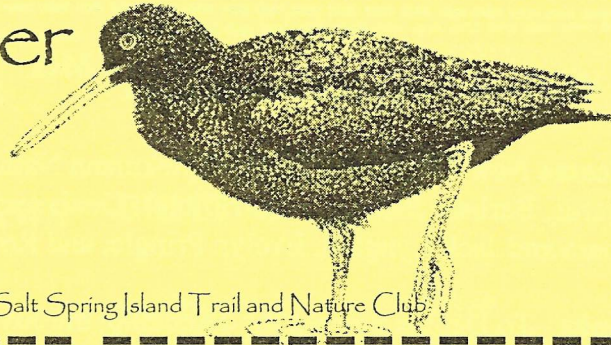


# Oystercatcher



The Newsletter of the Salt Spring Island Trail and Nature Club

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## Nepal Bhutan Bangkok and Cambodia

by Loes Holland

George Archibald came to Salt Spring to give a talk with slides about cranes, even of the species being endangered. As head of the International Crane Foundation, he specially mentioned the Black Crested Crane of Bhutan, where these rare endangered species have their winter nesting grounds after their marathon flight across the mountains of central Asia.

When George asked us to join him on his yearly trip in November, I faced a great dilemma as I already had booked a Wildlife and Natural History tour with Geographic Expeditions to Nepal and Bhutan. I opted for this tour as it was longer and included Chitwan National Park where we wanted to see tigers. I left home Friday November 5, flew via Hong Kong to Bangkok for one night and next morning from Bangkok to Kathmandu. What a flight! The bright blue sky and seeing my favourite Himalaya mountains: Everest with the usual little wisp of cloud around the top, and her handmaidens Lhotse and Nuptse Oyo and the my favourite sacred mountain, Amadablam. At the airport, I met the leader of the tour Rahul Shamar from Delhi, who was an expert trekker in Nepal for twelve years. We waited for the rest of the group (10 Americans) in the Yak and Yeti hotel opened in 1970 by Boris who started tourism in

Nepal by converting an old palace into a hotel. (book about Boris Tiger for Breakfast by Michael Peissel)

The next morning I wanted to recover from jetlag, while most of the group took the one hour flight along the southern face of the big mountains. I had seen them the day before from my starboard window and in 1979 from a Puma helicopter flying lower than any plane when we flew to start our trek to Everest's base camp. In the afternoon, we visited the old part of Kathmandu, the great Stupa of Bodnath the largest in Nepal and the centre of Tibetan Buddhism and the Pashupatinath the most sacred Hindu temple in Nepal dedicated to Shiva and built in the 1696. A short drive to the Swayambhunath, oldest Buddhist shrine with lovely views of the valley. We took some extra time to visit the palace of the living goddess, a building with superb carved windows among them several peacock windows. ....con't on page 3

### CALENDAR

**February 10th** Annual Pot Luck Dinner  
5:30 PM, Meaden Hall

**March 23rd** Social, 7:30 PM United  
Church Hall

**April 27th** Social, 7:30 PM United  
Church Hall

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## Trail Mix

**Welcome New Members:** Nettie Aptekmann Nathalie Carles, Charles Dorworth, John Edwards, Barbara Freitas, Janet Holmes, Denis and Diane Hunter, Wendy Kaye, Barbara and Jack Lyngard, Evelyn Pringle, and Ron and Lois Richardson.

**Thanks:** To Dennis Seward for dedicating the Joy Newton Memorial Bench on Channel Ridge.

To Joan Myers for taking the minutes at the Special General Meeting.

**Honorary Member:** Jean King has been bestowed Honorary status for her years of dedication to the Club.

**Reminder:** Be sure to include first aid supplies and any medication you may require in your day pack when on Club outings.

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## EXTENDED OFF ISLAND TRIPS

Off island trips (usually referred to as the Spring or Fall Trip) will try to be selected at least three months in advance. Don't wait on the Executive, any member is welcome to arrange these trips. After the advance notice, sign up will commence at the following Thursday Social (check the Calendar for dates). To be eligible for sign up you must have been a paid up member for at least two months. A payment of one third of the cost is to be made at sign up. This includes a twenty five (\$25.00) NON REFUNDABLE fee in the event of cancellation. The final two thirds is to be paid six weeks in advance of the trip. Cheques may be post dated to this date ONLY.

If cancellation is made less than one month prior to the trip and there is no substitute there will be NO REFUND.

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## NEWSLETTERS

If you do not receive the FBCN's "BC Naturalist" and would like to receive it at home, contact Lynn Thompson 537-1814. Or you can find the current issue in the Trail Club box located in the Village Cobbler shop. Please, share, return or recycle it.

If you do not want to receive the Oystercatcher or more hopefully, contribute, participate or comment, contact April Steel 537-4207 or "[grailer@saltspring.com](mailto:grailer@saltspring.com)".




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## CHANGES TO THE CLUBS

### CONSTITUTION and BYLAWS

Forty-three enthusiastic members turned out for the Special General Meeting on October 28th. All of the revisions put to the vote were carried and are presently before the Societies Act registrar in Victoria for final approval.

The recommendation to remove our affiliation with the Federation of BC Naturalists from the body of the constitution was the source of much debate. The removal of WORDING from our constitution, for some, seems to be synonymous with removal from the FBCN itself. A close vote carried the change.

It was then moved and carried that the Club reaffirm our continued support of the FBCN. Financial support for 2000, in the form of our membership fee, will be \$2224.00.

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## BIRD WATCHERS

Interested in participating in the British Columbia Nest Record Scheme, a permanent research project, sponsored by the Wild Bird Trust of BC?

To obtain recording cards and information contact the BC Nest Records Scheme, Box 6218, Station C, Victoria, BC V8P 5L5.

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## THE 1999 FISCAL YEAR IN

### BRIEF REVENUE

Memberships	\$4169
Interest & Other	\$676
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4845</b>

### EXPENDITURES

FBCN Fees & Insurance	\$2290
Hall Rent & Social	\$1010
Newsletter	\$589
Administrative	\$598
Fees & Dues	\$128
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4615</b>

Annual Surplus	\$ 230
Funds in Bank:	\$13,377.00.

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*cont'd from page 1*

There are eleven living goddesses in the valley, but this one is referred to as the Royal Kumari meaning virgin in the Hindu pantheon. She was about 10 years old and shows herself willingly in front of one of the windows to the courtyard full of tourists waiting for that moment,

Besides all the sight seeing, I managed to run to the Thamel elbowing my way among all of the tourists to buy little yak rugs for Joy's diningroom chairs. The narrow streets were lined with more tourists than I remembered but the noise level was less. The government has a taboo now for the three wheeled taxis.

Next am early flight to Pokhara. I told the group I would fall on my knees if I saw Machhapuchhare, the Fishtail again. Well I did. But how!

One the group was a good hiker and we decided to walk along towards the lake. The street towards the lake was wall to wall with little shops and shoppers. I did a bad stumble over the cobblestones, my knees bleeding, no taxi in sight as it was a festival day.

Finally one old taxi came in sight and the nice driver took command. He drove me to the local hospital, cleaned the blood spattered gurney in the ER, got a Russian trained doctor and even handed him rubber

gloves. I got an anesthetic and the knee stitched up. Costs \$ 3.00 for the hospital and \$35 for the taxi.

Back to the Shangri-la hotel with a sturdy bamboo stick which I brought all the way home to be raised here in the balcony with the Tibetan prayer flags!

Next day we drove up the Tiger Mountain to Pokhara lodge which opened last year with 14 individual hand cut stone bungalows, 1,000 feet above the Pokhara Valley with views of Daulaghiri, Manaslu and Anapurna.-- *to be continued*

### 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. Send waiver form and membership dues to Membership Secretary, Box 203, Salt Spring Island BC V8K 2V9

### Current Executive

President:	Linda Quiring	<del>637-5116</del>
Vice Pres:	Bill Harrington	<del>537-1146</del>
Past Pres:	Fred Howell	<del>537-4133</del>
Treasurer	Rollie McCallum	<del>537-8052</del>
Secretary	April Steel	<del>537-4207</del>
Walkers	Alan Robertson	<del>537-8159</del>
Ramblers	Beth Ranney	<del>537-4193</del>
Hikers	Fred Powell	<del>537-4139</del>
FBCN	Brian Radford	<del>603-9670</del>
(alternate)	Nancy Braithwaite	<del>537-8288</del>

### VOLUNTEERS

Membership	Lynn Thompson	<del>537-1814</del>
Trail Co-ordinator		
	Ian Fraser	<del>537-9849</del>
Archivist	Joanne Cartwright	<del>537-2439</del>
Photography	Chris Pattinson	<del>537-9547</del>

### OYSTERCATCHER

*Oystercatcher* is published three times annually. Comments, articles or ideas are welcome. Mail them to Box 203, Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2V9 or call Linda Quiring ~~537-6116~~ or April Steel ~~537-4207~~. Design 4th Line Design