



Oystercatcher

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2009

PRESIDENT'S POINT OF VIEW

by Zeke Blazecka

Herein lies the usual good selection of articles for your reading pleasure. All of the subjects are worthy of your perusal but I would like to highlight three subjects that I think need your attention more than others.

First is a reminder that the membership fees for this season are now \$25 per person, with a \$5 discount if you renew your membership before 30 October. You will remember that we agreed to these prices at the June special general meeting (after filling our faces with strawberries and shortcake).

Second, there has been a change in our website manager. Gloria Murphy who has been doing such a sterling job for the past 3 years has decided to put her time towards other endeavours. On your behalf I would like to thank Gloria for her patience, cooperation and diligence in carrying out her month-in and month-out work. I would also like to thank Ken Mugridge for volunteering to take over. In the end it was Sue Lehman who became the new website manager. And she has already started to put her mark on the job. You will see changes in the website in the not-too-distant future, probably even before the ink in this page is dry.

Finally I want to point you towards Nieke's timely article about trail etiquette. It is a good reminder of how we should be conducting ourselves as a group in the areas of nature in which we travel. I am particularly keen that during our activities participants should be following the instructions of the designated leader. There have been past instances when members decided to make their own decisions about what trail to follow and when to

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IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

by Barry Spence, Membership Secretary

Just a reminder that your membership expires August 31 each year. Membership fees are due by September 30. Fees for 2009/2010 are \$25 per person. Current members renewing their membership by October 30, 2009 get an early payment discount of \$5. **So if you renew your membership before October 30, you pay \$20 per person; after October 30, the fee is \$25 per person.**

There are some changes to the registration form this year, and separate signatures are required for the Membership Registration and for the Assumption of Risk (Waiver of Liability) form. All new and renewing members (including honorary members) are required to complete and sign both new forms for the 2009-2010 membership year.

Forms and fees may be returned by mail to the address on the membership registration form, dropped off to the Membership Secretary's envelope in the Cobbler's Box, or delivered by hand to the Member-

ship Secretary or other executive member at any club activity. Payment by cheque is preferred for ease in tracking payments.

Printed copies of the forms are available from the Cobbler's box (in the blue folder), from the Membership Secretary at the Blackberry Festival, and from leaders of Hikes, Walks and Rambles. You may also download these forms from the Membership Info page of the Club's website at www.saltspringtnc.ca Please use both sides of a single sheet of paper when printing the downloaded forms.



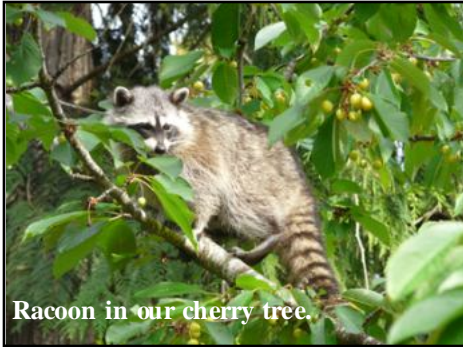
Red-stemmed Saxifrage

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Birds in my backyard

by Nieke Visser

We have a cherry tree. Not that we ever have a chance to eat our own cherries. We want ripe cherries, but our “neighbours” go for them when still unripe. This year the tree bore more fruit than usual and that not only attracted this racoon (see picture) and his family, but also dozens



Racoon in our cherry tree.

of birds. One late afternoon I counted 14 different species gorging themselves on the (still unripe) cherries. Amongst them were customers I had never before seen on our property, e.g. cedar waxwings and yellow warblers. (The warblers were likely after the insects, not the cherries). Another unusual sight was the evening grosbeak who brought his girlfriend to our feeder one evening in late May. They stayed for about an hour, mingling with the quails. Although a rather common bird elsewhere, the Conservancy bird checklist mentioned that evening grosbeaks are “rare residents” on Salt Spring. We consulted people “in the know” and they confirmed that had not seen evening grosbeaks on the island for some time.

Speaking of quails, on May 16, I noticed a male California quail sitting on the fence post next to our gate. When I came a little closer for a better look, he did not budge, and soon it became clear why: on the ground mother quail was trying to get about 15 chicks under control and hide them between the salal. The chicks were tiny and must have just hatched. I was aware that a pair of quails had



Evening Grosbeak and California Quail

made their residence among the salal under the cedars in front of the house. I have not seen this family since, not even with larger chicks like last year, and I fear that none of them have made it to adulthood.

In the spring, we had provided two nesting boxes for the violet-green swallows. Swallows everywhere, but none took possession of the offered real estate. One day early May, I walked by the woodshed and suddenly got an earful from a little brown bird sticking its head out of the hole of the nesting box: a house wren had decided to move in. By the way, house wrens are notorious scolders.

Over the next eight weeks or so, we witnessed the comings and goings of the wren parents and listened to the male’s sweet song.

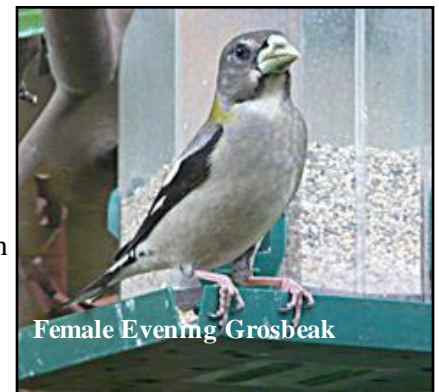
One day, we heard hatchlings’ calls coming from the box, very soft at first, but that grew louder by the day until, on June 26, we witnessed the three babies hopping from the nest

House wren’s nest



box into the nearby oceanspray under the watchful eyes of their parents. And that was the last we saw of them. We hope they are doing well. I took the nest out of the box when everyone was gone (see picture above). The nest is rather crude compared to the robin’s nest I showed you in the last issue of the newsletter.

The male rufous hummingbirds departed early this year. To date (late August) two youngsters and a female are still around. And Anna’s hummingbirds are still here. This was the first year we could observe both species. Anna’s seem to be more relaxed than their rufous cousins. On many occasions, when two rufouses were fighting over who got to “own” the feeder, an Anna’s would just be sitting at the feeder wondering what the excitement is all about. Soon Anna’s will be left behind and my backyard will be sort of quiet again until next March.



Female Evening Grosbeak

Rest a reminder that the Feeder Watch Program will start again in November. This program does not require a lot of time and expertise, but contributes greatly to our knowledge of birds wintering in our area. In short, participants keep track of the birds at their feeders during designated periods throughout the winter; the collected data become part of a continental survey. In Canada the data are sent to Bird Studies Canada. For more information and enrolment, please go to <http://www.bsc-eoc.org/national.html> and click on Project Feeder Watch.

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leave the group. From my point of view, unilateral decisions such as these are not on. If you want to lead an activity then by all means do so. If you don’t want to lead, then follow the appointed leader’s decisions. If you can’t do either of these, then don’t participate.

TRAIL ETIQUETTES AND GUIDELINES

With the start of a new season, the executive requested a repeat / update of the dos-and-don'ts while out on the trails. Digging through the Club's old records, I noted that similar exercises have been taken every now and then with the oldest dating back to the creation of the Club and its little green booklet containing the first constitution and by-laws. So, here we go again:

- * **WAIVERS:** All participants need to sign a waiver form. For overnight and out of area excursions, a separate waiver is required.
- * **FOOTWEAR:** Wear boots appropriate for the terrain; sandals or clogs are not acceptable on any trail; they may prove to be dangerous.
- * **DOGS:** We do like dogs. However, for safety reasons, dogs are not allowed on any club activity.
- * **LITTER:** Pack-out what you pack-in. And when you find litter along the trail, please pick it up and dispose of it appropriately.
- * **NATURE:** Leave plants, animals and trees undisturbed.

In addition a synopsis on guidelines for leaders:

- * **LEADERSHIP:**
 - The leader of the outing is ultimately responsible for the trip and has the final word on any change of plans. Under no circumstance should the group split up without the leader's consent.
 - The leader determines: a) the destination, and b) where and when to stop for lunch.
 - The leader has the responsibility to make sure that no-one is left behind. Counts should be held BEFORE and AFTER the excursion.
- * **MISSING PERSONS:** Sometimes a few people get unintentionally separated from the main group.
 - In case people are missing, the leader appoints a search party. Others stay in one spot with the leader.
 - If after an initial search the missing person(s) is (are) not found, the leader notifies the RCMP by any means while the search is continued.
 - The leader needs to make a report of the incident to be filed with the Secretary. Incident forms are available.
- * **ACCIDENTS:** In case of an injury:
 - Evaluate the victim's condition and decide whether outside help is required. If not, the leader offers first aid.
 - If outside help is wanted, dial 911 on a cell phone.
 - If a cell phone cannot be used, send at least two people with coinage and details of the accident to find a telephone or cell phone service area.
 - Make the victim as comfortable as possible and provide shelter if needed.
 - Again, an incident report needs to be filled out by the leader and filed.

Want to know more? There is an excellent pocket-size guideline booklet on leading field trips available from Nieke Visser. Call 250-537-5443 to obtain your copy.

View of Samsun Narrows

Photo: Lynn Thompson



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 8

Blackberry Fest

Where: Ruckle Park

Time: Noon

What to bring: your own blackberry creations

Preceded by a short outing
Check website or Dri ftwood for details

September 10-13

BC Nature Fall Conference and General Meeting

Pender Harbour, BC
Hosted by the Pender Harbour and District Wildlife Society.

September 15-18

Fall trip to Cathedral Provincial Park

October 4

Surrey/White Rock Naturalists will join us for the Apple Festival.

Please phone Teresa if you would like to be a host/ volunteer driver for our sister club members: 250-538-0978.

October 20

Nature Excursion

Pacific Northwest Raptors in Duncan.
Maximum number of participants: 10

Costs: \$12

Phone Teresa 250-538-0978 and pay before Sept. 20. See details on page 7.

October 29.

Together with the Paddlers' Club and the Rotary Club of Salt Spring Island, we sponsor **Chris Cooper**, who went in a West Coast Native built canoe, "the Spirit Dancer", around Great Britain.

Time: 7.30 pm

Where: Community Gospel Chapel.

Suggested donation \$10 pp.

All proceeds will go to development programs of native youth.

November 26.

Lynn Thompson will show slides on " **Hiking the Rock-wall Circuit in the Kootenay Rockies, BC** ".

Where: Harbour House Hotel, Crofton Room

Time: 7.30 pm.

December 8

Christmas Luncheon

Where: Harbour House Hotel, Green Room

Time: from 11:30

Costs: TBA.

January 28, 2010

Annual General Meeting

Where: Harbour House Hotel

Times: Lunch starting at 11:30 am

Meeting starts at 1:00 pm

Costs: TBA

ECONOMIC GEOLOGY 3: Mining on Salt Spring Island *by Kees Visser P.Geol.*

The subject of mining, metals and ore deposits is very complex and is beyond the scope of one page of information. The accumulation of (economic) ore deposits on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands is a function of its overall geology and especially of the wide range of rocks we find here: igneous, volcanic, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks.

The majority of heavy economic elements, such as copper, zinc, lead, gold, silver, molybdenum, titanium, and many others do not normally occur in the earth's upper crust, but are only found in the deeper viscous mantle or lower crust. These elements are brought to the surface or near the surface by intrusions of igneous

rocks or by volcanic activity. When at the surface and cooling, they usually form minerals as sulphides, oxides, carbonates, sulphates, or silicates, although pure native copper, gold or silver occasionally occurs. However, in the average igneous or volcanic rock, its concentration will be very low, hence not so interesting from an economic point of view. Only when they are concentrated they become an "ore deposit", and that may happen in a variety of ways.

First, these minerals may occur in association with quartz or calcite. Igneous magma containing these minerals have subsequently intruded into veins or fissures in the upper crust. Enriched with these metal minerals, these veins will then cool and crystallize. Veins consisting of quartz and copper sulphides (mainly chalcopyrite) and iron sulphide (pyrite) were found on Salt Spring Island. Even specks of gold were found. When a vein is very rich, it is often called a lode. The remnants of some of these mining attempts in the 1890's and early 1900's can still be seen on the steep side of Mt. Maxwell (see picture) and in Ruckle Park near Yeo Point. Clearly these veins were not rich or abundant. They were a lot richer near Crofton where three mines and a smelter operated from 1900 to 1908.

A second ore occurrence is the association of copper and molybdenum with volcanic rocks. Over the past 100 years many such mines, although small, were in operation on Vancouver Island. The two largest ones were the

Island Copper Mine near Port Hardy, which produced copper, molybdenum, gold (35,000 kg), silver and rhodium (from 1971 to 1995). The Buttle Lake Mine in Strathcona Park is still in operation also producing mainly copper, molybdenum and gold. The largest copper mines in the world are of this type (Chile, USA) and

often gold and/or silver is a major by-product.

A third occurrence, which usually creates a lot of excitement, is the placer deposit. These occur when mineral rich rocks erode and the heavier minerals concentrate in small rivers and streams. Discovery of some gold placers in many creeks on Vancouver Island and on the Mainland have caused gold rushes. Still, some of the ma-

major gold mines in the world are underground placer deposits (e.g. in South Africa).

For this article it goes too far to delve into the various mineral/rock associations and the geological methods of exploration, so I will only focus on some other Salt Spring Island ventures:

Rhodonite (a manganese silicate), was discovered around 1950 near the Musgrave Road. Although not economical, rhodonite is a nice pinkish red translucent mineral, which can be polished into a gem stone. Limited extraction took place until the 1980's. This rhodonite occurred in cavities in metamorphic volcanic rocks. Another semi precious stone, *jasper*, can also be found in some locations on the South Island. The jasper (basically cryptocrystalline or amorphous quartz with minute amounts of iron oxides) found here is opaque red, which can be polished into a nice stone. It was never mined commercially and remained a collector's item. Small amounts of *garnets* (in metamorphic rocks) and crystalline quartz are present, but will also remain collector's items. Even *coal* was mined for a short time near Vesuvius. Compared to Vancouver Island, however, this coal deposit was not of the same magnitude. Finally there are still some *sandstone* and *gravel* pits on the islands, which all mine the Cretaceous Nanaimo Formation.

This concludes my three part series on Economic Geology.

Abandoned copper mine on the steep slope of Mt. Maxwell; view from inside the mineshaft. Kees Visser (left) and Zeke Blazicka. *Photo: Lynn Thompson*



MEXICO: THE SAN BLAS EXPERIENCE *by Kees and Nieke Visser*



Last winter, our decision not to go away this time was overturned by a prolonged episode of miserable weather and one another. Sun-

shine was what the doctor and frugality was what our finances prescribed. We looked south as a possible destination for a financially responsible escape.

Up to now, we had been sceptical about going to Mexico, put off by the prospect of staying in one of the many tropical luxury resorts without being able to get to know the country, its nature, and its people. However, while surfing the web, Kees came upon a place where the majority of sun seekers would not go. About three hours north of Puerto Vallarta by bus we found a sleepy seaside village by the name of San Blas, complete with cobbled side streets and a central plaza with a cathedral, a municipal building, a market, and lined with a host of restaurants. Once San Blas was a major port and fortified city on the Pacific coast during the Spanish colonial times and



had served as springboard to explore California and the northern Pacific coast. Today its population ekes out a living from the proceeds of fishing and of some crazy tourists who dare the *jejenes* (no-see-ums) that come out at night to pester anyone who stays too close by the ocean. Casa Roxanna provided us shelter for ten days. Too close to the ocean to be completely *jejene-free* (we had the odd one in the evening), but very com-

fortable with a kitchen, air-conditioning and a swimming pool. Groceries were bought at either “Mia Tiendita”, a tiny store next-doors, or the market downtown.

San Blas is well-known among birders: each year in January there is an international festival organized by the Garza Canela Hotel in town. We missed that event but we organized our own excursions, and these were likely cheaper than the official ones. Still, the gift shop at the Garza Canela provided us with useful information on the local birding scene in the form of a small guide.

There was one obstacle: our knowledge of the Spanish language is virtually non-existing. However, that did not stop us. Armed with a phrasebook /dictionary that had

served Kees very well during his 2005 Camino de Santiago journey, we set out to hire a boat to bring us across the river to the Isla de Peso, renowned for its shore birds that inhabit the Playa del Rey. There were numerous birds: American oystercatchers, neotropical cormorants, Wilson’s plovers, brown pelicans, whimbrels, Heermann gulls, western willets, black-necked stilts, and many more. The boat man promised to pick us up around noon and so he did. We asked him about an excursion over the Pozo Estuary and were referred to one of his fisherman friend. Fortunately this time an interpreter was close-by: 350 pesos (\$33) for a private tour, lunch included at a *palapa* (open-air restaurant) upriver. His brother would be the tour guide, because he spoke English. We agreed to meet at nine the next morning. It turned out the brother spoke as much English as we spoke Spanish. Never mind.



Most importantly, he knew the English names of the birds and was a pretty good spotter. The Pozo Estuary is a wide body of water weaving its way through the mangrove forests. Along the shore hidden in the mangroves, an array of birds that need the river for sustenance were lined up as if they were waiting for us! The whole morning we slowly made our way up the river, staying mainly on the east facing (sunny) side for better photo-ops. Around noon we arrived at a *palapa* and disembarked. It was situated at the confluence of the two arms of the Pozo Estuary. There was no one around except for a couple of dogs and a fenced-in crocodile with the name of “Hector”. We understood that this poor soul was captured as a baby, but by this time he had far outgrown his pen. We left Hector and were escorted to a small hut: open to all sides and furnished with a table and some chairs. We settled in and enjoyed the scenery. After 20 minutes or so the dogs suddenly perked up by the sound of an approaching boat: Mom and Pop had arrived with the food and the cold *cerveza*! Formal introductions followed, then Mom disappeared in what turned out to be a kitchen and Pop lit the stone barbecue. Beer was served while waiting. A *donado* (fish) soon lay on the



grill and was thirty minutes later served with an choice of condiments and hot tortillas; dessert consisted of freshly



harvested coconut. In the afternoon we slowly made our way back, this time along the opposite shore. More surprises were waiting, two mating black hawks stood out. There was a tiny green kingfisher who refused to be photographed. And there were grey and red-tailed hawks, ospreys, black-capped night herons, green heron,

belted kingfishers, ibis in all stages of maturity, egrets, little and great blue herons, black and turkey vultures, cormorants and anhingas, chachalacas (a kind of turkey), anis (black parakeet-like birds), tropical kingbirds, great kiskadees, really too many to mention.

A few days later we tried a tour in the San Cristóbal Estuary, also known as la Tovar. This time our guide was Oscar who happened to live a few houses down from our place. Oscar was recommended as THE birding guru. In any case, his English was pretty good and he proved to be an excellent spotter. His fee



was matching his skills. He picked us up by car at 7 am, and took us to Matanchén, south of San Blas. From here many boat tours are done for tourists from Puerto Vallarta but an early start would avoid the crowds, we were told. This estuary is quite different: the channels through the mangroves are quite narrow in places and sometimes we went through a tunnel of green. Wildlife was different



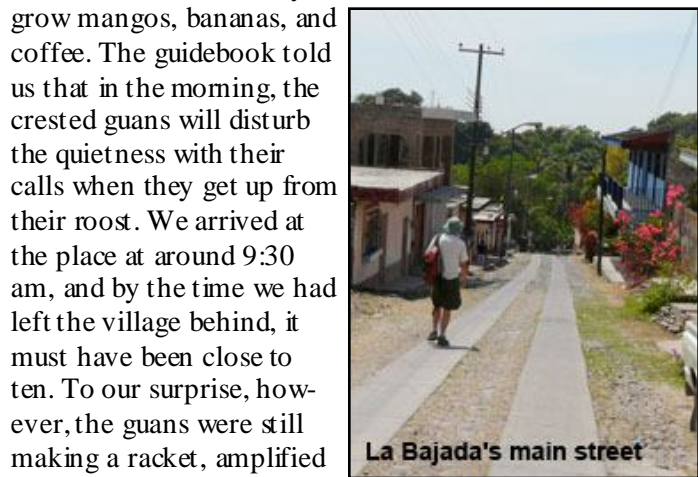
too: bare-throated tiger herons, parauque (kind of night hawk), iguanas, turtles, crocodiles, a palm tree full of wood storks, the rare limpkin, and the most bizarre of all: the boat-billed heron. These her-

ons live in groups of ten or more hidden between the branches of the mangrove. Their large eyes made me think they are night hunters, but I could not verify that in the literature I consulted. They are quite big (about 50 cm tall) and their bill makes identification easy. How they can catch any fish with this tool seems a mystery to me!



Inspired by these guided tours we set out on our own. The local guidebook recommended a narrow valley near the town of La Bajada.

According to the timetable, bus service to this town was daily, but when we showed up at the bus station at the indicated time, there was no bus. So a taxi was hired and for 100 pesos (\$9) we got a 45 minute ride to La Bajada. The taxi driver promised to pick us up again at 2 pm. From La Bajada an ancient cobble road leads eastwards: the Camino Real. In early colonial times it was the main highway between the west coast (San Blas) and Vera Cruz on the Caribbean coast. Presently it serves as a road for farmers to walk or cycle to their fields where they grow mangos, bananas, and coffee. The guidebook told us that in the morning, the crested guans will disturb the quietness with their calls when they get up from their roost. We arrived at the place at around 9:30 am, and by the time we had left the village behind, it must have been close to ten. To our surprise, however, the guans were still making a racket, amplified by the echo bouncing off the steep slopes of the canyon. What a spectacle! The birds here were of course different than in the mangroves: orange-fronted parakeets, woodpeckers, black-throated magpie jays with their long tails, buntings, crested guans, and chachalacas. The further we hiked uphill, the less birds we encountered. There were many little birds that



we could not identify. But one stood out: the little vermilion flycatcher, so bright red that he was visible from a fairly large distance.

We made our way back to the village. While waiting for

the taxi driver we were utterly surprised when a large bus marked "San Blas" made its way up de steep road and stopped right in front of us: so there was a bus after all! Although tempted to take this bus back, we figured that waiting for the taxi was the right thing to do. Indeed, the driver returned at 2 pm exactly. Very impressive!

Having gained confidence we made another hike/birding excursion to Singayta, a village just off the main road to Tepic. This time a bus brought us there. The land beyond Singayta was once dotted with swamps and seasonal lakes that attracted numerous birds. Agricultural demands, however, had led to drainage of some of the wetlands, resulting in a sharp decline in the numbers and variety of birds.

Alarmed birders convinced the villagers that draining more wetlands would hurt the economic spinoff of eco-tourism and birders. Thus, they declared themselves an "eco-friendly village", as indicated by a large sign at the village entrance: to what extent this eco-friendliness went, however, re-

mained unclear to us. We hiked the 6 km or so along the road leading north along fields, pools, swamps, and streams until we ended up in a mango plantation. It was the dry season so most wet areas had dried up. But birdlife was as diverse as our untrained eyes could see. We surprised an immature gray hawk who had just killed a squirrel. He took off, dragging the squirrel with him. On the way back, we found him again in the same tree, but his time he only screamed at us (he was right to be mad!) and did not take off, so we were able to have a good look at him! Other encounters included a mocking bird, a bright red summer tanager, a lineated and an orange-cheeked woodpecker and the soft-spoken Sinaloa crow.

This experience was an unexpected success to us. Birding was only part of this trip; we also got to know the Mexicans and found them friendly and helpful. Too bad our language skills were so poor. For more pictures of our trip, copy and paste this website in your browser:

<http://picasaweb.google.ca/WebpicturesNieke/Mexico2009?authkey=Gv1sRgCKzD6-3HpKbY2wE&feat=directlink>



Crested Guan



Perauque

NATURE EXCURSIONS AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR THE FALL OF 2009

1. On Sunday, October 4, 2009, it is our turn to host the Surrey/White Rock Naturalists, who so gracefully entertained us on June 7. They will join us for the **Apple Festival**. If you would like to be a host and volunteer driver for our sister club members, please phone Teresa 250-538-0978.

2. Tuesday, October 20, 2009, Excursion to Duncan: Meet at Portlock Park at 8:30 am for the 9:00 am ferry from Vesuvius. Bring binoculars, lunch, and beverage.

Program:

(a) Birding and ramble around the Somonos Garry Oak Protected Area. Parking at the dog park on the corner of Beverley and Lakes Road.

(b) Visit to the Pacific Northwest Raptors Centre on Herd Road.

(c) We are also looking into a visit to a winery or pub. Suggestions anyone?

Reserve your spot by phoning Teresa (250-538-0978). Payment of \$12 (**non-refundable**) by cheque made out to "Pacific Northwest Raptors Ltd". Please leave the cheque in the Cobbler's Box in the envelope marked, "Teresa Hitch, Nature Coordinator".

Reservation and payment must be received before Sept. 20. Maximum participation: 10 persons.

Email Teresa at saltspringstudio@shaw.ca for more information.

3. Upcoming:

- The new Marine Ecology Centre, in Sidney. Date to be announced

- "Footprints in the Snow", on Salt Spring Island (get out your snowshoes!). Date to be announced.

Volunteers needed

The following Executive positions are becoming vacant in January 2010.:

Vice President

Qualifications: Enthusiasm
Job description: -Organizing presentations,
-Finding organizers for spring / fall overnight trips

Hiking Coordinator

Qualification: Being a hiker
Job description: -Finding hiking leaders
-Submitting monthly schedule to the Driftwood

For detailed job descriptions, contact Richard Shead at 250-537-58569 or rshead@sisland.com.

BC NATURE FIELD CAMP ON SALT SPRING ISLAND *by Nieke Visser*

The executive of BC Nature has asked our club to organize an event, either a General Meeting in the spring or fall, or a field camp. As the newly appointed Director, I was uncomfortable to organize a large meeting, but a field camp seemed more manageable to me. In March, the SSTNC's Executive Committee approved the proposal and an organizing committee was struck consisting of Zeke Blazecka, Richard Shead, and myself.

Why a field camp?

SSTNC is associated with BC Nature so all our members are automatically members of BC Nature. For a long time, camps have been part of BC Nature's activities much to the enjoyment of its members. In the past few years, BC Nature field camps have been held on Quadra and Saturna Islands, in the Okanagan and in Bamfield as well as at Gavin Lake in northern BC. Camps provide informative, educational and social events and raise funds for the enhancement for both the organizing club and for BC Nature. In other words, here is an opportunity to increase our savings for future expenses.

What has been planned for the Salt Spring camp?

The camp dates are set from April 27 to May 2, 2010. We will host 24 BC Nature members from other parts of BC.

They will set up camp at the Seabreeze Inn and wine and dine each evening at different local restaurants. For the excursions, we have engaged expert leaders and presenters covering all aspects of natural history, including birding, botany, geology and marine life including a zodiac excursion. Some of these leaders are SSTNC Club members and some are not, but all will donate their time and skills. If you wish to read more about this, a program outline is posted on our website (www.saltspringtnc.ca)

NEW WEBMASTER GIVES SSTNC'S WEBSITE A FACELIFT *by Sue Lehman*

There's a new look to the Trail & Nature website, which has a new Webmaster. Sue Lehmann has taken over maintenance from Gloria Murphy. Many thanks to Gloria for developing and maintaining our previous site.

The Calendar of Events shows upcoming activities on a single page, so you can see everything at a glance.

Past issues of the Oystercatcher are now available so you can get an article that appeared in previous issues.

The Photo Gallery includes pictures of Salt Spring flowers taken by Nieke Visser and photos from outings taken by Lynn Thompson.

If you have photos from club activities, please forward them to Sue: Sue.Lehmann@Telus.Net



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