



www.centralvalleynaturalists.org

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

In the Abbotsford Middle School
Multi-purpose Room
33231 Bevan Avenue
Abbotsford, B. C.
Mailing address: P.O. Box 612
Abbotsford, BC V2T 6Z8
Email: haroos@shaw.ca

NEWSLETTER

November 2009

*“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

Our monthly meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of the month will be in the Multi-Purpose room of the **Abbotsford Middle School**, located on the corner of Bevan Avenue and Ware Street.
Please bring your own mugs.



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

November 18, 2009



“The Natural History of Bees and their Problems”

Dr. Paul Westendorp,
a provincial apiculturist will be our speaker.

December 9, 2009 6:30 pm (note time)
Annual Pot Luck Christmas Dinner

For the Potluck Dinner, please bring your own plates, cups and cutlery.



If your last name begins with:
A to O bring an entrée
P to Z bring salad or a dessert

We will again have a **silent auction**. We are looking for items of value that may be of interest to others. (Please no white elephants)

January 13, 2010

Vince Poulin – Urban forest restoration in the lower mainland

February 10, 2010

Anica Burianyk – Herpetiles

March 17, 2010

Sofi Hindmarch – Barn Owls

April 14, 2010

Bob and Sheila Puls – Landscapes, plant and animals of Canada and the Atlantic Seaboard

FIELD TRIPS and Community Events



November 21 & 22, 2009
Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival

The First Nation's Leq'a:mel Hall at 43101 Leq'a:mel Way, Deroche (off Lougheed Highway) is the perfect starting point. Come and explore the variety of sites with exhibits, food, live eagles and entertainment. There is something for everyone, many sites are free of charge and designed with families in mind. See www.fraservalleybaldeaglefestival.ca for a full schedule.

January 2, 2010
Christmas Bird Count
More details to follow at the November and December meetings.



Friday, February 12 through Monday, February 15, 2010.
The Great Backyard Bird Count



The National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology are calling on everyone to "Count for Fun, Count for the Future!"

During last year's count, participants turned in more than 93,600 checklists online, creating the continent's largest instantaneous snapshot of bird populations ever recorded. We hope you'll join us again and help spread the word, since the success of the count depends on people tallying birds from as many locations as possible across the continent.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

October 23, 2009 Tree Planting
Neilson Park

On Saturday, October 23 I went with Nathanael, Grandma and Grandpa to plant trees and flowers at Neilson Park. Nathanael found two tree frogs but we left them to live in their natural habitat. Planting trees gives people more oxygen to breath. I planted one by myself. We went in the rain and got really dirty. It was fun.

By Benjamin Van Deventer, age 8



This is Neilson Park on Hatzic Lake and the tree that Benjamin planted.

Fallen through the ice? What's your first move when you get out of the water?

- 1 Remove and wring out your clothes
 - 2 Start a fire and dry off
 - 3 Roll in the snow
 - 4 Get something to eat
- (Answer on page 5)

METRO VANCOUVER FALL PARKSFEST 2009



Wendy and I drove into Burnaby with light rain but beautiful fall colors. It's amazing how some trees of the same species maintain their leaves while others at the first puff of wind shed their leaves. While crossing the Fraser River we experienced great shades of fall color. The drive to Vancouver has a sad note also. The trees that adorned the median all the way to the bridge have been removed. There will no longer be a green area separating the East to West drive. We will no longer see raptors perched on those trees. We will see a blank concrete canvas devoid of seasonal changes.

The theme was *Ecological Health*. The first message came from Metro Vancouver's Chief administrator, Mr. Carline, who gave a very personal talk. I agreed with him when he said that Inspiration comes from all working together and that giving up should never be an option.

The Regional Manager of parks with Metro Vancouver, Mr. Ed Andrusiak, presented the definition of Eco Health. It was very exciting to listen to the talk as one felt hope because it dealt with a broad view of not only the issues at hand but also with what we cannot control. We can only mitigate. Eco Health includes Solid Waste, Economical framework, Ecological data and

Mapping, Acquisition strategy, identifying fiscal regulation and advocacy tools to support Natural asset protection. We need to place value on bogs, farmland and land in general. Look at ecological corridors. Connect their value as natural assets. We must find true indicators to evaluate and measure results of decisions.

Eco management should also connect nature's health to personal health. Nature already gives us what we need water, air, soil and food connecting and integrating people to nature leads to a higher value of nature.

The other side of nature must also be considered. Floods, climate change, soil erosion, fires and earth quakes, etc. There is not one solution to control the hazards. We can only mitigate using natural and native solutions. Solutions that are natural to that particular location.

Ed Andrusiak's personal measure of success would be... If all the streams found in the City of Vancouver would have salmon, it would be an indicator that we are now on the right path to ecological health.

The next speaker was Dr. Harry Parsons, an herpetologist. It's the study of snakes and reptiles. I was happily surprised by his talk. One memorable comment he made was " There is no such thing as wild life management. It's really people management". Dr. Parsons gave examples where ecological management is being applied. The tracking of rattle snakes in Osoyoos was fascinating. Snakes are very individual in their territory. Osoyoos is planning developments which will include the rattle snake in their landscaping.

Cris Guppy gave an entertaining talk on butterflies. He pointed out that many are no longer seen in the Fraser Valley. Next year I know I will be busy taking pictures of butterflies. I thought I saw some which are not supposed to be around but one always needs proof.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Faisal Moola who is the Science Director for the Suzuki Foundation whose talk was global in nature. Dr. Moola gave examples of green corridors that included areas from Boston to New York. Resolving the global problem which includes climate change is costly but doing nothing will cost even more. The reality that we must be part of a positive change is crystal clear.

The theme was very empowering and I came away knowing that we have a vast group of people who are finding solutions. There is no correlation with how our local development is being carried out and what I learned the definition of green corridors truly is. The task now is how we pass this message on to those who govern us.

Submitted by Jacqui Reznick

CVN CLUB NEWS

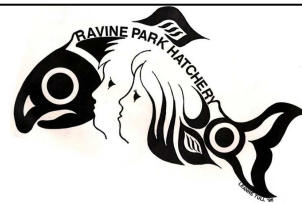
Thank you to all who contributed towards the **Saaltink's** farewell gift. The amount collected is **\$800** which will go to the Trans Canada Trail. This was selected by Henk and Johanna. For this amount we are able to purchase 16 metres of trail in their honour.



CONSERVATION & EDUCATION

Are You a Friend of Salmon?

Are you interested in the life cycle of coho salmon? Would you like to help by volunteering in a small local salmon hatchery?



RAVINE PARK HATCHERY is entering its busiest season. In the upcoming months, you can help with:

- Classes visiting the hatchery on field trips
- Feeding/monitoring yearling salmon in the outside pond
- Keeping egg trays clean and free of dead eggs
- Feeding young fry and keep hatchery troughs clean
- Performing general hatchery maintenance

Ravine Park hatchery is operated by the Abbotsford Ravine Park Salmon Enhancement Society. The Society presently has about 13 volunteers who are assisted by two Fisheries Advisors. Ravine Park hatchery is located at 2395 Crescent Way in Abbotsford. For more information or to tour the Hatchery, phone 604-852-COHO or email ravinepark.hatchery@gmail.com

Amazing Designs

Would you like to see something really neat?

Then check out a honeybee's knees. Actually, each whole leg is neat, perfectly designed for the honeybee.

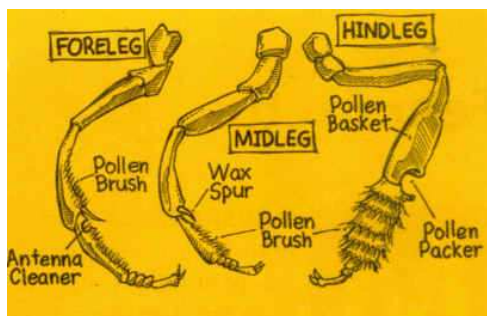


Both front legs have branched feathery hairs to help the bee collect pollen from flowers. The front knees have notches lined with "teeth." These are antennae cleaners.

The middle legs have stiff hairs to help brush pollen from the bee's hairy body. The middle knees have sharp spurs to scrape wax from the bee's wax glands.

The tops of the back legs form shallow baskets to carry pollen. Stiff hairs grow over these baskets to keep the pollen in them.

You can easily see a honeybee's pollen baskets if you find the bee at work. Stand back and watch it for a while. You'll notice yellow clumps on the back legs—that's pollen in the baskets. Keep watching. You'll see the bee collect pollen, pack it, and maybe even clean its antennae with its knees. The bee's knees are definitely a neat design.



What's the difference between...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 their young.

They both can sting, but the wasp's is more powerful.

Answer

Yikes, you've fallen through a weak patch of ice—perhaps during a cross-country ski excursion over a lake.

As soon as you pull your cold, soggy self out of the water, you should head for the nearest snow bank and roll in it: Light, powdery snow is an excellent blotter and will soak up excess water.

CVN EXECUTIVE

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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.



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