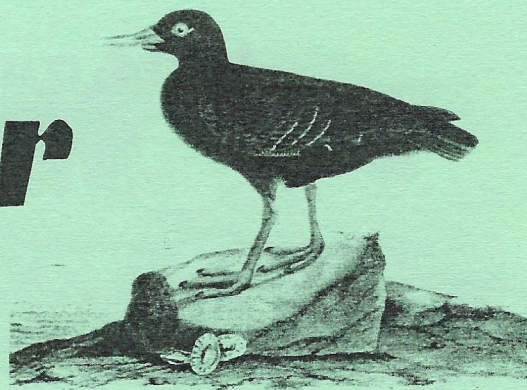


Oystercatcher

The Newsletter of the

Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club

Autumn 2005



Calendar

September 20

Blackberry Festival
at Ruckle Park, 12 o'clock.
You will be issued a parking
permit at the parking area.



October 11

Special outing to Galiano
Leaves Ganges dock at 9.30.
Returns 2.30.



October 27

Social at United Church.
Roger Brunt will present a
show about poaching eagles.
7.30.



November 24

Social at United Church.
Speaker to be arranged.



December 13

Christmas lunch at Meaden
Hall. 11.30-2.00.



January 26

AGM at Meaden Hall. Potluck
will be held from 11-3!!!.

President's Message

Fred Powell

As you no doubt know, there's a bit of coolness in the air these days. Summer is winding down and we are gearing up for the fall. By the time you read this, our fall trip will have come and gone as well as the annual blackberry indulgence. I hope both events were pleasant experiences for all who took part.

Our fearless editor has been putting the pressure on to get these reports in so this one may be shorter than I would like.

A few of us were asked to assist Parks Canada last month to remove some of the blackberry vines from a little known island, just east of the Penders called Anniversary Island. I managed to get there on the second day of a two day attack with four other members and about eight folks rounded up by the Park Warden. Parks Canada provided the transport and the food for the day. Digging up blackberry root balls is no fun, believe me! It was a rewarding day however to accomplish as much as we did. To top it off we had a wonderful Orca whale watching experience on our way back to Salt Spring.

I'm looking forward, like all of us, to our weekly jaunts and chats as we start up the fall schedule. As you will see, inflation has struck due to the high cost of fuel. Our executive has approved a slight increase in carpool rates as well as off-island kilometrage. I know you will agree that this is necessary. I'm also looking forward to the next social evening, Oct. 27, when a local outdoor writer will speak to us.

So-long for now and happy hiking! ■



Galiano Trip

On October 11th a trip has been arranged by water taxi to Montague harbour. Leaves Government dock at 9.30. Returns from Mantague Harbour at 2.30. Take lunch. This outing is mainly for walkers. The cost is \$22. Cheques should be made payable to the Trail and Nature Club. Information can be got from Janet Anderson at 537-8720. ■

Report on Spring Trip to Quadra

All fifty Trail and Nature buffs
Met at the Lodge on Cape Mudge bluffs
Of Quadra Island, a short ferry ride.
Accommodations good with view on west side
Our program, all by Nieke arranged
Hikes, Walks and Rambles, all could be changed.
A ramble on Rebecca Spit was not too long,
Early afternoon, time for a song.
Out of doors for a dip in the hot tub,
The warm water jets were like a back rub.
An evening talk was on Island history,
The petroglyphs are sort of a mystery.
Dinners were good, chicken, salmon, or beef,
Nanaimo bars and fruit were such a relief.
Huge tour ships went by through Discovery Passage
All lit up at night, what a colourful message.
Fridays' ramble was led through the woods,
By a Quadra hiker, she sure had the goods.
Hikes and walks were more strenuous yet.
Hikes led by Kees, his knowledge all set.
On Saturday morning, all bills paid up
Keys turned in, then to the ferry line-up,
And homeward bound, a good time to remember.
Now, who's for a trip to Hope in September?

After this rhapsodic outpouring by one of the great Bards of Saltspring, what more could one add! ■



Trail Mix

New Members

John Sprague



Taxi Fare: New rates, \$2 for a trip to North End, \$3 to South End, Ruckle Park, \$4 to Musgrave, etc. Day trips off-island, \$0.40/km.



Email : If you now have an Email address, send it to Barry Spence, Membership Secretary, at sspence@telus.net.

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

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

Membership Fees

Remember that membership fees are due now. Please put in the Cobbler's Box, or remit to Rollie McCallum. Dues are still \$17, but will go to \$20 after Dec. 31st.

New Treasurer

Rollie will be retiring at the end of this year after many years of sterling service. We are sure that there are some of you out there who are eminently qualified to do this job. Please contact Fred, Simon or Rollie if you think you might like to take this on.

Goodbye George

George Wachmann has retired as membership secretary after having overseen the change-over of the dues date, which caused him quite a lot of trouble. We thank him for his service. Fortunately, Barry Spence has agreed to replace him. Barry is a retired upper elementary school teacher from Red Deer, AB. He and Sheila had been visiting Saltspring since 1985, built a house in 1994, and finally moved out permanently last summer. Barry knows almost as much about computers as George knows about pubs, so he will be a great addition.

New Executive Position

A new non-voting position of "Nature Co-ordinator" has been created. The purpose of this position is to arrange activities specific to nature observation, such as plant identification. These activities will appear in the Driftwood along with the regular schedule. The first holder of this position will be John Flannagan, a Scot and retired research scientist with the department of fisheries and oceans (freshwater), and professor of entomology at the the University of Manitoba.

Change in Mileage Rates

Owing to the fact that gas costs continue to climb, and that there seems to be no sign of them going down any time soon, the Executive authorised an increase in all car pooling rates. North End trips down as far as Dukes Rd. will now be \$2. South End will be \$3. Ruckle Park, Musgrave and difficult top reach areas will be \$4.

Off Island will now be 40 cents per kilometre divided by the number of people in the car.

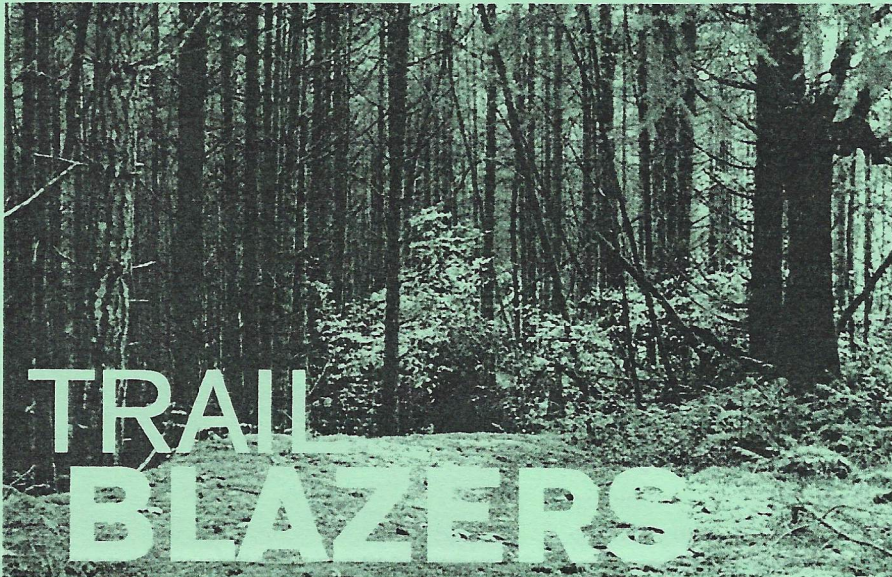
Club Caps

Unfortunately, the supplier for new badges and caps at a very reasonable rate didn't come through, so we are having to look for a new source.

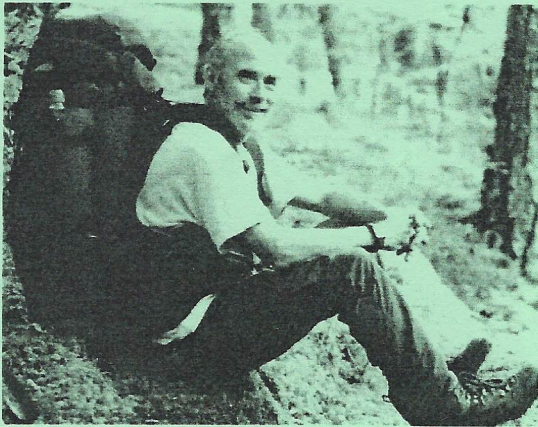
Motion Regarding Honorary Members

As mentioned in the last Oystercatcher, a motion was made by the Executive to discontinue the position of Honorary Member. Instead, the "Trailblazer" section in the Oystercatcher will be upgraded so that trailblazers will henceforth have to be approved by the Executive. Since this requires a change in the bylaws, a motion to this effect will be made at the AGM in January.





Lynn Thompson



Lynn was born into a farming family in the town of Wolseley, Saskatchewan. In case you have been wondering all these years, he was named after the famous hockey player Lynn Patrick. For his first few years he was under the illusion that the earth was flat, which of course it was in his neighbourhood, but when he was tall enough to see over the endless fields of wheat he glimpsed a few bumps in the far

distance and said to himself: "One day I'm going to see what those things are," and thus began his love affair with mountains!

Lynn did degrees in Agriculture, Soil Science and Education before embarking on a teaching career. At one time he taught in Kenora, Ont. where his department head was Ian Fraser, who is also a "Trailblazer". He married Betty, and the family ultimately settled in Yorkton, where Lynn taught at the regional high school and Betty monitored the activities of 4 busy children, who quickly become connoisseurs of Monty Python.

Lynn developed a passion for coaching in track and field, and was known as the "Guru of the Yorkton Yaks", a group of individuals who met regularly to go running.

Realising that life was short, Lynn decided to take early retirement and moved in 1996 to Saltspring, where he found that the frequency of steep hills on any 9 kilometre stretch was more daunting than minus 30 degree temperatures. Happily, the Trail and Nature Club beckoned and he never looked back. He has always been in the forefront in trail development with his trusty GPS, is developing an expertise in clearing broom and blackberries, and leads hikes both off and on island. For five years he was membership secretary and on his own initiative he started and maintains the T and N website. His passion for photography can be seen in the many photos taken by him in the Club photo album. He has amassed a truly stupendous collection of books on mountaineering, and can always be counted on to go exploring in some godforsaken place no-one in their right mind would go (ask Heather!). ■

FBCN Report

Nancy Braithwaite

There is not much to report on FBCN news over the summer, but Nancy would like it to be known that the fall general meeting will be held at Lillooet on Sept. 29th. And the next regional meeting will be held at Nanaimo on 26th Nov. anyone wanting to attend can call Nancy for information on getting there at 537-9335. Members might also want to note that the next AGM will be in Comox May 4-7. ■

Mt. Erskine Purchase

Thanks to a tremendous response by our members and the rest of the community, the purchase of Mt. Erskine is now complete. The \$650,000 plus needed to achieve the goal was actually achieved in a little less than two months, mainly thanks to the tireless work of Charles Kahn, ably assisted by Peter Lamb and Jean Gelwicks. Unlike past large acquisitions, this one was done primarily with private money. The only thing to decide now is who will actually own the new park. Originally, the Conservancy was going to hold title, but they would like B.C. Parks to do so, as long as certain conditions are met, one being that the adjacent crown lands be incorporated into the Park. ■



photo: Simon Rook

2005 Executive

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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.



Golden Hinde, Strathcona, BC.

photo: Lynn Thompson

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