



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

May 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 (except 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday for March) 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.



May 12, 2010

### *Members' Slide Night*

This is the time to share your nature pictures with the rest of the club. Please contact Kathy Wilkinson if you have any pictures to share.



June 9, 2010, 6:30 pm



### *Annual Picnic*

*at Bunbury's place at  
6:30 pm (note time)*

Their address is 4799 Olund Road. To get there take Highway 11 north to Harris Road, and then turn west. Take Harris Road to Olund Road and turn south (left). It will be a “potluck picnic”.

**Bring a main dish or salad enough to share.**

Drinks and a dessert of strawberries and ice cream will be provided.

*Bring your own cutlery, dishes and chairs.*

A walk through the trails along a tributary of Nathan Creek is tentative.

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

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

## FIELD TRIPS and Community Events

**May 8, Saturday, 9:00 am**

### **Bert Brink Wildlife Management Area**

We will explore the area together with the Chilliwack Field Naturalists and led by Denis Knopp. Meet at the Sears parking lot in the south west corner of the Cottonwood Mall in Chilliwack. Take Highway #1 east and exit the freeway at Yale/Vedder Road, Exit 119.



**May 13 - 16**

### **BC Nature AGM in Kamloops**

#### **"Grasslands: Past, Present and Future"**

Check the winter 2009 BC Nature magazine for a schedule of topics, fieldtrips and registration information or check out. [www.bcnature.ca](http://www.bcnature.ca)

**May 14, Friday**

**Arbour Day** at Bateman Park from 9:30 am - 2 pm

Check out the many interactive displays, activities, trail tours and tree planting. Bateman Park is located on Bateman Road just east of the Mission Highway #11.

**May 15, Saturday 10:30 am - 3:00 pm**

### **Silver Creek Wetlands Grand Opening**

Come out and enjoy a very beautiful area of protected and restored habitat.

The rehabilitation of the wetland habitat has many trails, bridges, 5,000+ native plants, frog habitat,

snake hibernacula, bird boxes, nesting platforms and educational signage. After many years of hard work they have come to this point of celebration. The Stave Valley Salmonid Enhancement Society (SVSES) will be on site and will have coffee and a lunch BBQ set up. All the important people making speeches (the mayor, etc.) will occur at 12:00.



To get there take Lougheed Highway west from Mission. Just at the upgrading of the Highway is Nelson Road, turn right and then an immediate right turn, cross a little bridge and on your right is the entrance to the wetland.

**May 24, Monday, 8:00 am to 12 noon**

### **A Rocha - Bird Walk**

This morning of birding is open to all levels of birding skills to four different areas in South Surrey, Langley and White Rock. For more

information contact Stan Olson at 604-853-6454



**May 29, Saturday, 6:00 am to noon**

### **Glen Valley Bird Count**

Meet 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. This is followed by a potluck lunch.

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

### **Hogan Family Nature Park spring clean up**



April 17, 2010 a wet morning, eight dedicated naturalists voluntarily picked up and tidied up the park.

The work was undertaken by President Hank Roos, Alice Roos, Steve Howard, Gil Reynolds, Jacqui Reznick, Herman and Joyce Venema. The work completed we all went for a stroll through the park and enjoyed the ornithology of Glenn Ryder. A nice relaxed group of citizens.

*Gil Reynolds*

## CONSERVATION & EDUCATION

### CENTRAL VALLEY NATURALISTS

Visit local schools

- *Steve Howard and Hank Roos* did a presentation to an art class at Robert Bateman Secondary School.

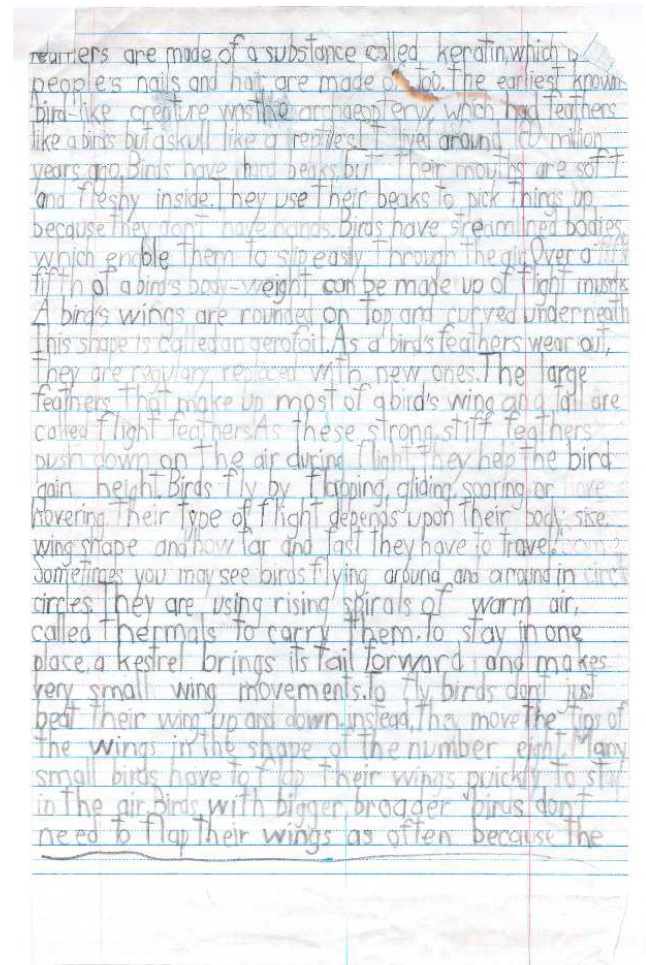
Their presentation received a mixed response. Some students were keen, and displayed exceptional artistic talent. Hank and Steve trust that the presentation had some impact on student appreciation of birds.



- CVN President, *Hank Roos* visiting Grade two at Abbotsford Christian Elementary School

After the presentation, one of the students was so interested in birds and what they are all

about, that he compiled a 2 page legal size sheet of bird facts. The following is a smidgeon of the information gathered and recorded.



March 23 - 26

### Fraser Valley Regional Science Fair

The winners of the Central Valley Naturalists nature awards were:

First Prize of \$100 went to Shaelynn Brown. Her project was "Making Sense of Snails".

Second Prize of \$75 went to Matthew Peters.

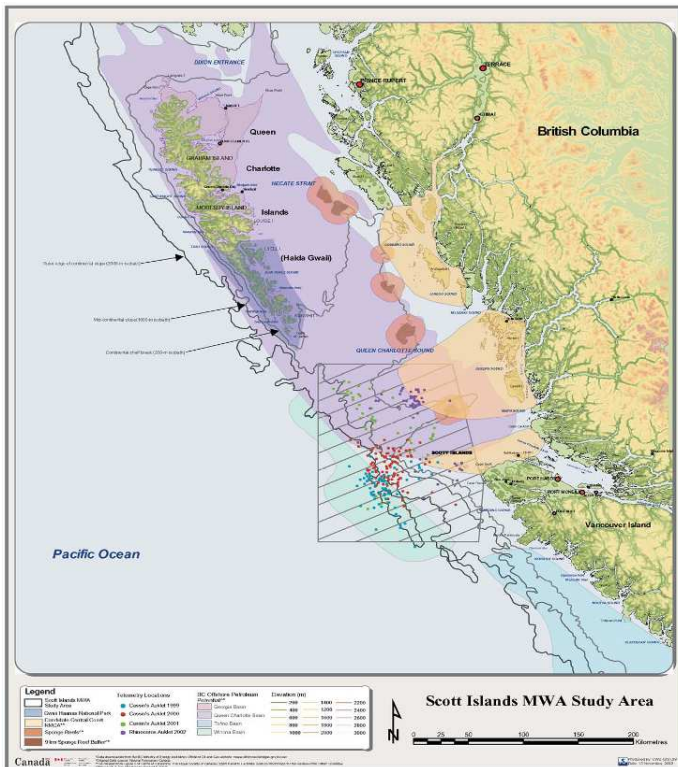


His project was "Komodo Dragon".

**Sylvia Pincott**  
**Reporting From**



### SCOTT ISLANDS PROPOSED MARINE WILDLIFE AREA



A recent presentation sponsored by Pender Island Conservation Association (PICA) and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Association (CPAWS), brought Dr. Art Martell to tell us about the treasury of life on and around the Scott Islands, located off the north-western tip of Vancouver Island.

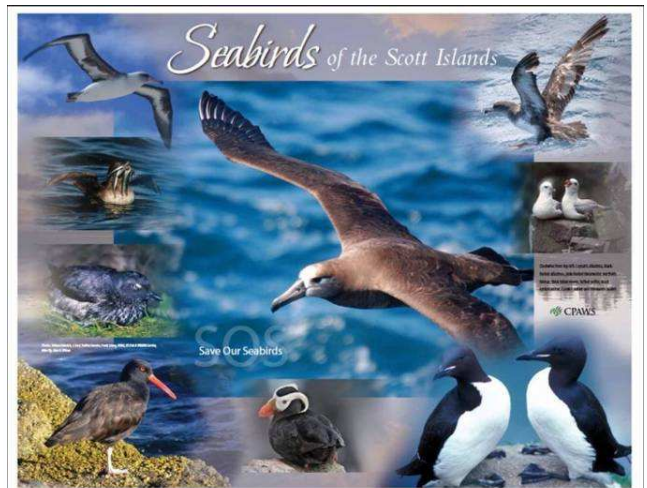
The Scott Islands *archipelago* comprises of **five major islands**, Cox, Lanz, Beresford, Sartine and Anne Vallée (Triangle), offshore of Cape Scott and are in near-pristine condition.

Remotely located though they are, these islands and surrounding waters are internationally recognized as **one of the world's most important seabird breeding locations**. Over two million seabirds seek out these islands annually to nest, raise their young, and feed in surrounding waters.

Three of the five islands in this chain are protected as Ecological Reserves, and two are designated as provincial parks. Unfortunately their surrounding waters do not have protection, and essential foraging areas at sea overlap human activities and threats, which include chronic oil spills and dumping, fishing by-catch, transport and cruise ships, log booms, and petroleum exploration.

**Note:** CVN member, Ken Summers spent many months over the course of many years doing research on Triangle Island.

Recognizing the vulnerable ecology of these waters, the Federal Government has committed to an initiative to ensure that appropriate protective measures are established to protect these foraging areas. In 2000, following 3 years of campaign pressure from CPAWS-BC, the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) began a pilot Marine Wildlife Area (MWA) process, the first in Pacific Canada, at this site, and on March 19th 2007, federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty announced his government's commitment to fund completion of the Scott Islands as one of Canada's next nine marine protected areas (MPA). Sadly, little seems to be happening with the process at the moment, yet increasing environmental challenges continue.



We were intrigued to learn more about the life of the birds of the Scott Islands – many of them the species that we see on the waters surrounding us. For instance, 90 percent of Canada's population of **Tufted Puffins** nest there. These birds travel out to sea as far as 80 km each day to feed on smaller fish such as sand lance. They have been recorded carrying up to 64 fish at once as they return to

their nest. They can fly at a speed of up to 64 kph, and are able to dive to a depth of 24 metres.

Fifty percent of the world's population of **Cassin's Auklets** depend on this area. They travel out as far as 75 km, and "fly" underwater to depths up to 50 metres. They feed on krill (and may, themselves, be fed on by fish). They lay a single egg, and both parents incubate. As with other seabirds laying few eggs, they are unable to respond quickly to population losses.

Seven percent of the world's population of **Rhinoceros Auklets** nest here, with their chicks tucked into burrows up to two metres in depth. They, too, travel as far as 75 km out to their fishing grounds. They are able to dive to a depth of up to 50 meters, and are apparently better at "flying" underwater than above.

Nearly all of BC's population of **Common Murres** nest here. They are highly social birds, breeding with a density of up to 35 birds per square metre. They lay only one egg, somewhat pyramidal in shape as an adaptation to nesting in a crowd on precarious cliff edges. Fledging at three weeks, the chicks leap off their cliff, then to be fed at sea by the father for two more months.

Once numbering in the millions, the **Short-tailed Albatross**, with its wingspan of 2 1/3 metres, is now threatened globally. Twenty percent of the global population breeds on the Scott Islands.

While breeding in New Zealand, the **Sooty Shearwater** also depends upon these waters. Up to a million of these birds fly a return journey of 65,000 km to feed in these and nearby waters during our summer months.

We hope that the Federal Government will be true to its commitment to protect these essential, sensitive, and vulnerable waters.

*Sylvia Pincott*

**“On the Fence”  
(An Ode to Disappearing Hedgerows)**

The bird sat on the brand new fence, surveying all around.  
Spring wheat was shooting in the field, abundant on the ground.

The single tree was sprouting out pale leaflets, fresh and new.  
Into the cool and spring-like air, all bathed in morning dew.  
The rooks and starlings circled, and in their squabbling fashion,  
Laid claim to every roosting branch for product of their passion.  
The little bird upon the fence took off and flew away –  
And sadly, on the balmy breeze, the others heard him say:  
“Some birds nest high up in trees, some on a building's ledge,  
But what becomes of birds like me, whose nest was in the hedge?”



**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@shaw.ca
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	
	VACANT	
	VACANT	
	Kathy Wilkinson	604-854-3203 kwilkins2@shaw.ca
Wendy DaDalt		604-856-2575
Hospitality	Christine Horsfield	604-853-0464 chorsfield@shaw.ca
Displays	Steve Howard	604-751-0282 sawhorse4@hotmail.com
	Jacqui Reznick	
	Gerry Powers	604-856-8166 gerrypowers@shaw.ca
Newsletter	Alice Roos	604-853-4283 haroos@shaw.ca

**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 1<sup>st</sup> each year.

**NOTE:** Participation in any Central Valley Naturalist Club activity is at your own risk.



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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

Abbotsford V2S 2B4

Ph - 604-852-1960

8810-C Young Rd

Chilliwack V2P 4P5

Ph - 604-792-1239

HOURS: Mon.-Sat. 10:00-5:00