

Haemtatopus bachmani

Saltspring Trail and Nature Club



Spring Outing at Ucluelet

Alan Robertson



The weather on Monday morning, May 27th, did not look very promising, especially the prognostication for the west coast of Vancouver Island. However, spirits were high in the Vesuvius ferry lineup as we

greeted one another and, though rain met us after Port Alberni by the time we hit Ucluelet things were looking up. Some hikers, on their part, caught the earlier eight o'clock ferry in order to get in an early hike, stopping at the top of Mt. Sutton Pass to climb at least part way up Mt. Klitsa, the highest mountain south of Strathcona Park. Due to some excellent navigating by Brian Radford they found the trail head, stopped for lunch in the rain, and proceeded up the path to be rewarded with great views over Sproat Lake valley.

By two o'clock all but a few bodies had arrived and settled into very comfortable digs at the Tauca Lea. Twenty-two of us (walkers and a half dozen hikers) investigated an unofficial trail five km north of the town which took us down to Fletcher's Beach. Four of our more adventurous souls (hikers by coincidence) scrambled over the rocky headland to locate a narrow trail to the top, but discretion being the better part of something else, and the sky threatening, we decided to retrace our steps back to the cars.

Tuesday morning was promising—promising rain that is! It certainly fulfilled its promise. All three sections braved the elements however and, independently, decided to walk the 2.5 km lighthouse circuit of the Wild Pacific Trail. The Ramblers very wisely let it go at that. The Walkers then drove 2 km. to the newest section of this trail complex (officially opened just two days previously) and proceeded to slog along this impressive trail over its 4 km length to the highway, becoming increasingly wetter with each step. The Hikers, meanwhile, with a five minute head start (actually they

planned to leave a half hour ahead of us, but it took them twenty-five minutes to get organized) walked the entire length. They took great pride in the fact they walked the 2 km road section.

Happy Hour somehow seems happier when it follows upon a day of soggy hiking and it happily abounded in several suites until seven o'clock dinner time. Our three dinners at the Tauca Lea were delectable—definitely gourmet cuisine. Dinner Tuesday night was followed by a speaker—Lisa Brisco, a Ucluelet raconteur cum bus operator who regaled us with historical facts and tales of local lore.

Wednesday was brighter and dryer and was spent mostly within the Pacific Rim National Park. Hikers drove to the north end to attempt to climb from Schooner Cove to Radar Hill. They crossed the first two headlands but then hit an impass, returned to the beach for lunch and split into two groups; one group returned to the cars, the other tried an inland trail which they soon had to abort. No to be deterred, Simon, Dave and Andrea made one more attempt to cross the headlands and pick up the car left at Radar Hill. The end result was that the hikers came close to missing Happy Hour. Walkers walked Gold Mine Trail down to Florencia Bay, along the beach to Wickaninnish Trail ending up at the centre. Interesting trail—it formed part of the link between Ucluelet and Tofino in the early 1900's; one section over a wetland area still showed the original pioneer corduroy road. Unfortunately many other wetland sections were simply mud holes which made slogging through them a bit of a challenge. Lunch was et on driftwood logs on Wickaninnish Beach and, not being exactly eager to retrace our steps on that muddy trail, we shuttle-carred back to Tauca Lea and to Happy Hour and dinner. The Ramblers also visited Wickaninnish Centre and took the short walk on

Calendar

June 18

Strawberry Stampede



Sept 17

Blackberry Festival

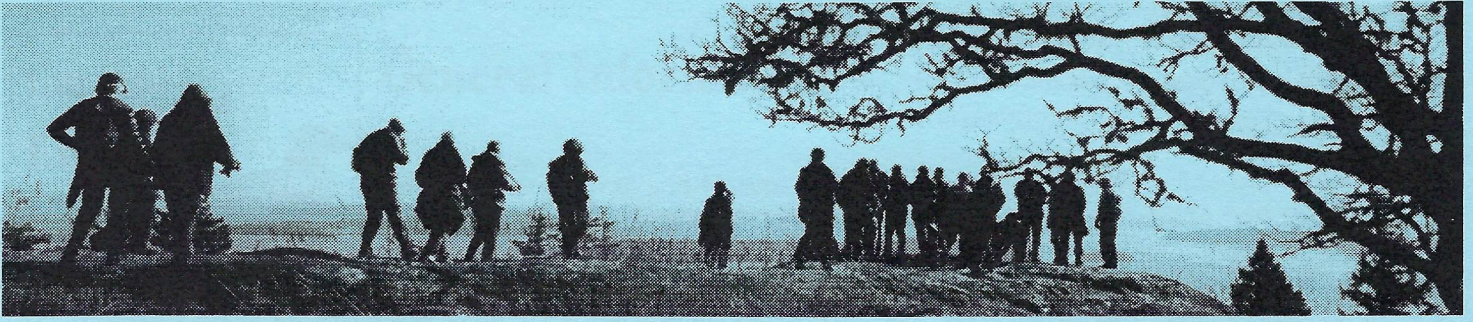


Sept 9-12

Fall Trip

OYSTERCATCHER

Oystercatcher is published three times annually. Comments, articles or ideas are welcome. Mail them to Oystercatcher, Saltspring Trail & Nature Club, Box 203, Saltspring Island, B.C. V8K 2V9



Trail Mix

New Members:

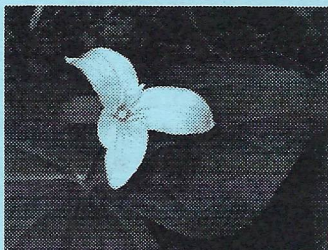
Audrey Hetherington
Hans Schroeder



Taxi Fare: Remember, \$1 for a trip to North End, \$2 to South End, Ruckle Park, \$3 to Musgrave, etc.
Day trips off-island, \$0.25/km.



Email : If you now have an Email address, send it to Membership Secretary Lynn Thompson at lthompson@salt-spring.com



Ucluelet Outing *continued*

the trail behind the Centre. Having had their interest piqued by Lisa, the bus operator, they drove to Tofino to witness the spectacular rhododendron display in a private garden.

Thursday, naturally, dawned clear and sunny. No planned activities were laid on for the day, so all were free to wander at will in Ucluelet, up to Tofino, and places in between. All in all a very enjoyable four day outing and we all look forward to the Princeton trip in the Fall.

President's message

This month brings us a unique opportunity to create more hiking land, as the Martin Williams' property on Mt. Erskine has come up for sale again. The club is donating from funds, but we would also appreciate individual member donations. See articles on following pages for more information. Have a great summer, see you in the fall for the Blackberry Festival and maybe on the Princeton trip. *Simon Rook.*

Fall Trip to Princeton

Sept. 9-10-11 & home on the 12th.

Princeton is 1-1/2 hrs east of Hope, or about 3-1/2 to 4 hrs from the Twawwassen ferry. Cost will be not more than \$255,00 /person including 3 nights & 8 meals. Exact cost will be known at the end of June.

We'll be staying at the Princeton Castle & meals including lunches will be catered. Deposit of \$85.00 no later than the strawberries on June 18. Final payment by the end of July. Money can be left th the Cobbler's Box for Rollie McCallum & labeled *Princeton Trip*.

For further info & to register phone:
Brian & Marjie Radford - 653-9370 or
HU' & Ann King - 537-2625



Trailblazers: Brian Radford

Each issue, we're paying tribute to some of those folks who have done so much for our club, but haven't received a lot of recognition...that's because they weren't necessarily on the executive or in the public eye...but worked diligently behind the scenes. Brian Radford is one of those folks.

Brian is perhaps best known by the general membership for his unique signs in Maxwell Park. He inscribed yogurt caps to give direction and mileage on his newest trail there from Armand Way.

A member of the stewardship committee working in provincial parks, Brian blazed most of the trails we use on Mount Maxwell. He is also a volunteer warden for CRD parks in the Mill Farm park reserve.

Brian is a former hiking coordinator, and has also led longer fall or spring trips ... his latest being this September's expedition to Princeton. He's represented us at the FBCN and is one of our representatives dealing with the newly acquired lands around Burgoyne Bay.

So the next time you pull the top off a litre of yogurt think of trailblazer Brian.

Bill Harrington



Nancy Brathwaite

FBCN REPORT

The FBCN AGM was held at U VIC from May 9th to 12th. On the first evening there was a reception given by the Lieutenant-Governor, Iona Campagnolo, at Government House, in honour of Dr. "Bert" Brink, now in his nineties, who is one of the leading authorities on grasslands and rangelands ecology in the country. He is well known across North America and at least two of our members were students of his at UBC.

On the Thursday an expedition to the Carmanah had been arranged and on the Friday there were a number of expeditions: walks on the seashore, in Garry Oak meadows and on local hills to see wild flowers as well as a visit to the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory.

On the Saturday the Directors' meeting took place in the morning and the AGM in the afternoon. Joyce Murray the Minister of Air, Land and Water Protection had agreed to speak but instead an address was given by Derek Thompson, the Deputy Minister of that nebulous sounding department who answered a number of questions the club had prepared for the Minister beforehand. As a result of the drastic cuts to the Parks Service, conservation, the forest service officers and recreation program as well as streamside protection there was an atmosphere of gloom not much alleviated by Thompson's responses.

There were representatives of naturalists' associations present from all over the province, including Williams Lake, Quadra Island and the Kootenays. Anne Murray, who had excelled as president for the past four years has handed over her demanding position to Jeremy McCall of the Vancouver Natural History Society.

The speaker at the banquet was Neville Winchester, an entomologist and professor at U Vic who did a vast amount of research in the canopy of the Carmanah as well as in Central America and Gabon. He might be encouraged to come and speak to us.

The insurance premium for the FBCN is now \$2500 (all insurance has increased since September 11th): it will work out at a total of approximately \$1.85 per annum (an increase of 35¢ each). The Federation is paying this until May 2003.

Ruckle Park campsite will remain open this year; the only difference being that campers will, have to pay for their own firewood. Arenaria Research and Interpretation, run by David Fraser, formerly of Salt Spring, has been issued a park use permit again to run the interpretive program in Ruckle Park but they are desperately looking for money. The same applies to the wonderful Nature House at Goldstream which is in Arenaria's hands as well. The public is so concerned about the latter, that donations are already being made—both to the Nature House and to the Habitat Acquisition Trust in Victoria which is able to give tax receipts. Their telephone number is 995-2428 and the Goldstream Visitor Centre's number is 478-9414.

Peter Lamb

Conservation Proposal

The Salt Spring Island Conservancy has an exciting opportunity to acquire land to expand greenspace and a trail network on the island and is seeking your support. The land offered for sale consists of about 50 acres (20 ha) of open Douglas fir/arbutus forest on Mount Erskine. It is adjacent to 163 acres (65 ha) of Crown land plus 56 acres (22 ha) of land owned by the Islands Trust Fund Board both of which contain a popular trail system. The Islands Trust is now considering a proposal to protect an additional, adjacent 220 acres (88 ha) of private land by conservation covenants. Therefore, purchase of this property could contribute to the permanent protection of a large, contiguous greenspace of about 490 acres (195 ha), as well as an important leg of an extended trail network throughout the Mt. Erskine area.

The purchase would be another important step in achieving the vision of the South and West Salt Spring Conservation Partnership, a coalition initiated by the SSI Conservancy to protect the greenspace values of the largest undeveloped area in the Trust area.

This property is part of the south-facing ridge of Mount Erskine and contains older growth fir groves, rare plant communities, upland bog vegetation and sensitive wildlife habitat as well as dramatic rocky outcrops and magnificent viewpoints. It is being subdivided for the purpose of this purchase from a 159-acre (64 ha) parcel of land, the remainder of which that has been carefully managed as a tree farm by the landowner, Martin Williams. He has offered this part of his property to the Conservancy to protect its natural features. As part of the sale price of \$85,000, Mr. Williams has agreed to dedicate a right of way across the remainder of his 159 acre (64 ha) parcel as well as his separate residential property to allow permanent access to the extensive trail network on Mount Erskine from Toynbee Road. The property would be held and managed by the Salt Spring Island Conservancy (SSIC). SSIC is also committed to raise the necessary

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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 1:30 PM

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 8 km and end around 2 PM.

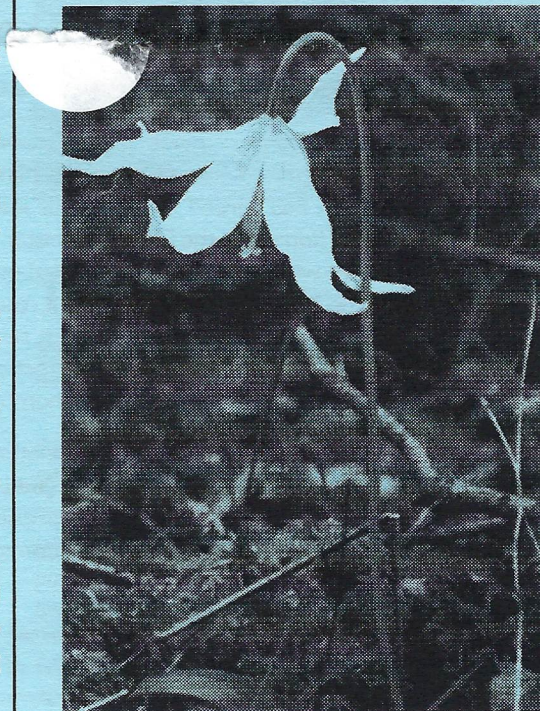
Hikers like long, adventurous and occasionally quite strenuous hikes, and like to gain a bit of altitude. Hikers need good strong boots and a good but not excessive level of fitness. They may smell the roses, but do it rather quickly. Hikes usually start at 10 AM and finish between 2:30 and 3:30 PM.

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

CONSERVATION PROPOSAL continued from page 3

funds with the support of other conservation organizations.

A total of \$95,000 will be required to cover the price of the land and related acquisition costs. Please send your contribution to make this purchase possible, to the Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club, P.O. Box 203, Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V9. All monies will be forwarded to the Salt Spring Island Conservancy. Official tax receipts will be issued upon successful completion of the purchase agreement. For information contact Peter Lamb 537-4859.



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