Jong, all properly helmeted, celebrating Earth Day pedalling along! Our display was much diminished, as our biggest drawing cards, Gerry with his Owls and Steve with live Eagle, were both away in Merritt releasing burrowing Owls. 130 burrowing Owls were released! However, our Oriole nest, put together with lots of recycled material, solicited amused and surprised responses and even made it, with Venema's grandkids, into "Abby News." Thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of Earth day 2007.

*Johanna*

*"Our family had a great time on Earth Day. Our grand children explored the recycling area, entered lots of draws, cleaned up on prizes, and discovered many new things about nature."*



*The ten kilometre bicycle ride with other people who have the same interest in making a statement about Earth Day was great. The weather was also perfect for all the activities".*

*Herman and Joyce*

## ***THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY***

Our "Earth Day" hike led by Johnathan Ratzlaff and his daughter, took us by car past the gate at Batt Road on Sumas Mountain.

Our guide proved to be extremely knowledgeable of the history of Sumas Mountain, its flora and fauna as well as any current development or activity on the mountain since the mountain has literally been his backyard and playground all his life.

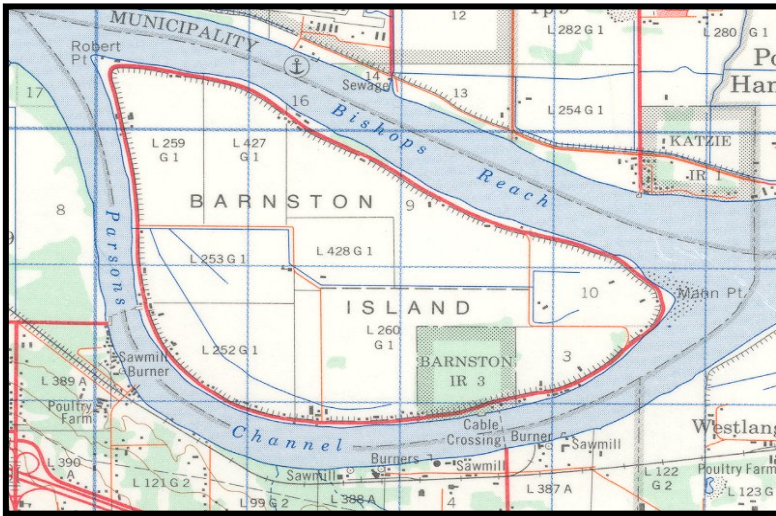
Our first stop took us to a recently logged "wood lot" that according to Johnathan appeared to have been done properly. Our second stop took us further up and off onto another side trail that led to yet another very recently logged hillside. This very steep terrain was a mess and cleared right down to the edge of a stream. Johnathan plans to bring the forestry people up to take a look at this site.



Our final destination took us down a portion of the "Centennial Trail" until at a certain point Johnathan simply headed off the trail into the bush uphill into a stream drained valley. We walked without evidence of a trail through sword ferns and devil's club covered slopes until finally arriving at the edge of an approx. 100 acre grove of "ancient Douglas fir and cedars" that fortunately had been overlooked at the time of the first logging of Sumas Mountain.

Although our outing took longer than anticipated, it certainly ended in a beautiful place leaving us encouraged that there are still many places where we can be in awe of our surroundings so close to home.

*Hank*



## ***Barnston Island*** ***April 28, 2007***

A glorious morning after a day of soaking rain found six eager naturalists boarding the ferry for Barnston Island. Soon, these six split up to do their own exploring. Two of them zipped away on their bikes; two others had a slow start possibly because of a good sighting for a photo, and the remaining two of which I was one, ambled along in an easterly direction.

I googled Barnston Island, as I knew there was more to this place than meets the eye. The island, in the Fraser River between Surrey and Pitt Meadows consists of 1,500 acres of rich productive soil. Produce from the island include herbs, cranberries, and dairy products. There is also some sheep farming.

In September 2003 a committee of landowners applied to exclude 1,090 acres, almost 75% of the land, from the ALR, to develop into an industrial park. After two and a half years of deliberation, the ALC ruled to keep Barnston Island part of the ALR. Needless to say, this application had divided the small community.

As we walked along we were able to enjoy the beautiful spring day. We heard plenty of songbirds and saw a few American gold finches as well as American robins, starlings, sparrows, crows and swallows. We tried to identify some trees and think that the beautiful fragrant white blossoms on two obviously different trees were bitter cherry

and crab apple. A couple of sheep farmers were seen tending to newborn black lambs with their mothers keeping a close watch. These farmers became very anxious seeing the unleashed dogs following us---not ours at all, but the friendliest residents on the island.

Rounding the western side of the island we came upon diking works in progress. My companion and I were appalled to see that many trees, some very large, had been cut down on the river edge and a deep trench had been dug and was being filled with Sumas Mountain rock. We pondered the necessity of removing the trees, assuming they should have been left to anchor the soil.

Once home I did what I could to find out more, and discovered that on Barnston Island, it was not just a matter of raising a dike because of the fear of a flood as result of the huge snow pack this year, but what they needed to do as well was erosion protection from water currents. I guess they're doing the right thing.

And, so ended a rather lovely outing with some likeminded people.

*Erica Flint*

## **???Bees and Wasps???**

**Bees** collect nectar and pollen to bring back to the hive. Nectar is converted into honey, a high energy food.



**Wasps** hunt other insects, such as caterpillars, which they then 'chew up' and feed to their young.



Both bees and wasps can sting, but the wasp's sting is more powerful – 'bee-careful'!

**NatureWild**

## BC Nature Camps 2007

Join us now for springtime in the sunny **Okanagan** or late summer at **Bamfield**, on the Wild West Coast of Vancouver Island!

### **Bamfield**

Leader: Anne Murray and staff of the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre

The Bamfield Camp will be held at the Marine Sciences Centre on the shores of Barkley Sound, Vancouver Island.

The date has been extended by a day: **September 7 to 13**. We go to Bamfield via the historic Lady Rose or Frances Barkley boat from Port Alberni, a four hour trip down the Sound. The Camp is a wonderful chance to learn more about the marine life of the rocky shoreline and ocean waters around the Broken Islands. There are also opportunities to learn more about the local Huu-ay-aht First Nations and the heritage stories of this remote area.

The cost, including meals, accommodation, field studies and labs, is \$900 per person. To register call Anne Murray 604-943-4460 or email [sanderling@uniserve.com](mailto:sanderling@uniserve.com)

These camps are for members only, but non-members need only pay an additional \$15 direct member fee to join in.

### **Electronic Waste Recycling**

Watch the local newspaper in June for an announcement as to where you can recycle your used cartridges, cell phones, computers, printers, faxes, batteries, etc




**QUADRA HOMES**

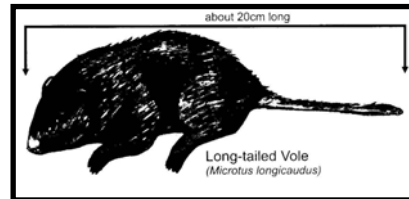
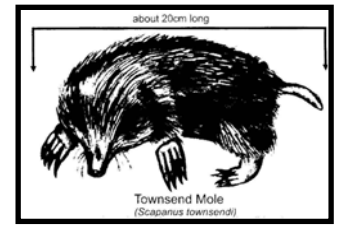
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## ???Moles and Voles???

**Moles** are small mammals that live underground and eat insects and earthworms. Moles are expert diggers!



**Voles** are small mice with short tails, that eat a

variety of vegetation. Voles like to live in fields and farms.

NatureWild

## **BACKYARD BIRDING**


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**NEW LOCATION! (Behind the Mad Butcher)**

 #13-33324 South Fraser Way, Abbotsford  
Ph – 604-852-1960 Mon.-Sat 10:00-5:00

**Membership Fees** - Single \$25, Family \$30 which are due January 1 each year.  
Membership provides the following benefits: 5 CVN newsletters per annum, automatic membership in the Federation of B.C. Naturalists, subscription to "The B.C. Naturalist" (4 issues per year)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Particular nature interests? (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Expertise which could benefit the CVN. (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Additional donations gratefully accepted Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to Central Valley Naturalists, P.O. Box 612, Abbotsford, BC V2T 6Z8, or give to Jacqui at the hospitality desk at the monthly meeting. Membership fees are due January 1<sup>st</sup> each year.

**NEWSLETTER** - the newsletter is published in September, November, January, March and May. Any news items and interesting articles can be sent to Alice Roos at [haroos@shaw.ca](mailto:haroos@shaw.ca) or 604-853-4283

**E-MAIL ADDRESSES** In order to keep our costs down; the newsletter will be sent by e-mail to those that have an email address. Please provide your e-mail address to either Jacqie Reznick or Alice Roos. For those that cannot be reached by e-mail, copies will be available at the monthly meeting.

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