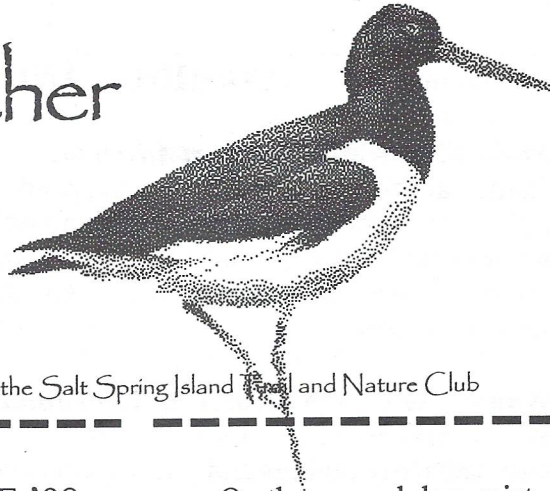


Oystercatcher



The Newsletter of the Salt Spring Island Trail and Nature Club

AUTUMN ADVENTURE '98

Jean Howell

Twenty eight of us converged on the Mount Washington Ski resort in early September. The day was sunny and not too hot. The first day we reached the summit - 5215 feet, a rise of 1657 feet from the lodge level. Led by Brian Radford, the first group arrived in one hour, scarcely breathless at all! We gazed at the 200 mile panorama - incredible! Within one quarter hour the clouds began to encroach and shifted to reveal windows of view to the second group to arrive, led by Fred Howell. The whiskey jacks zoomed in to anyone suspected of snacking, landing on hands, shoulders, heads. By 11:30 the chair lift delivered those not climbing, and we set about the serious business of having lunch.

Our club was housed in a new condo whose hot tub and swimming pool welcomed us back well before happy hour. Buffets in the lodge provided a plentiful variety of good food at breakfast and supper. Our camaraderie filled a whole room; a bigger group from West Vancouver had to be moved elsewhere in the lodge for their meals. The waitresses commented on our infectious laughter and uncomplaining nature.

A quiz using BC place* names showed what a sharp, knowledgeable bunch we are. The champion was Dick Pattinson who solved the one question that baffled the rest of us. Chris is making the quiz even bigger by adding more questions to it.

On the second day, mist, overcast and sprinkles accompanied us through the wonderful Paradise Meadows. Elevated walkways wind among and protect the delicate vegetation. Because a helicopter was transporting supplies to trail workers, one part of the forest and lakes area was closed. However, we all felt well exercised and content after several hours - the hikers went 16k! Wild blueberries were an easy reach along the paths... Many of us may consider returning to ski at this superb place!

*Examples of BC place names on quiz:

- a) a former queen =Victoria
- b) aching last digit =Sorrento
- c) purchase = ? (Dick knows)

CALENDAR

- Nov. 26th Social, 7:30 PM, United Church Hall
- Dec. 15th Christmas Lunch, 11:30AM, Meaden Hall
- Jan. 28th Annual General Meeting, 7:30PM, United Church
- Feb. 25th Social, 7:30 PM United Church Hall



COMINGS AND GOINGS

Wilderness First Aid: *Slipstream Adventures* of Victoria has developed a two day course aimed at hikers and paddlers who spend time in the back country. The course will be given November 14th and 15th with about half the time spent out of doors dealing with simulated situations. The cost is approximatley \$105.00 (\$85.00 plus the cost of renting space) and taxes. Contact Ben Goodman at 537 -8980 **before Nov. 4.** Minimum 10 people

Help Wanted: Our Club needs **Trip Coordinators** who once or twice annually, select destinations, arrange for accommodations and meals, take club member reservations and coordinate daily outings and guest speakers if required. We need a **Membership Secretary** to maintain and update computerized membership list of approximately 200; maintain the liability waiver forms file; and attend monthly Executive meetings.

Adoption: The Club is a proud foster parent of one of the McFadden Creek Great Blue Herons!! The adoption papers and a photo of "our" heron may be viewed at the Thursday evening socials.

Welcome: New members *Ann Collins, Tom and Kathy Payne.*

Recovering: *Angie Mills* from a multiple leg fracture.

Stepped Down: *Ian Fraser* as Publisher of the *Oystercatcher*. Many thanks!!

Last Hike: *Joy Newton*, Membership Secretary for many years, died in August as a result of being struck by an automobile. A memorial tribute is being considered by the Executive.

Fred Maybee's ashes were scattered at one of his favorite spots during a September hike.

Bequest: *Mary Sylvander*, remembered as a founding member of our club and for having passed her 100th birthday, willed the Club \$500.00 upon her death.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Bill Earl

All members of our club have the opportunity to attend and put forth ideas and suggestions at our monthly Executive Meetings. They are held on the third Wednesday of every month except July and August. To be put on the agenda contact our secretary.

Hope you had a great summer and I look forward to seeing you on our fall outings.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Annual Membership Dues of \$17.00 per person are **due January 1, 1999** for the calendar year 1999. Please send your name address, phone number (new memebbers) or changes (renewals) and cheque dated January 1, 1999 to the Treasurer at the club address **before** the end of December. Cheques may also be given to April Steel.

Prompt payment will help eliminate the cost of producing and mailing reminders in January!!!



FBCN REPORT

Nancy Braithwaite

The FBCN held its fall General Meeting in Vernon in September but, unfortunately, no one from Salt Spring was able to attend. Betty Kirk and I went to the Vancouver Island Regional meeting in Nanaimo on the 3rd of October. New President, Anne Murray brought us up to date on Federation activities (please read the next issue of BC Naturalist for details). Ron Speller of Qualicum (Arrowsmith Naturalists) accepted the position of coordinator for Vancouver Island, replacing Tony Embleton of Victoria who retired last year.

The five year Strategic Plan, 1998 - 2003, is now in its penultimate draft. Anyone wishing to read it, please call me at 537-9335.

I am looking for an alternate director to accompany or replace me at quarterly regional meetings and general meetings. An interest in natural history; preservation of endangered species; or forestry experience would be helpful.

The spring AGM will be held in Qualicum from the 13th to the 16th of May, 1999 at the same time as a joint conference with the Canadian Nature Federation.

FLORA AND FAUNA

FUNGIFUN

Linda Quiring

Yes, fungi can be fun! Trampling about in the woods one day, you may shuffle over a protruding white lump that turns out to be, yes...a 'shroom. Suddenly, you may be seized by an uncontrollable urge to remove, identify, and possibly eat this strange and wonderful fruit.

North America has become known as a fungophobic (mushroom-loathing) society. We seem to have inherited this fear from the British, and perhaps too many old fairy tales about "toadstools" is

responsible. "Shroom hunting has thus become an unusually bold and curious pastime in Canada, and 'shroomers are known as a fairly eccentric and even slightly bizarre bunch.

There are almost 120,000 species of mushrooms, and the Pacific Northwest may well contain more of them than anywhere in the world. You can thank our continuous warm fall rains, for this bounty. Our coastal area is home to such intriguing specimens as the Death Cap, the Destroying Angel (don't ask!) and the not so amiable Amanitas.

Some of our local hallucinogens, such as the amanitas and psilocybes have long been used in ritual and shamanistic practices by native peoples. Youngsters trying to recapture these same experiences are responsible for many of the stomach-pumpings we hear about.

Luckily, Salt Spring is also home to the delicious and plentiful Chanterelle! Rated tops as a wild edible, this one is easily recognizable and difficult to confuse with other, more indigestible types. Shaggy manes, the elusive morel, boletes, and some species of lactarius provide us with gourmet treats during the dark, drippy months of the year.

A couple of good rules are DON'T EAT ANYTHING! That's only one, but it'll do. I never eat anything nice and white like a supermarket mushroom, (looks like amanita). Also I never eat what I call LBJ's. These little brown jobs, several hundred species of them, are ubiquitous on Salt Spring, but too easily confused with poisonous cousins.

Take an expert with you, get some good books on identification. Next time you go for a walk, you may find a Dung Dome, a Hideous Gomphidius, a Dead Man's Finger, or perhaps hear a Big Laughing Mushroom, or a Chicken-of-the-Woods. Then there's Cowboy's Handkerchief, Ma'am on Motorcycle...and how about.....tork, conk, and Sweet Tooth...

CURRENT EXECUTIVE

President:	Bill Earl	537-2674
Vice Pres:	Fred Howell	537-1133
Past Pres:	Keith Webb	537-1349
Treasurer	April Steel	537-4207
Secretary	Ron Holcroft	537-2854
Membership	Vacant	
Walkers	Bud Williams	537-1176
Ramblers	Joan Lott	537-2237
	Ann Fitz-James	537-9952
Hikers	Linda Quiring	537-5116
FCBN	Nancy Braithwaite	537-9335
Trails	Betty Kirk	537-9686
RECORDS		
Archival	Joanne Cartwright	537-2439
Photographic	Betty Kirk	537-9686

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club features Tuesday outings September through June at three levels of ability. The monthly schedule of outings and events is published the final Wednesday of the month in the *Driftwood*. The fourth Thursday of each month the Club meets at 7:30 PM in the lower hall of the Ganges United Church. The Club is affiliated with the Federation of BC Naturalists.

Ramblers enjoy walking without pressure to keep up speed. Members of any level fitness are welcome. Ramblers have frequent "time-outs" for taking pictures, examining flowers, plants, stones, fossils, and hugging trees. Rambles start at 10 AM and usually end around 1:30PM

Walkers move at a relaxed pace taking time to smell the roses. Walkers usually try to avoid long steep climbs and will stop to catch the breath along the way. Walks are generally less than 8km and end around 2PM.

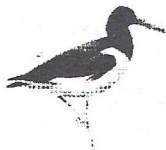
Hikers like long, adventurous and occasionally quite strenuous hikes, and like to gain a bit of altitude. Hikers need good strong boots and a good but not excessive level of fitness. They may smell the roses, but do it rather quickly. Hikes usually start at 10AM and finish between 2:30 and 3:30 PM.

MEMBERSHIP: Annual dues are \$17.00 per person. New members must sign a waiver.

Make a donation to the club. Tell the Thrifty's Cashier "41".

OYSTERCATCHER

Oystercatcher is published three times annually. Comments, articles or ideas are welcome. Mail them or call Linda Quiring 537-5116, April Steel 537-4207 or Judy Goodman 537-8980.



Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club
Box 203, Ganges PO
Salt Spring Island, BC
V8K 2V9



Fan Powell
117 Murrelet Pl

V8K 1G9