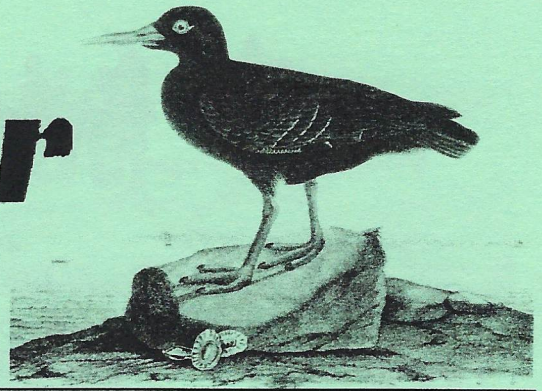


Oystercatcher

The Newsletter of the

Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club



Summer 2003

Calendar



September 2

Walks, Hikes, Rambles.



September 8-10

Fall Trip



September 16

Blackberry Festival

Fall Trip to Squamish

September 8-10, 2003

Squamish is approximately one hour from Horseshoe Bay. A beautiful area with numerous walks, rambles and hikes. We will be staying at the Best Western Sea To Sky Hotel. Two double beds to a room with use of the ballroom for private meals, functions and as a get together. All meals provided including boxed lunches at a cost of \$233 per person based on double occupancy. Squamish is a wonderful place to visit in the fall and the accommodation very comfortable, so hope we can take advantage of it. Please phone Joanne Cartwright if you would like to go, at 537-2439, numbers to be confirmed by July 16. Full payment to be made by July 26. ■

At Hope Bryan Adderley

Monday May 26

Catching the 6:30 a.m. ferry at Long Harbour makes the two-hour drive to Hope seem like all day. It did, however, allow for casual time to explore Hope, viewing the many wood carvings around the town, the mighty Fraser River, and the several parks and trails close by. Time was also available to swim, hot tub and sauna before the social hour.

Tuesday May 27 (dry warm, 20+°)

Ten hikers did a 16 km rambling nature tour starting at the Sumallo River and then along the Skagit River Trail. The trail started at a parking area just off Highway 3 about 35 kms east of

Hope (at present there is a sign post with arm, but no sign, on the south side of the highway.)

Our leader for the day was John Riley, a retired school teacher/nature photographer who works part time and also volunteers for B.C. Parks. He has an immense knowledge of local plants and local history. Three members of the Hope Outdoor Club, Mike, Georgina and Hinze, also joined the hike.

The trail was well-maintained, undulating, rising probably no more than 30 metres above the river which was normally in view but never out of hearing range.

Most of the trees in this area are common on Salt Spring with the exception of Vine Maple, and Englemann Spruce. bleeding heart, boxwood, false azalea, spring wood fern, maidenhair fern, and trillium were in abundance.

New plants to some of us were wild ginger and two types of clubmosses.

A bear had been in the area where we ate lunch on a gravel bar on the Skagit. However, the only wild life we encountered was a squirrel and many birds including a Harlequin duck.

A major point of interest was a short side trail (about 100 m) to an old mine site and an awesome waterfall and the Silver Daisy Creek.

Wednesday May 28 (light rain and thunder)

The Brigade Trail, over "the hump" to the Othello tunnels, was good and fairly even grade up to the summit. This took close to one hour of uphill climbing to a viewpoint overlooking the Coquihalla River. The trail down to the Kettle Valley rail bed was steady and steep ending about .5 km west of the longest of four tunnels. The walk along the old rail bed was a continuous wall of fern and mosses on the north side with the river below on the south.

cont. on back page

OYSTERCATCHER

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



Trail Mix

New Members:

Mary MORDEN

Marg PRAGNELL

Heather BIVER

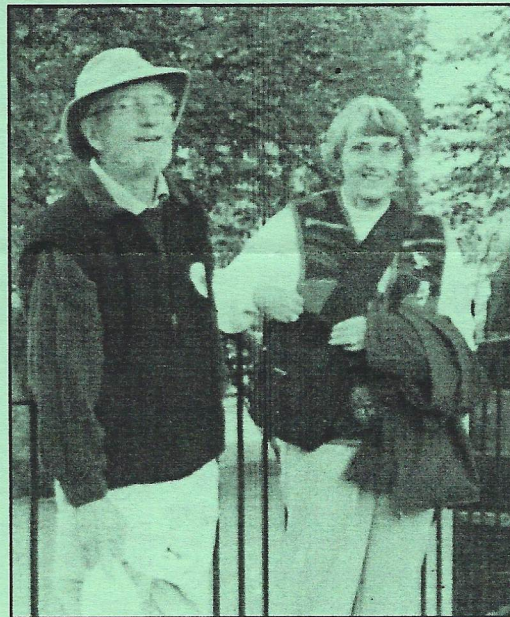
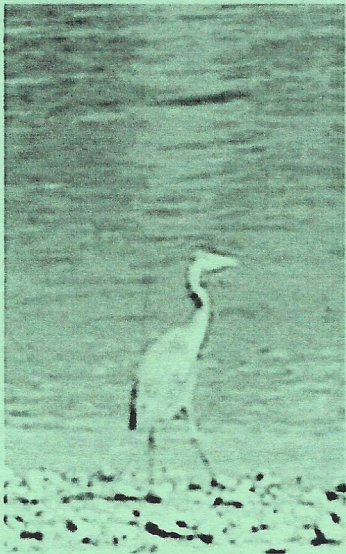
Linda BRETT

George and Nancy SLAIN

Gerry and Beryl SCOTT



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.



Trailblazers: Jack and Yvette Clements

Jack was born in Vancouver and grew up in Coquitlam. Yvette was born in New Westminister and grew up in Surrey. They met the day that Jack was discharged from the Army in 1945 and married in 1947. They lived in Coquitlam. Jack graduated in psychiatric nursing and worked for a short while in Riverview and then went on to be Co-Ordinator of rehab and short stay acute care in Vancouver, overseeing 14 community psychiatric care teams. He also was a therapeutic touch practitioner for 12 years.

After 25 years we moved to Salt Spring island in 1975. Jack transferred to the Eric Martin Forensic Hospital in Victoria, commuting for 3 and a half years. We then took over the Health food store here for 6 years.

In 1984 we finally retired to travel and garden and, for Jack, his stained glass work and the Trail and Nature Club.

We have two children — Dan and his family who live here; Carol Seward with Toby and their three children live in Nanaimo. ■

From the ed.:

Dick Pattison, who was featured in the last Oystercatcher, has a story in new book in the library, Naturally Salty by Marianne Scott. A good read!

President's message

Your executive is pleased to announce that the Martin Williams Property on Mount Erskine and the Vogt property the end of Sarah Way are now in the public domain. We are now busy making trails on both properties so that the pubic and especially the Trail and Nature Club will have easy access to these two very fine pieces of land. We have also been busy dealing with the B.C. Parks regarding paid parking and the effects this will have on the use of Ruckle Park as well as the ongoing meetings at F.O.S.P where our representatives have been ensuring our voice is clearly heard.

We apologize that the fall trip is late in getting going, but thanks to Norma Eves who arranged the location and Joanne Cartwright who is taking names and cheques, we are sure it will be a huge success. ■

Have a good summer.

Simon Rook

FBCN REPORT

Nancy Braithwaite

Brian Radford and I attended the FBCN AGM in Kamloops in May. It was held on the handsome campus of the University College of the Cariboo which made an ideal conference centre. It was a great pleasure to join forces with Fiona and Donald Flook who were representing the Central Okanagan Naturalists.

The day before the AGM, all the naturalists were invited to attend a symposium on Dry Forest Ecosystems which was hosted by the FBCN, the Kamloops Naturalists and the University College biology department. The agenda included talks on the global perspective on dry forests of the Americas with data from Colorado, Northern Patagonia and B.C.; recreation and ranching, timber and First Nations involvement; fire, insects and diseases; water management and, of course, ecology — particularly fauna.

The theme of the AGM was Fire and Water: Landscape Sculptors and there will be a report on it in the next copy of the B.C. Naturalist.

Considerable time was spent discussing Education and the Living by Water project which Salt Spring should be involved in. The FBCN has sent me six copies of the handbook for waterfront living, *On the Living Edge*, which makes a very helpful reference book for those who live on waterfront property. It costs \$14.95 and is highly recommended.

We discussed a Risk Management Plan proposed by the Nanaimo Naturalists. A motion was made that the FBCN set up a standard policy for all clubs to apply to the form and use of waivers, and to complete the field trip leaders' handbook incorporating a policy on waiver use by the FBCN.

We were told that the total FBCN membership is 4,050 but a membership may include more than one person due to family memberships in some clubs.

The President reported that the Young Naturalists' Club now has some 15 local branches and the program involved more than 1000 children in family and home learning groups in B.C. Membership in the YNC is strongly recommended for children who are interested in the outdoors and wildlife or it could be used to lure a computer-mesmerized child away from the screen! Anyone interested in subscribing, ring N. Braithwaite at 537-9335.

The FBCN sponsors Science Fair projects in 13 regions in BC. and the president encouraged all members to take an interest in regional Science Fairs.

The FBCN foundation needs the support of members; its mission is to promote the preservation of the natural environment for future generations through raising funds for conservation research and education projects. Their goal is to provide financial support for ongoing and special projects of the FBCN. ■



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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 their 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.

The first tunnel we entered had a bend to the left (north). We walked possibly 30 m before we could see the light at the other end. The three other tunnels were shorter and in line, allowing us to see the sun shining between them and the six tunnel ends from one spot. The spaces between the tunnels were the highlights of the walk, each a rugged beauty of nature and an engineering masterwork with trestles and blasted rock faces.

After lunch, Clancy, our guide, took us to the Sucker Creek salmon spawning site and left us to explore the bog area along Kawkawa Creek. A trail along the south side of the bog on the old rail bed gave us a good view of hundreds of yellow irises, several beaver dens and many birds including red winged black birds.

The next trip to this area should include the Hope lookout and the Spirit Caves. ■

Our picnic which was held in June,
Was missed by quite a few,
Some went to the old place,
Instead of to the new.

The strawberries were delicious,
Which the ramblers picked with care
But we missed our deal old Ruckle Park,
The walk we usually share.

So can we all start saving,
If next year we have to pay?
And have our usual picnic
Enjoy a happy day.

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