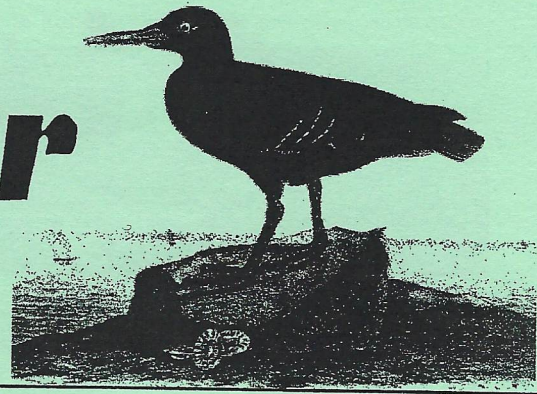


# Oystercatcher

The Newsletter of the

Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club

Spring 2005



## Calendar

**April 28**

### Social

Del of the cowichan Hikers will give a presentation on Vancouver Island hiking Trails.



**June 14**

**Strawberry Festival**  
Drummond Park



**September 13**

**Blackberry Festival**  
Mouat Park

## 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

<http://saltspring.gulfislands.com/lthompson/>

## President's Message

*Fred Powell*

**H**ello again, to all ! We welcome those newer members to the club as we welcome those beautiful flowers and blossoms of a Salt Spring spring. The past few days have been absolutely glorious...ideal for a walk, just about anywhere.

I notice that some of you have not completed the waiver form as part of your membership application. George would like you to get this situation cleared up ASAP!! Forms are available in the "Cobbler's Box".

Your executive committee met in January only, so far, and expects to meet again in March and to continue on the regular schedule.

Several directives have arrived from the FBCN. On your behalf, two letters are on their way, one to the Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection, encouraging the government to restore park interpretation. The other, to the above and the Minister of Sustainable Resource Management opposing the proposed Bearpaw Heli-ski application which threatens the endangered Mountain Caribou Herd.

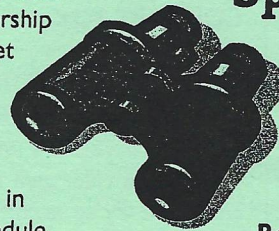
We are looking forward to the Prevost Island trip, arranged by our Hike co-ordinator, Kees Visser. I will be taking names for a waiting list up until Tuesday April 19.

We are also looking forward to an exciting trip to Quadra Island at the end of May. The arrangements are quite different this time, relieving one of our members the frustrating duty of deciding who sleeps where! I expect details are written elsewhere and that some space is still available at the time of writing.

Next on the list will be the great annual Strawberry Feast, to be held at Drummond Park on June 14th. I do believe that the Ramblers are in charge this time.

I have one concern. Our Membership Secretary, George Wachmann, who has done a terrific job, considering the complications with the new waiver form, would like to retire. I am sure someone out there could handle this essential duty for the club. Please give it some thought and talk to George or myself. Thank you.

Good Rambling, Walking, Hiking and enjoy the great natural world out there. ■



## Spring Outing Important Information

### Bookings:

At the time of writing, 51 members were booked to go on the spring trip to Quadra in May. A phone call to the lodge informed me that the rooms set aside for us are booked apart from one loft room, which may sleep two or three people. However, cancellations occur and members who still wish to go can leave their name on a waiting list with the reception at the lodge. The lodge will contact you when rooms become available. In case your roommate has to cancel and you do not know of anyone who may replace this person, please contact your coordinator at 537-5443.

### Happy Hour and Dinner:

Although the Lodge is located on a First Nation's Reserve, bar service is available.

Your reservation confirmation mentions that you are advised to book your table for dinner. However, we will have a buffet-style dinner, and I am assured that reservation is not needed in this case.

### Directions:

To get to Quadra: From the Vesuvius-Crofton

*continued on next page*



## Trail Mix

### New Members

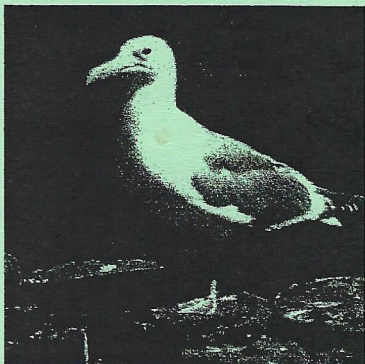
Lucia Gabber  
 Barry and Sheila Spence  
 Barbara Cotterall  
 Michel Jutras  
 Val Wethersett  
 Real and Khahlelea Reif  
 Geri Sharp  
 Dr. Elly Silverman  
 Marguerite Lee



**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 George Wachmann [wachmann@saltspring.com](mailto:wachmann@saltspring.com)



ferry, take Highway 1 north and in Nanaimo Highway 19 north to Campbell River. Entering Campbell River, turn right at the intersection with Highway 28 (left goes to Gold River), and follow that road towards the ferry terminal on your left (about a 5 minute drive).

Ferry schedule to Quadra: every hour on the half hour, except late afternoon: 5:25 PM and 6:15 PM. Please check the BC Ferries' schedule. Crossing time is 10 minutes. Members who have booked at the Lodge have received a map with directions to the Lodge from the ferry terminal in Quathiaski Cove. **IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED SUCH A MAP, FIND ONE IN THE COBBLER'S BOX.**

### Car Pools:

I have had some requests for car rides to Quadra. If you are willing to carpool or if you need a ride, give me a call: 537-5443, and I will try to accommodate you.

### Excursions:

The first evening following dinner, you will be provided with information to become familiar with Quadra Island, the trails, and the program for the two days. My husband, Kees, and I offer to lead certain excursions, and I am in contact with members of the Mittenach Naturalists on Quadra, who may be willing to help us with the excursions too. Of course, you are free to explore with your own group, if you wish. Charles Kahn's most recent book on Hiking the Gulf Islands describes most trails. Also, I will have trail maps and descriptions for your perusal.

### Entertainment:

As for evening entertainment, I am working on a presentation by someone who can tell us more about Quadra. There may be some costs involved inviting a speaker, and participating members may be asked for a \$3 to \$5 contribution to cover such costs, payable during the trip.

*Nieke Visser, Coordinator.*

## FBCN Report

*Nancy Braithwaite*

I attended the FBCN Regional Meeting in Nanaimo on the 5th march. Eleven of the twelve directors from Vancouver Island were present including the representative from Rithet's Bog Conservation Society in Victoria and a new director from the Nanoose Naturalists.

The AGM will be at Salmon Arm this year from the 12th to the 15th May, hosted by the Shuswap Naturalists Club. It is described as *A Study of Wetlands in an Urban Setting*; the registration form and other details are in the last BC. Nat.

The annual Brant Wildlife Festival will be in Qualicum from the 8th to the 10th April. To register phone (250) 752-9179 or e-mail [office@brantfestival.bc.ca](mailto:office@brantfestival.bc.ca)

Bill Merrilees, the president of the Nanaimo Natural History Society, is proposing to lead a group to Bathurst Inlet this summer. Some people at the regional meeting told me they had seen wonderful slides shown by a naturalist from Bathurst Inlet. The club has two copies of their brochure if anyone would like to see them (ring N. Braithwaite at 537-9335). Bill is also looking for 8-10 naturalists/outdoor enthusiasts to join him for a week on Haida Gwai' from the 1st to 7th May. The cost will be \$1,795 incl. all meals, accommodation and return air transport from Vancouver to Masset or Sandspit. Phone Bill at (250) 758-1861 or visit [www.northwestrecreation.com](http://www.northwestrecreation.com).

Our Christmas Bird Count is only now being collated by Alix Granger. This appalling delay is thanks to the snowfall; the unexpected closure of the Cobbler's Box (which contained most of the results) for a month; the departure of the new coordinator for California; and lastly, the very late reporting from three coordinators. ■



## TRAIL BLAZERS

### Paul & Beth Ranney

**P**aul and Beth grew up in Southern Ontario, and after getting married lived on their 26 acre farm near Ingersoll, a short drive from London, Ont. They didn't do any hiking, because, as Beth put it, "We kept quite fit enough from all the farming." They grew vegetables for sale, even growing tomatoes for the Campbell processing plant nearby.

Besides the farm, Beth and Paul had enough time to have regular jobs. Paul maintained the equipment in a Nortel plant, and Beth, who has a Royal Conservatory diploma, taught piano and music theory privately.

In 1986 they retired to Saltspring and knew that they had moved to "Lotus land". Since they didn't have the farm to keep them fit any longer, they joined the Trail and Nature Club, enjoying several years with the walkers. However, in 1992, about the time of the Claquot Sound protests, on a walking trip to the Walbran, Paul was talking to Edna Watson, who has since moved away, who was saying that she was going to quit because she found the walks too demanding with her knee problems. They then found that there were others who felt the same way, and thus was the Ramblers' group started. At first there were only about 5, but since then it has grown to about 30.

Beth and Paul became the first co-ordinators for about 3-4 years (Beth says it's too long ago to remember exactly). Then after a short interval they did it for another 2 years, and recently filled in for another year when no-one came forward. They still enjoy their rambles and hope to keep doing so for many years to come. ■

---

## New Proposal Regarding Honorary Members

Last year your executive examined the custom of awarding honorary memberships. For various reasons we find the awarding of these problematic, so it was proposed that it be discontinued.

However, because it is obviously necessary to honour valuable members in some way, we put forward the idea that the present "Trailblazers" section in the Oystercatcher be upgraded, so that trailblazers will henceforth have to be approved by the Executive (at the moment it is the solely the editor of the Oystercatcher who decides who to accept), and that all past Trailblazers be listed in the Oystercatcher once a year, just

as the honorary members are now. All present honorary memberships will be retained.

Since this change necessitates a change in the bylaws, this matter will be brought up at the Strawberry Festival for debate, so if you are interested and want to make your view known, attend the Festival in June. ■



## Upcoming Events

For 26 April a trip will be organized to Prevost Island open to rambles, walkers and hikers. The water taxi trip will be \$12/person, assuming we will fill the boat with 40 people (It would be \$16/person for 30 people). Participation request and full payment to Fred Powell before April 19 on a first come first served basis. Trip cancellation is 7 days. Boat will depart the Ganges dock at 9.00 am and will return from Prevost Island at 3.00 pm..

## Miscellaneous

It has been suggested that members who carpool on wet days bring a plastic bag with them so that the floor of the car they are travelling in doesn't get covered in mud.

Also that we carry a pair of pruning pliers or a small pruning saw with us when it is likely that we will be walking through areas of unusually dense growth, or when high winds are likely to have caused blowdown.

## Club Caps

The proposal to buy caps with the club logo on the front has been revived. Would those who are likely to want one of these contact Rollie McCallum at 537 0052.

## Membership Renewal

We were all pleasantly surprised when the new system of paying in Sept. actually worked better than the old system. We on the Executive thank you very much for this as it makes our job a lot easier. So although it is still some way off, we would love to be as delighted again. Remember that there is a small penalty (an extra \$3) for renewing after January 1st.

## 2004 Executive

### President

Fred Powell ~~537-4730~~  
fnpowell@uniserve.com

### Vice-President

Ron Hall ~~537-0046~~  
woodlandchalet@saltspring.com

### Past President

Simon Rook ~~537-5180~~  
homerook@saltspring.com

### Treasurer

Rollie McCallum ~~537-0052~~  
rem@saltspring.com

### Secretary

Nieke Visser ~~537-6443~~  
vn44@telus.net

### Rambler Coord.

Harold Page ~~653-2320~~  
hgpage@uniserve.com

### Walk Coord.

Val Wethersett ~~653-9272~~

### Hike Coord.

Kees Visser ~~537-6448~~  
vn44@telus.net

### Trail Coord.

Owen Benwell ~~537-9407~~  
obenwell@saltspring.com

George Hignell ~~537-5174~~  
higgy@saltspring.com

### FBCN Rep.

Nancy Braithwaite ~~537-9335~~

### Membership Secretary

George Wachmann ~~537-9276~~  
wachmann@saltspring.com

### Archivist

Joanne Cartwright ~~537-2439~~  
jcartwright@saltspring.com

### Photo Journal

Chris Pattinson ~~537-9547~~  
dpattinson@saltspring.com

### HONORARY MEMBERS

Bob Ball	Jean King
Loes Holland	Eleanor Lloyd
Jean Holmes	Joan Lott
Marc Holmes	Tony Pedersen

## 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.

## Mt. Erskine Acquisition

Hopefully most of you now know that the owner of the 100 acres which includes the top of Mt. Erskine has agreed to sell it to the Island. As you know, much of the land adjoining this is already open to the public either as Crown land, Island Trust Fund land or Conservancy land, so the acquisition of the top would be an invaluable addition to this area, and would in fact make a continuous parcel all the way from Collins Road to Toynbe Road.

It is possible that this land could be developed if we do not succeed in buying it, although it would be very difficult to do so, so we must not regard this as a slam-dunk. However, as with all land now on Saltspring, it isn't cheap. The final figure has not yet been agreed upon, but it will be somewhere in the order of \$5-600,000. But that is still a bargain for 100 acres including one of the finest views in the Gulf Islands. So we are asking you once again to dig into your wallets and help in this most important fundraising drive. If we miss this opportunity we will never forgive ourselves, I'm sure.

You can make your donation out to the Saltspring Conservancy, who will probably be the trustee for the land, (Box 722, Ganges PO, V8K 2W3) or if you so wish, you can make it out to the Trail and Nature Club for use in this acquisition. Either way you will get a tax receipt. ■



Salt Spring Trail & Nature Club,  
Box 203, Saltspring Island, B.C. V8K 2V9

Publications Mail Agreement No. 40049783

Tom & Joanne CARTWRIGHT  
235 Monteith Rd.  
Salt Spring Island BC  
V8K 1H4