

Our Backyard

A NEWSLETTER ON THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT IN SAANICH



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Painted Turtle Hatchlings

Rescued while weeding at Elk/Beaver Lake

Kristiina Ovaska, Habitat Acquisition Trust Biologist

Did you know Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park supports a population of endangered Western Painted Turtles? They have been studied at the park since 2008 as a collaborative effort by Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT), CRD Parks and the support of Saanich.

Painted Turtles nest on park paths and other high traffic areas that are unsafe for hatchlings, so a protected nesting area was created here in 2011. This area has been maintained by volunteers who remove invasive plants that inhibit nesting activity.

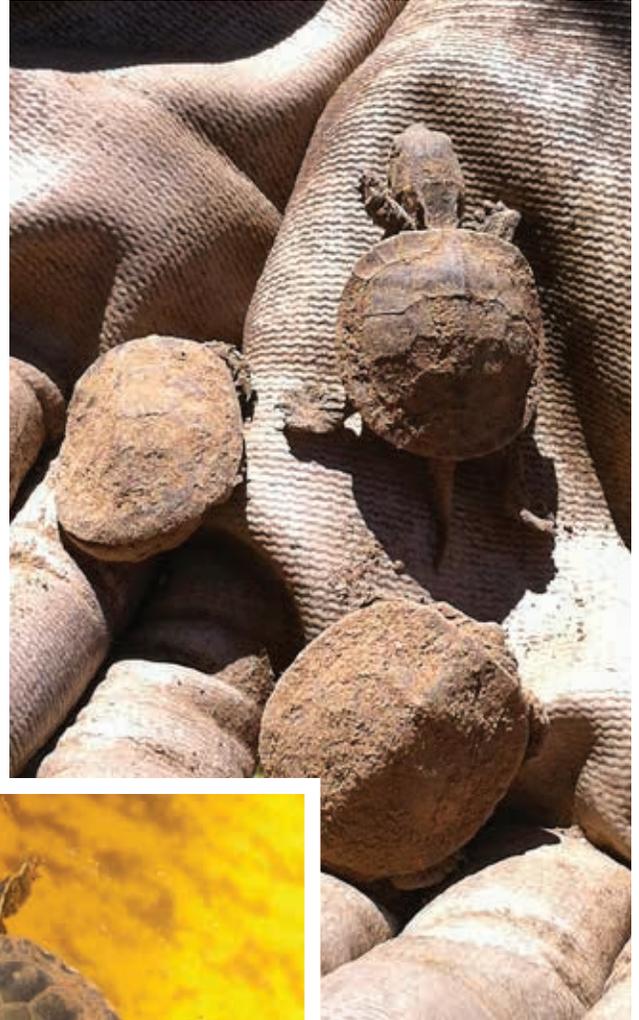
This past summer a dedicated group of keen volunteers carried out annual turtle nesting habitat maintenance in the park with HAT biologist Kristiina Ovaska and CRD Parks staff. Much to the surprise of the volunteers, they inadvertently unearthed four endangered turtle hatchlings while pulling invasive thistles.

Although biologists timed these activities specifically to avoid disturbing nests, it is likely these baby turtles were unable to dig themselves out through the hard, dry substrate because of the unusually dry spring. The loonie-sized hatchlings were placed along the moist shoreline, close to the pond's edge allowing them to complete their journey into the water.

The turtles spend most of the year in the water but lay eggs on sunny slopes in the spring. Hatchlings from these nests were from eggs laid the previous summer; hatchlings overwinter in the nests and dig themselves out in spring. HAT biologists monitor turtle activity here during the egg-laying season in June and July using time-lapse cameras.

Painted Turtles need nesting habitat, but it is in short supply due to lakeshore developments, recreational activities, and erosion. Reducing the soil compaction by fencing off nesting areas can save the hatchlings from becoming trapped in their nests.

You can help rescue even more baby turtles by supporting the HAT Wildlife Habitat Stewardship Program. Visit hat.bc.ca/donate for more info.



Photos by K. Ovaska, Liz Belcher, and Purnima Govindarajulu.

Note: While shown in hand above, turtles or their eggs should not be handled unless absolutely necessary to keep them from harm, such as if encountered in the middle of a busy road or if a nest is inadvertently dug up during gardening. In such a case, contact the BC Ministry of Environment for advice. HAT can also direct you to appropriate sources.

SNAP: Senior Nature Ambassador Program

By Kathleen Burton and Susan Shortill
Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary

SNAP! Now that you've SNAPped to attention, you're ready to learn about "SNAP" the *Senior Nature Ambassador Program*, a new volunteer based program at Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary Society (SLCHNS) designed with you in mind.

SNAP is a new addition to SLCHNS providing well-trained volunteer Nature Ambassadors to welcome visitors to the sanctuary: to share site information (natural and programming), represent the organization at various events, and to report on site issues.

The goal for the SNAP team is to aid in the experience you have as a visitor of the sanctuary and to help inspire others to appreciate the natural world around them when they visit. With 150 acres (60 hectares) between Swan Lake and Christmas Hill, the "Natural Heart of the Community" offers a lot to appreciate. You can walk 2.5 kilometres around Swan Lake and you can enjoy another 2.5 kilometres from the parking lot to the top of Christmas Hill and back.

Over the past three years, SLCHS averages 20,000 recorded visitors annually. This does not include visitors who walk the trails, but rather those participants tracked through school and summer programs, community and special events offered through the Sanctuary. Currently recreational visitors and self-directed groups who walk the trails such as bird watchers, walkers, joggers, and the various artists that sketch or photograph the property are not tracked. The SNAP program will allow for better statistics being kept on who is using the trails, when, and why.

In addition to better statistics, and perhaps more importantly to you, it is anticipated that more visitors will be encouraged to walk the trails knowing there are Nature Ambassadors

available to answer questions, act as a resource or share comments with you should you be so inclined to engage their welcoming smiles. As well, a regular presence on the trails and physical and anecdotal reports from SNAP volunteers would be a valuable addition for staff to better assess site and visitor needs - your needs. SNAP volunteers will be supported with site orientation and training on the history of SLCHNS, the trail system, key species/ecosystems, watershed information, current happenings (e.g. nesting, animal sightings, new boardwalk construction), as well as reporting methods to pass key information on for staff follow up.

This project would not be possible were it not for funding received from the Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program. Their support allows for the development of a guidebook and photo record for reference use by volunteers, volunteer recruitment promotion, and management of the introduction of this exciting new program. The Society relies on donations from individuals, corporations, community groups, and all levels of government in order to continually improve your experience and bring you new and enhanced programs that make an impact. The SNAP program is just such a program and we are grateful to receive the funding to bring this thrilling new project to you.

If you are interested in becoming a Swan Lake Christmas Hill volunteer, SNAP program Nature Ambassador, or have a special interest in other volunteer opportunities at the sanctuary call 250-479-0211 or e-mail SShortill@swanlake.bc.ca.

Happy Trails.

Urban Forestry & Natural Areas Corner

By Andrew Burger, Saanich Parks

Douglas Creek Sediment Detention Structure Upgrade - July 2015

Partnering with the Friends of Mount Douglas Park Society, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and the Pacific Salmon Foundation, Saanich Parks and Saanich Storm and Wastewater implemented the planned upgrade to the Douglas Creek sediment detention structure.

The work was located at the Robinwood Drive trail entrance to Mount Douglas Park where the Gordon Head storm water catchment area exits the infrastructure system and becomes Douglas Creek. Residents impacted by the work were informed of the project and consulted about future restoration of the area.

Under technical guidance and onsite supervision from D.R Clough Consulting Ltd., a 42m stretch of Douglas Creek between Robinwood Drive and the downstream weir was cleaned of decades of sediment loading. The impacts from years of storm water surges eroded the banks of the creek and caused the failure of past structural work further impacting the function of the stream. To improve riparian habitat and storm water management, a sediment detention pond was installed within the creek bed to properly capture sediment and provide future access for routine sediment removal. The banks of the stream were also armored with large rock to mitigate further bank erosion and prevent the loss of numerous large trees. As part of the overall restoration of the creek, invasive plant species within the riparian area were removed in preparation for the re-establishment of native plant populations throughout the site in the fall.



Mount Douglas Park

Tree Appreciation Day Planting – November 8, 2015 10am-12pm

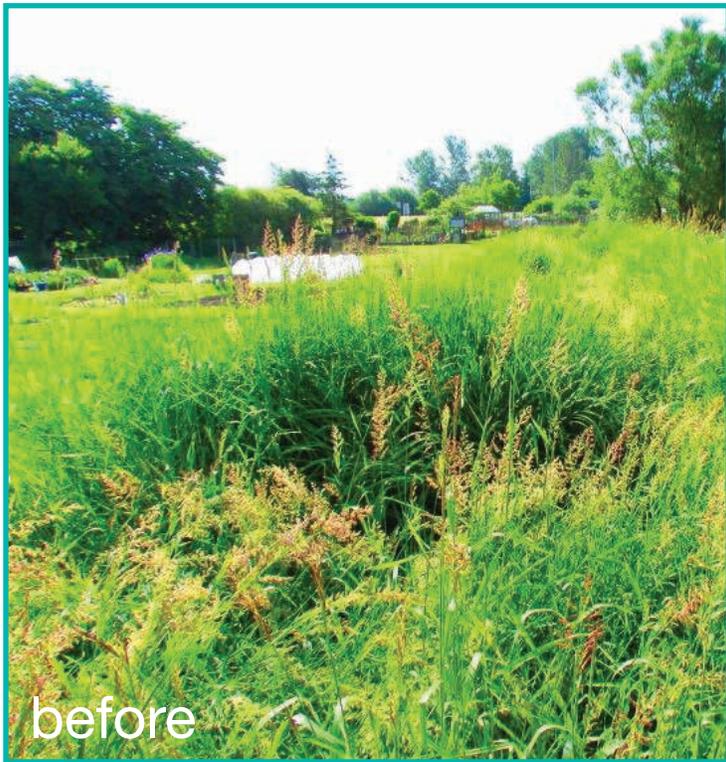
Saanich Parks will hold a Tree Appreciation Event on November 8th where 750 native trees and shrubs will be planted in an area used as access for this year's Douglas Creek weir improvement project. Meet at the weir by the trail entrance off of Robinwood Drive. Limited parking is available at Churchill Drive parking lot. You can also park on the street at Robinwood Dr and Edgemont Rd trail entrances. Parking is also available at the main parking lot of Mt. Douglas Park. Walk along Douglas trail to the planting site.

It will be a great chance to connect with your neighbours and do something positive for the environment during this community based effort. Tools, snacks, and training will be provided for all participants. We look forward to seeing you there.

Swan Creek Restoration Within The Capital City Allotment Gardens - July 2015

Partnering with the Capital City Allotment Association (CCAA), the Friends of Swan Creek, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Pacific Salmon Foundation, and the Peninsula Streams Society, Saanich Parks and Saanich Storm and Wastewater implemented the planned restoration of a segment of Swan Creek from Highway 17 to the Kent Road pedestrian bridge. All of the work was located within the allotment gardens. The CCAA was involved in the planning and preliminary work of the project leading up to the in-stream portion.

Under technical guidance and onsite supervision from D.R Clough Consulting Ltd., a 215m stretch of Swan Creek was cleaned from heavy sediment loading due to years of flooding within the gardens. The creek channel profile was re-established to improve the habitat value of the creek as well as to improve storm water capacity. Several sediment detention ponds were installed within the creek bed to properly capture sediment and provide future access for routine sediment removal. The impacts of flooding also introduced large amounts of garden debris and invasive species into the creek that were removed during the project. During communications with the CCAA, an agreement was made to improve the garden maintenance habits of members to prevent future impacts to the creek. As part of the overall restoration of the creek, Saanich Parks is partnering with several volunteer groups to replant the riparian area with native species to improve erosion control and provide increased canopy cover for healthier fish habitat.



Swan Creek Restoration at Capital City Allotment Gardens Tree Appreciation Day Planting – November 8, 2015 10am-12pm

Saanich Parks will hold a Tree Appreciation Event on November 8th to plant approximately 750 native shrubs and trees along the top of bank of Swan Creek.

There will also be bark mulch delivered to the site to provide natural protection for the native planting along the creek. Please bring your family and friends to help get the plants and trees in the ground and spread the mulch throughout the restoration planting.

It will be a great chance to experience the gardens, connect with your neighbours and do something positive for the environment during this community based effort.

Tools, snacks, and training will be provided for all participants. We look forward to seeing you there.



2015 Environmental Award Winners

Individual Citizen - Colleen O'Brien



Colleen received the award for Individual Environmental Achievement for her work to restore Garry Oak ecosystems in Playfair Park. She is currently the lead Volunteer Steward for *Pulling Together* in Playfair and has donated more than 4000 hours of volunteer work on restoration and related activities in the Park since the beginning of 2010. She is currently focusing on restoration techniques to remove invasive species and the replanting of rare, native species. Colleen's nomination was supported by over 120 members of the public - a ringing endorsement.

Volunteer Organization - Friends of Swan Creek and *Pulling Together* Volunteers



The Friends of Swan Creek Watershed is a volunteer, citizen-led organization which formed in 2012 in order to participate in stream and riparian restoration projects on Swan Creek. Since then they, in conjunction with volunteers from Saanich Parks *Pulling Together* program and many other organizations, have donated more than 1000 hours of volunteer time to conduct water quality testing, stream channel restoration, invasive removal, replanting of native plants and educational work with elementary school students. The group has been rewarded with seeing salmon spawn in areas of Swan Creek that they have restored.

Business/Commercial - Bernhardt Contracting



Rob and Mark Bernhardt have been pioneering the construction of Passive House concepts and technology in the CRD. Passive House certification requires that the home achieve a 90% reduction in energy use from a normal 'code-built' home, while achieving high indoor air quality at the same time. They built the first Passive House on Vancouver Island in 2013 right here in Saanich, and since then have generously shared their knowledge and expertise with many local designers and builders while continuing to pioneer the industry.

Youth Group/School - Claremont Institute for Global Solutions



This Claremont Secondary School program uses a project-based curriculum to teach students about pressing global challenges such as climate change, urbanization and sustainable energy. Students have been exposed to many initiatives and inspirational speakers intended to provide them with the skills and knowledge to help tackle these challenges in the future.



Biodiversity Conservation - Habitat Acquisition Trust



Since HAT was established in 1996, this organization has partnered with government and community to restore and maintain natural habitats in Saanich and the surrounding area. HAT has worked to establish covenants on private property, research endangered species within Saanich, and conduct a door to door 'Good Neighbours' program on the Colquitz River and Tod Creek. HAT has contributed knowledge and resources that have enhanced the effectiveness of volunteer based programs and built capacity for environmental protection with private landowners.

Sustainability - Jawl Properties



Jawl Properties is a Saanich-based developer, owner and manager of office, retail and light industrial space in Greater Victoria. They have the largest portfolio of BOMA BEST certified buildings on Vancouver Island. This program provides environmental performance certification for existing buildings. Jawl Properties not only has demonstrated a strong commitment to sustainable and environmentally responsible business practices but they have also taken the extra step to educate and inform their tenants on sustainability issues such as energy, waste, and water reductions

Long Term Achievement - Rithet's Bog Conservation Society



The Rithet's Bog Conservation Society formed in 1990 and has worked since that time to restore portions of the bog for waterfowl habitat, remove invasive species and enhance habitat for native species. The society engages in public outreach and education to raise awareness about the bog and its special status as the last remaining peat bog on the Saanich peninsula.



Ethnobotany Volunteer Group Looking for New Members

By Hoke Holcomb
Horticulture Centre of the Pacific Volunteer



A new volunteer group has formed at the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific (HCP), and they are looking for people who are interested in working on ethnobotany development in the HCP Gardens and Conservation Park. The group works on a wide variety of tasks, but they all have the common theme of dealing with plants that have, or have had in the past, practical uses for humans. Most of the plants simply have edible parts, but some are medicinal and some have practical uses such as providing material for weaving. All of the plants are native to the Coastal Douglas-fir (CDF) region in which we live.

Tasks include plant propagation, planting, and site preparation including invasive plant control. Work in the Conservation Park part of the HCP is mostly straight forward native habitat restoration projects. But the work in the Gardens involves a blend of habitat restoration and garden development, and much of this involves designing planting schedules to make a transition from formal gardens to rehabilitated CDF forest and wetland. The Ethnobotany Volunteers work during the regularly scheduled 9:00 am to noon Wednesday sessions that have involved many groups at the HCP for many years. In most weeks other work sessions are scheduled depending on the availability of volunteers. These sessions often include working in the Conservation Park on alternate Saturdays.

For more information contact:

Hoke Holcomb, Curator, Ethnobotany Volunteers
Email: hoke@telus.net, Phone: 250-652-5201

To sign up and get started contact:

Sheri LeBrun, Volunteer Coordinator
Email: volunteers@hcp.ca, Phone: 250-479-6162

Environmental Development Permit Area Drop-In Open House

Do you have questions about Saanich's Environmental Development Permit Area?

Drop-in open house **Saturday October 3rd, 2015** any time between 10am and 3pm

Cedar Hill Recreation Centre 3220 Cedar Hill Rd.

This is a repeat of the June EDPA Open House

Accurate Information | Property-Specific Inquiries Welcome

Tips for Caring for the Environment

For more information visit www.saanich.ca/edpa

Lead Steward Profile

Eylin Gilbert

Lead Steward Beckwith Park

By Jenny Eastman, Coordinator of Volunteers, Saanich Parks

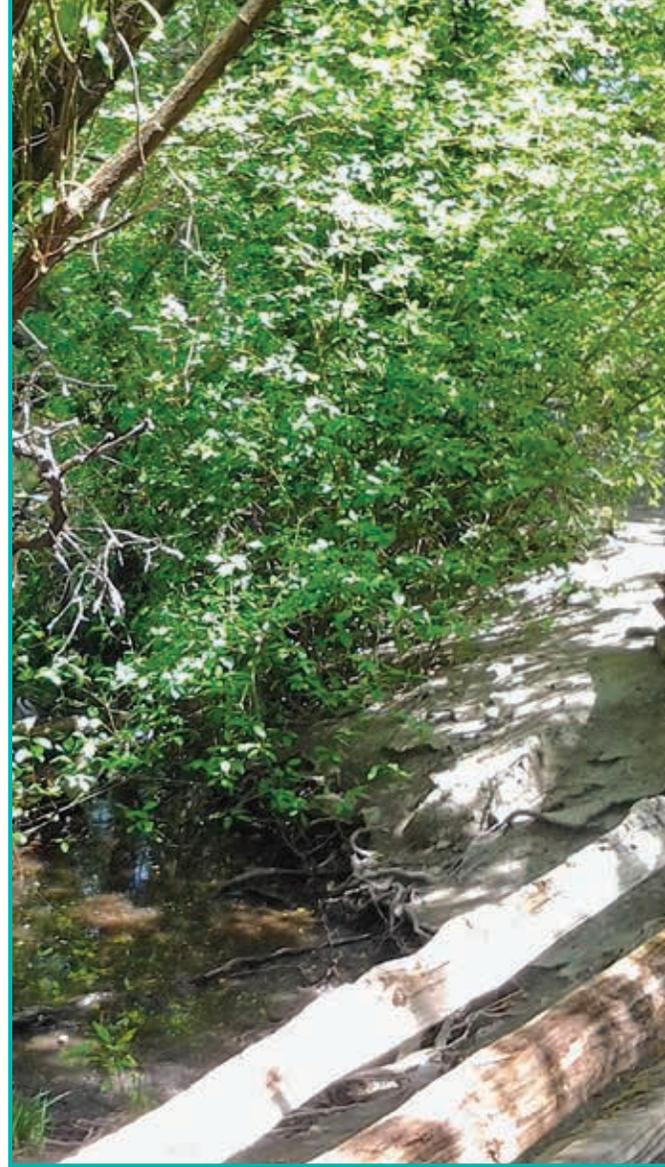
So where does this beautiful and unique name “Eylin” (pronounced Eh-Lin) come from? Is it Old Norse, Chinese, German, True Canadian starting with that “Eh” sound? Does our name influence who we become?

Eylin was born in Winnipeg and her parents named her after a special Chinese friend, but they created their own spelling. Like so many *Pulling Together* volunteers, Eylin spent her childhood camping, playing outdoors, cycling the “monkey trails” near the Red River in Manitoba and exploring the riparian ecosystems so intriguing to kids. After a degree in Economics, an MBA, and much global travel and exploration (ask her for her list of countries visited and yet to see), Eylin returned to Victoria and enjoys curling, golfing, hiking and eventually, being dragged along on restoration projects. When she and partner Bob became dog owners, she found herself ever more out in her neighbourhood parks, noticing the invasive species present. With a nudge from another *Pulling Together* volunteer (thanks Judy Spearing), Eylin started the *Pulling Together* group at Beckwith Park five years ago.

Despite a busy work life as project manager and supporting her parents, Eylin continues to find time to coordinate the Friends of Beckwith Park tending the Garry Oak and pond ecosystems with great diligence, meeting twice a month to keep the restoration work progressing. “It’s amazing to see the progress and to hear the support from neighbours as we work”, notes Eylin. “Being in the park with my neighbours gives me a break from work and schedules and I always enjoy the solace of being close to nature”.

And so, the girl with the global name becomes a world traveler, just as much as she is connected to her local ecosystem and a hands-on way to care for the part of the world that matters to her. Our thanks to Eylin for all her dedication to Beckwith Park. If you’d like to join in with efforts at Beckwith Park, the team meets the second and fourth Saturday of each month, from 9:30 – 11:30 am.

Details: www.saanich.ca/pullingtogether



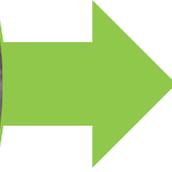
Beckwith Park Pond

Eylin Gilbert



Time for a change!

Up to a \$1,700 rebate when you switch from oil to an air source heat pump.



- Access incentives when you upgrade your heating system from oil to an air source heat pump.
- A typical heat pump will save you \$1,300 to \$2,700 on your energy bills each year, and be paid off within 4 to 8 years.
- Eliminate the risk of a costly oil tank spill.
- Dramatically shrink your home's greenhouse gas emissions - *equivalent to or better than not driving your car at all for 15 years!*
- Get comfortable and cost effective heating and cooling all year round.
- Gain access to HERO rebates for other energy saving upgrades.

Oil to Heat Pump Incentive Program

1-877-545-6247 | info@oiltoheatpump.ca | www.oiltoheatpump.ca

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The Oil to Heat Pump Incentive Program is funded by the Ministry of Energy and Mines' Innovative Clean Energy (ICE) Fund, designed to support the B.C. government's energy, economic, environmental and greenhouse gas reduction priorities and advance B.C.'s clean energy sector. This program is administered by City Green Solutions.

Good Neighbours Urban Forest Project



By Jill Robinson

Habitat Acquisition Trust Stewardship Coordinator
www.hat.bc.ca 250.995.2428 hatmail@hat.bc.ca

Our Urban Forest increases property value, personal well-being, and the overall sustainability of our city. Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) has been reaching out to neighbourhoods throughout Greater Victoria to help landowners with their tree-related troubles through our Good Neighbours Urban Forest Project.

Our private, personalized land care consultations have focused on the importance of maintaining existing trees as well as planting new trees and native understorey wherever possible. HAT's goal is to help landowners like you find solutions to tree problems in your own backyard and encourage everyone to take an active role in caring for your piece of the urban forest mosaic across Southern Vancouver Island.

So far, HAT has provided consultations to over 30 landowners within Oak Bay, Saanich, Victoria, Esquimalt, and View Royal but there are a few limited spaces left for additional land-care consultations. Please contact Jill Robinson (Stewardship Coordinator) for more information and to book your own free, personalized land care consult today!

In addition to providing these consultations, HAT is collaborating with local municipalities and conservation groups in Saanich, Victoria, and Oak Bay to provide outreach and planting events this fall! Upcoming events include panel discussions with tree experts, urban forest walk and talks, and community planting events where you can learn about native ecosystems, get tips on planting techniques, and help restore natural areas in your own neighbourhood. Please contact HAT for more information. We look forward to working with you to maintain and restore the Urban Forest in Greater Victoria.

Habitat Acquisition Trust volunteers and CRD Parks staff working on Western Painted Turtle nesting habitat maintenance in Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park with HAT biologist Kristiina Ovaska



Join the *Our Backyard* mailing list!

Be kept up to date on local community stewardship projects and environmental issues. Subscriptions to this quarterly newsletter are free and available in electronic or paper version.

To subscribe, please send your contact information to the editor or visit ourbackyard.saanich.ca



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Upcoming Events

Saanich Recreation Trails & Treks

www.saanich.ca 250-475-5408

Sunday Hikes (FREE Drop-In)

Sundays | 1 pm to 3:00 pm

Discover the beauty of Saanich Parks right in your backyard. These FREE guided hikes are open to adults of all ages. No registration necessary. Please wear sturdy and supportive footwear. Carry drinking water. Walks go rain or shine.

Sep 20 - Mystic Vale to Queenswood

Meet at the Henderson Rec Centre (off Cedar Hill X Rd).

Oct 25 - Cedar Hill & Braefoot Ramble

Meet at Nellie McLung Library parking lot, McKenzie Rd

Nov 22 - Blenkinsop Green to Bow Park

Meet by Don Mann Excavating on Lochside Trail, 4098 Lochside

Dec 6 - Bowker Creek Circle

Meet outside Sears Garden Centre, Hillside Mall, on Finlayson

Gentle Walk & Talk (FREE Drop-In)

Thursdays | 9:30 am to 11 am

Enjoy beautiful scenery, a friendly chat, and gentle exercise as we walk through our parks & trails. Suitable for all walking abilities, but wear suitable footwear. Dogs not permitted.

Sep 17 - Calvert Park to Logan Park

Meet at the far west end of Viaduct, off Interurban.

Sep 24 - Mt Doug Park to Majestic Park

Meet at Mt.Doug Park main parking lot (Cordova Bay & Ash)

Oct 1 - Layritz to Copley to Quicks Bottom Park

Meet by Layritz Park parking lot, off Glyn Rd., off Wilkinson Rd.

Oct 8 - Blenkinsop Valley

Meet at Lochside Elem. School corner of Royal Oak & Lochside

Oct 15 - Mystic Vale

Meet by main entrance, tennis courts at Henderson Rec Centre

Oct 22 - Hyacinth to Marigold Park

Meet in parking lot at Hyacinth Park, 900 Marigold Ave.

Oct 29 - Lambrick to Sierra Park

Meet at Gordon Head Rec Centre, lobby, 700 Lambrick Way

Nov 5 - Prospect Lake Centennial Trail

Meet at Whitehead Park (Prospect Lake & Goward Rd.)

Nov 12 - Swan Lake

Meet at end of Nelthorpe, off McKenzie.

Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary

www.swanlake.bc.ca

250-479-0211

Guided Bird Walks (Drop-In)

Every Wednesday and Sunday | 9:00 am

Bring your binoculars and meet in the parking lot for this walk around the lake. Donations are appreciated.

Mammifères merveilleux (Drop-in Event)

Sunday, September 27 | 12 pm to 3 pm

A celebration of marvelous mammals, in French. Join us for an afternoon of fun featuring hands-on exploration, games, crafts and more.

Spooktacular Spiders (Drop-in Event)

Sunday, October 25 | 12 pm to 3 pm

What carnivorous animal spins threads stronger than steel, injects venom to liquefy its prey, and ingests food with a sucking stomach? Meet the locals, find out which (if any) of the few are dangerous, and make a spider craft. You might even shake hands with Rosebud the Tarantula!

Wild Mushroom Show (Drop-in Event)

Sunday, November 1 | 10 am to 4 pm

Interested in finding out more about our local fungus? This event is presented by the Southern Vancouver Island Mycological Society and Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary. Bring in your own mushrooms for identification and view the vast array of fungi on display.

Slug Day (Drop-in Event)

Sunday, November 29 | 12 pm to 3 pm

They're slimy, slippery, and super cool customers! Discover the mysterious world of slugs and snails with games, slug goggles and slime making.

CRD Parks & Environmental Services

www.crd.bc.ca/parks-events 250-478-3344

Our naturalists lead guided walks, hikes, canoeing, and drop-in events for all ages. Most are free, all are fun!

Hawk Watch (Drop-in Event)

Saturday, September 26, 12 pm - 3 pm

East Sooke Regional Park (East Sooke)

Have you ever seen Turkey Vultures 'kettling'? Join CRD Parks and the Victoria Natural History Society for this annual migration event complete with live raptor demonstrations and activities at Aylard Farm. The hike up to the viewpoint requires sturdy footwear and a 20-minute trek up a steep and rocky trail. Bring binoculars, water and a lunch.

Spectacular Spiders (Guided Walk)

Sunday, October 4 | 1pm to 2:30pm

Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park (Saanich)

Walk anywhere in BC and you'll be less than a metre from a spider! Join guest naturalists Claudia and Darren Copley, as we go for an expedition in search of spiders and more. Meet at the Beaver Lake Picnic Shelter at the Filter Beds parking lot.

Wonderful Woodpeckers (Guided Walk)

Saturday, November 14 | 1:30-2:30pm

Francis/King Regional Park Nature Centre (Saanich)

Discover all of the tricks of the woodpecker trade. What makes them so good at what they do? Learn how to identify different woodpeckers by sight, sound, and habits.

Bear Hill: Winter Ascent (Adult Hike)

Monday, December 14 | 11am-1pm

Bear Hill Regional Park (Saanich)

Great views await you exploring the forest along with a CRD Regional Parks naturalist on the way to the summit of Bear Hill. Meet at the boat launch parking lot off Brookleigh Road. There is no fee for this program but you must pre-register.

Grow a Native Plant Garden (Course)

Saturday, September 26 9:30 am to 12:30 pm
Sunday, October 04 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm
Thursday, October 08 9:30 am to 12:30 pm
Saturday, October 17 9:30 am to 12:30 pm
Thursday, October 22 9:30 am to 12:30 pm
Sunday, November 08 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm
Swan Lake Nature House (3873 Swan Lake Road)
Residents of the CRD are invited to participate in a FREE workshop on gardening with drought-resistant native plants. Instruction on native plant identification, their benefits, and how to use them will be covered. Pre-registration is required by calling 250-479-0211.

Compost Education Centre

1216 North Park Street
compost.bc.ca 250-386-WORM (9676)

The Compost Education Centre offers a broad range of workshops on composting, organic gardening, and sustainable living topics. Check out what's coming up on our calendar.

Composting Basics (FREE)

Saturday, October 3 | 10 am to 12 pm

Learn all the basics of composting and discover which system is right for you!

Advanced Composting (FREE)

Saturday, October 17 | 10 am to 12 pm

Topics covered will include dynamic accumulators and hot composting, compost tea, in-situ composting methods and humanure. Participants must have completed a Composting Basics workshop to register.

Worm Composting (FREE)

Saturday, October 24 | 10 am to 12 pm

Everything you need to know about vermicomposting, starting up and maintaining a worm bin compost system.

Plant Propagation

Saturday, November 21 | 2 pm to 4 pm

This workshop looks at different techniques to help you grow the plants you always wanted without having to buy them. We will learn about hardwood and softwood cuttings, layering, air layering, division and grafting.

The Native Plant Study Group

www.NPSG.ca 250-598-1999

The Native Plant Study Group meets at the University of Victoria, the third Thursday of each month (except December). Join us for dynamic speakers and discussions relating to native plants of our area. (No experience required, just an interest in native plants and their habitats!)

How to Support Victoria's Wild Spaces

Thursday, September 17, 7 pm
UVic, MacLaurin Bldg, Rm D116

Greater Victoria's Green Team (GVGT) is a new volunteer group that runs hands-on activities to educate the public about our local parks and ecosystems, environmental conservation, and local food production. Amanda Evans will highlight the successes of the first year of the Victoria program and its future plans.

Victoria Natural History Society

www.naturevictoria.ca

Natural History Night (every 2nd Tuesday)

On Safari to Kenya | Tues, Sep 8, 7:30 pm
Black Bear Denning Habitat | Tues, Oct 13, 7:30 pm
TBA | Tues, May 12, 7:30 pm
UVic Fraser Building, Room 159

Botany Night (every 3rd Tuesday)

Restoration of Playfair Park | Tues, Sep 15, 7:30 pm
The Secret World of Slime Molds | Tues, Oct 20, 7:30 pm
TBA | (Tues, May 19, 7:30 pm)
Swan Lake Nature Centre

Birder's Night (every 4th Wednesday)

Getting There: Bird Migration | Wed, Sep 23, 7:30 pm
How Birds Do It! | Wed, Oct 28, 7:30 pm
UVic Fraser Building, Room 159

Marine Night (last Monday of the month)

Rockfish Conservation Areas | Mon, Sep 28, 7:30 pm
The Fish Eye Project | Oct 26, 7:30 pm
UVic Fraser Building, Room 159

Saturday Morning Birding (most Saturdays)

Meets every Saturday morning, usually between 7 and 8 a.m., rain or shine. Check the Calendar page of the VNHS website (www.vicnhs.bc.ca/website/index.php/calendar) on the Thursday/Friday before to find out the week's location. Novice and experienced birders welcome. Non-members can participate up to three times.

Esquimalt Lagoon Birding with the Museum

Sun, September 20, Esquimalt Lagoon

Field Trippers is a series of six walks over six months to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the first nature walks led by Museum staff. Starts from Esquimalt Lagoon at 9:00 a.m. Contact Claudia and Darren at 250-479-6622 or dcopley@telus.net for more information or visit <http://royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/events/field-trippers-125-years-and-counting-6/>

