



www.centralvalleynaturalists.org

Meetings are held the second
Wednesday of each month
(except July and August) at 7:30 p.m.

In the Legacy Sportcentre
Conference Room
#4 3270 Trethewey
Abbotsford B.C.
Mailing address: P.O. Box 612
Abbotsford, BC V2T 6Z8
Email: haroos@shaw.ca

NEWSLETTER March 2009



of the track at Rotary Stadium.
Please bring your own mugs.

*“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

Meeting Schedule

The new venue for our monthly meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of the month will be in the Conference room of the **Legacy Sportscentre** on the east side



*Don't forget to
renew your
2008 CVN
membership!!*

March 11, 2009

Members Slide Night

CVN members will be sharing their nature slides and experiences.

April 8, 2009

"WITS - Wildlife Tree Stewardship"

By Jeanne Hughes, WITS coordinator for BC Nature-Lower Mainland



She will be presenting information on wildlife trees, the species that use wildlife trees, the wildlife tree stewardship program and how to become a wildlife tree steward.

Science Fair Winners will also give their presentations

May 13, 2009

"Natural History of Princeton"

By Madelon Schouten of the Vermillion Forks Field Naturalists.

June 10, 2009 - Annual Picnic

Aldergrove Lake Regional Park

With a walk to Gordon's Brook with Mike Pearson.
To be confirmed.



If you have any suggestions for a topic of speaker, please contact Wendy DaDalt at 604-856-2575 or Kathy Wilkinson at 604-854-3203



FIELD TRIPS

March 21 - Saturday

Beach Grove and Boundary Bay Regional Park, Delta

We will join the Delta Naturalist and have a short talk by Anne Murray! Come join us at this great place to bird-watch in the winter - as the populations of ducks in the bay exceed over 70,000 - as well as dunlin, sanderling, grebes, hawks, eagles, owls - plus many more species of birds!

*Meet at Camidge House in Boundary Bay Regional Park, Tsawwassen at 9:30 am.
Contact Hank or Alice (604-853-4283) before Friday, March 20th if you are planning to go.*

March 28, 2009 - Saturday - 8:30 pm

Earth Hour

www.earthhourus.org/main.php

World Wildlife fund is asking individuals, businesses, governments and organizations around the world to turn off their lights for one hour - **Earth Hour** - to make a global statement of concern about climate change and to demonstrate commitment to finding solutions.

Fraser Valley Regional Science Fair

April 1 to 3

The Fraser Valley regional science fair is relocating to the University of the Fraser Valley Abbotsford campus this year in the Envision Athletic Centre. The public is invited to come to the fair on April 1 from 8 a.m. until noon or between 6 and 8 p.m., and on April 2 from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. to view the projects.

April 18, 2009 - Saturday - 8:30 am

Old Growth Stand, Sumas Mountain

John Vissers of the Sumas Mountain Conservation Association and the CVN will lead us to the "Old Growth". This is not a walk but a hike, so sturdy footwear is needed. Not extremely strenuous but it is on an incline. Some parts are on the Trans Canada Trail and other sections there is no trail.

It will depend on the weather. If it is really wet it will be no fun and will be re-scheduled. John figures it will be a 3 hour round trip; therefore it is a good idea to bring a lunch.

We will meet at 8:30 am at the Tim Horton's at Whatcom Road and Highway #1, from there we will carpool.



2009 PITCH-IN CANADA Week

April 20 - 26

April 25 - Pemberton Hill Cleanup

A CVN work party is being organized to remove garbage from the north end of Bradner Road, Pemberton Hill, to contribute toward cleaning up our environment during Pitch-in Canada Week. This gravel road section has a history of abuse but was recently closed by the City making it feasible to keep the area free of dumping. This will be held Monday April 25 between 9 am and noon. It is a rough hillside suitable only for people comfortable with working on unstable, steep ground and not for children 12 or under. Pre signup will be requested at the April meeting to help with organization and to share final instructions. For more information contact Wendy DaDalt at 604.856.2575 and the campaign website www.pitch-in.ca

130 km round trip to Ross Lake and back to the highway. For information contact Anne Gosse at 604 538 8774.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

May 30, 2009 - Saturday

Glen Valley Bird Count

Meet 6:00 am at the Fort Winery Co., 26151 84th Avenue, Langley (just west of 264th Street).

Everyone is welcome to join the annual bird count for an invigorating day of birding.

June 13, 2009 - Saturday

Abbotsford's McKee Peak

Kathy Wilkinson will take us up McKee Peak to look for spring flowers and hopefully the endangered Phantom Orchid. More details to follow

June 19, 2009 - Friday - 8:45 a

Skagit Valley Provincial Park with Al and Jude Grass.

Birds and wildflowers should be at their best including the beautiful pink Rhododendron which should be in bloom. This is a full day trip, so please bring lunch, snacks, water, (sunscreen and bug repellent) and a variety of clothing and footwear for the weather. Meet at the junction of the Hope Flood Road and the Silver Skagit Road at **8:45am**. The Hope Flood Road exit is # 168 from Highway #1 heading east.

Note: please make sure you have enough gas as it is

CVN EXECUTIVE

President	Hank Roos	604-853-4283
	haroos@shaw.ca	
FBCN Director	Margaret Bunbury	604-852-2744
	richard.bunbury@shaw.ca	
Secretary	Herman Venema	604-826-6872
	hcpvenema@uniserve.com	
Treasurer	Jacqui Reznick	604-557-1828
	mareznick@hotmail.com	
Programs	Wendy DaDalt	604-856-2575
	wendy@dadalt.net	
Field trips	Kathy Wilkinson	604-854-3203
Conservation	VACANT	
	Henk Saaltink	604-856-4982
	henkjs@telus.net	
	Johanna Saaltink	604-856-4982
	Kathy Wilkinson	604-854-3203
	kwilkins2@shaw.ca	
	Wendy DaDalt	604-856-2575
Hospitality	Kate Toth & Christine Horsfield	
Displays	Steve Howard	604-751-0282
	sawhorse4@hotmail.com	
	Johanna Saaltink/Gerry Powers	604-856-8166
Newsletter	Alice Roos	604-853-4283
	haroos@shaw.ca	

January 17, 2009 - Saturday

Campbell Valley Regional Park -

After a very cold snowy winter and then two weeks of thick fog, we were finally able to venture outside to Campbell Valley Park. With everyone anxious to get outside, **Al Grass and I** managed to gather three different Naturalist Clubs as well as a group from Wild Birds Unlimited for a total of 23 people in all!



The trails were surprisingly clear around the board walks - with a little snow left on the main trail only. We found 15 different species of birds; the most exciting was a Red-breasted Nuthatch who has learned to feed out of the palm of your hand from the Chickadees.



We had a great sighting of a creeper having a bath and a pair of Downey woodpeckers. With not many birds around we still manage to find lots to see and examine - including fungi, mosses etc. It was a good feeling to be outside in nature again after being housebound for so long. Thank you again Al.

Wetlands

the Marsh Wren

Can a bird whose family background hints at a love for caves find happiness in a reed-filled marsh?

The wren family takes advantage of many habitats across North America and around the world. The marsh wren - called the long-billed marsh wren in older bird books-is a common resident of cattails and bulrush wetlands across southern and central Canada. Its closest cousin, the sedge wren - formerly known as the short-billed marsh wren - lives just a short ecological niche away, in the grassy meadows of the marsh edge. You can usually tell the two apart by where you find them, but there are also variations in colour, bill size and songs. Their nesting habits are similar, except for differing views on whether good habitat is waterlogged or dry.

Marsh wren males begin arriving on breeding grounds in April. Each quickly sets about defending territories and building nests-many nests. Only one nest will be chosen by a female, but the male may build as many as six to ten dummy nests within its territory. The reasons are not clear, but it is known that males will sometimes use them for overnight roosts. Maybe it's just to make sure the territory is well staked out, maybe the hard-working male just needs some peace and quiet once in a while. Or maybe it's used in the same sense some humans use the living room couch or the dog house.

Most dummy nests are rough-hewn affairs, but the nest the female selects and helps to finish will be globe-shaped, about 20 cm in diameter and woven together from reeds. It is usually suspended from two or three reed stems a metre or so above the water line. If you look closely, the tiny opening will be found on the side. Contrasting the coarse exterior, the nest chamber is lined with soft materials such as cattail fluff and feathers. While marsh wrens are not classified as colonial nesters, nesting "communities" are common, especially in large expanses of flooded reed habitat.

A marsh wren nesting community is a joy to any marsh-watcher. Although more often seen than heard, the males are always active, flitting and teetering from reed to reed. You can try to coax one into view by sitting quietly in its territory and uttering ssh ssh ssh ssh, or some similar sound. The urge to investigate often proves irresistible for these brown bundles of energy.

Conspicuously vocal, this songster lets loose a bubbling succession of gurgling, guttural and sometimes squeaky notes. When one wishes to scold, you'll hear a lower-pitched "kek-kek" or "tschuk" sound. But females don't select mates for their singing skills so much as their ability to stake



out prime real estate. Males with the best nesting sites may find themselves with more than one mate to defend.

Four to six dark-splotted eggs are laid and incubated for about 13 days before hatching. Both parents may take part in caring for the young. Insects gleaned from the reeds are the primary source of food for both adults and young. Two broods are often raised through the summer.

Marsh and sedge wrens depend on our commitment to maintaining wetland and grassland habitat. Studies of Prairie CARE wetland and grassland restoration projects are finding that both species take advantage of the new or renewed habitat opportunities. In fact, habitats conserved and restored by Ducks Unlimited and other conservation agencies have always supported a tremendous diversity of wildlife. The benefits of

waterfowl habitat conservation programs spread far and wide - even to "cave-dwellers".

Reprinted from Ducks Unlimited Canada *Conservator*

Membership Fees - Single \$30, Family \$35 which are due January 1 each year.
Membership provides the following benefits: 5 CVN newsletters per annum, automatic membership in BC Nature (FBCN), subscription to "BC nature" (4 issues per year)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postal Code: _____

Email: _____ Fax: _____

Particular nature interests? (optional) _____

Expertise which could benefit the CVN. (optional) _____

Occupation (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 1st each year.

QUADRA HOMES

Building Quality homes in British Columbia's beautiful Lower Mainland.

Phone: 604.855.4973 Fax: 604.855.4974

WWW.QUADRAHOMES.COM



*Beautiful breakfasts, gorgeous gardens
& feathered friends!*

3718 Sandyhill Cr. Abbotsford BC V3G 1H9

Jeanine & Michael Manley (604) 859-9982
info@sandyhillbb.com www.sandyhillbb.com



WARREN MERKEL AMP
MORTGAGE SPECIALIST

TEL: 604.855.6661
CELL: 604.855.5601
FAX: 604.852.4717
WARREN@DRAKEFINANCIAL.COM

WWW.DLCDRAKEFINANCIAL.CA

BACKYARD BIRDING

Naturalist Members !!

Present this ad or your membership card and get
10% off any regular priced items.

 **2 LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU**

#13-33324 S. Fraser Way 8810-C Young Rd
Abbotsford V2S 2B4 Chilliwack V2P 4P5
Ph - 604-852-1960 Ph - 604-792-1239
HOURS: Mon.-Sat. 10:00-5:00