



[www.centralvalleynaturalists.org](http://www.centralvalleynaturalists.org)

# NEWSLETTER

January 2010

*“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.



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](mailto:haroos@shaw.ca)

*Don't forget to renew  
your 2010 CVN  
membership!!*

**January 13, 2010**

## *“Urban Forest Restoration”*

Vince Poulin - is a registered professional biologist with formal training in forestry and fisheries. He is currently working as a restoration ecologist with Ecosystem Restoration Associates (ERA). ERA sells carbon offsets to companies wanting to voluntarily mitigate their carbon footprint. The carbon offsets sold by ERA is carbon produced and stored in trees.



In the coming years you'll see thousands of new trees growing throughout our local parks and greenways all planted, nursed and cared for by funds generated through the sale of offsets made by companies trying to reduce their carbon footprint. The trees being planted are native species all ecologically suited for the areas. *The talk will focus on the need for restoration, how it is done and what our beloved forests and trails will look like as time moves on.*

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

## February 10, 2010



### "Herptiles"

**Anica Burianyik** - is a Science Officer with A Rocha Canada, located in Surrey. Key responsibilities include design and completion of a red-legged frog monitoring project, identification of birds by sight and sound for weekly surveys, and marine invertebrate surveys. Smaller projects, such as herptile ID, local amphibian information summaries and wetland habitat management are concurrently being worked on. Also, tracking snakes for research.

### 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

### 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



### January 2, 2010 Annual Christmas Birdcount

Here is a quick summary. Ninety (90) species were seen on count day, with an additional 4 species seen

during the count week period, i.e. 3 days before and 3 days after the count. 2 new species were seen during this year's count, a Eurasian Collared Dove and a Yellow-headed Blackbird. In spite of the rain, it was a great effort by all who participated. A more detailed report will be given in a few weeks.

*Lynn Miller, Coordinator*

## My First Christmas Bird Count



It was a delightful experience even in the rain. I was able to bring my count of 116 American crows to start our day...three east bound groups flying overhead as I walked to our meeting place. Our group was responsible for Mill Lake and Ravine Park (Sector B) - The highlights had to be the 4 Anna's Hummingbirds on the north wooden walkway at the lake. They were very active and able to be photographed by Alice.

They were possibly attracted by our red scarves, and hats. Then the Kingfisher was my next favourite sighting in two places.



I wish to thank the participants for sharing their knowledge of the waterfowl. Henry, Alice and Hank, Jeanine and Michael, Jacqui and Erica. I was able to learn how to use binoculars more efficiently plus I observed how to use the guide books. I didn't realize the diversity of waterfowl at our lake.

Ravine Park was quieter than in previous years and we were unable to go to Gerry's place to count.

We returned to the Lake and looked up the Scaup to determine who was the lesser and greater while



Alice got the close up photo's. It was then home to dry off, warm up and change clothes. By

dinnertime the Chinese and Western buffet facilitated everyone to be able to eat and visit and the reports were collected. I topped off my day with ice cream and sushi...What a way to start the New Year! Thanks

*(Ms)Terry Broadworth.*



## SILENT AUCTION

Thank you to all donors and bidders! We raised just over \$531 for the club at our December meeting. The funds will be used to purchase much needed equipment

## CONSERVATION & EDUCATION

### What is White-Nose Syndrome (WNS)?



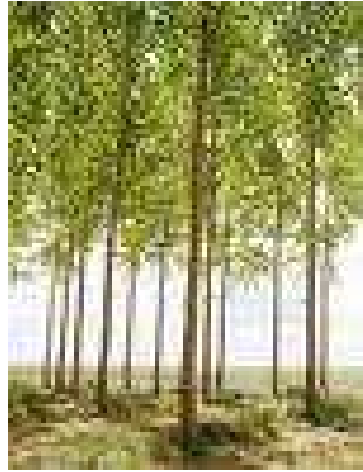
Bats in North America are currently facing a new challenge in their survival. The name refers to a white fungus that grows on the muzzles and bodies of bats found in mass die-offs since 2006. In the past few years it has been associated with over one million bat mortalities at a number of bat hibernacula (caves) in the eastern U.S. The fungus appears to be caused by a newly discovered fungus species in the genus *Geomyces*. This strain of fungus grows best at the low temperatures seen in locations where bats hibernate (5-10 degrees C.). As the fungus starts to grow, bats awaken from hibernation to groom to remove the

fungus. The energy required to arouse from hibernation and groom uses over winter fat reserves, resulting in extreme weight loss. It appears that bats die of starvation while trying to fight off the fungal infection.

An intensive research program is looking at alternative theories and possible underlying causes of the bat deaths.

## SCIENCE

Genetically altered poplar trees are used to rid a former oil-storage site of the carcinogenic industrial solvent trichloroethylene, or TCE, in a novel; and effective way. A recent study showed normal



poplar cuttings in a contaminated laboratory growth solution removed 90% of TCE in one week, and that altered poplars took up and metabolized the chemical 100 times as fast. Researchers expect roots of the poplars to draw up the TCE in groundwater and break it down into harmless by-products.

## Are You a Friend of Salmon?



**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](mailto:ravinepark.hatchery@gmail.com)

## CVN EXECUTIVE

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January 2010 Newsletter



**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: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_ 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 1<sup>st</sup> each year.



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## **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