

# OYSTERCATCHER



## Salt Spring Trail & Nature Club

### SSTNC Executive:

President: Carron Carson  
 Vice President: David Cater  
 Past Pres: Charles Kahn  
 Treasurer: Wayne Locke  
 Secretary: Nick Coghlan  
 Membership: Pat Miller  
 PR & Communications:  
 Margriet Ruurs  
 Trail Development &  
 Maintenance Coordinator:  
 Kees Ruurs  
 BC Nature Representative  
 & Nature Coordinator:  
 Michel Gagnon  
 Presentations Coordinator:  
 Michel Gagnon  
 Hikers Coordinator: Bob  
 Keates  
 Walkers Coordinator: Sheila  
 Spence  
 Ramblers Coordinator:  
 Marjorie Radford  
 Website Coordinator: Bob  
 Reynolds

## Happy Fall!

Walkers,  
 rambles and  
 hikers are  
 back hitting  
 the trails  
 around the  
 island this  
 Fall. We hit  
 the trails  
 surrounded  
 by brilliant  
 Fall colours  
 and  
 mushrooms. For  
 up-to-date  
 schedules check  
 our website: [https://  
 saltspringtnc.ca/](https://saltspringtnc.ca/)



## Our Website...

... offers a wealth of information for long time members as well as newcomers. Here you will find

- Descriptions of rambles, walks and hikes
- Dates and destinations
- Links to maps and trails
- Guidelines and carpooling information
- Archives with back issues of The Oystercatcher
- and much more!

<https://saltspringtnc.ca/>

Contact:

[info.sstnc@gmail.com](mailto:info.sstnc@gmail.com)

Salt Spring Trail & Nature  
Club, PO Box 203, Salt Spring  
Island, BC, V8K 2V9



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

A much anticipated presentation will take place on **SATURDAY NOVEMBER 25 at 2 PM** in the Salt Spring Public Library. SSTNC members Nick and Jenny Coghlan will conduct a talk/slideshow entitled The Arizona Trail, an 800 mile hiking trail from Mexico to Utah.

**CHRISTMAS POTLUCK** lunch will take place on **TUESDAY DECEMBER 12 at 12 PM** at Meadon Hall (lower floor of the Legion building). As well as your potluck offering, please bring your own plate and cutlery. Cups are provided.

Let's all gather to celebrate nature, hiking and friendship!

**AGM** will take place at the Lion's Hall on Bonnet Road on **JANUARY 25, 2024 at 12 PM**. This year we are fortunate to have Linda Gilkeson as our guest speaker. Lunch is provided and door prizes will be given out. There are two positions on the executive board that need to be filled for the 2024 year: BC Nature Rep as well as a Special Events coordinator. It's great to be involved in a club like ours so please consider letting your name stand for either of these positions.



Remember to 'LIKE' us so we can be FRIENDS!

<https://www.facebook.com/SSTrailandNatureClub>



## TRAIL NEWS & TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Like in previous years, 2023 saw several projects completed by work parties arranged by the trail maintenance and development volunteers. In March of this year a 50' boardwalk was developed on a very wet section of the Chris Hatfield trail in Ruckle Provincial Park. Later in the spring several volunteers replaced 27 trail signs in Burgoyne and Maxwell Provincial Parks. In the summer a very successful day was held removing broom in Ruckle Provincial Park. In October several volunteers rerouted a section of the Merganser Pond trail where sink holes had developed. The old section was closed off and the new section a little higher up the hill now provides a safe route away from the sinkholes. One project we still hope to tackle this year is a reroute of the steep, and often slippery, trail section just before the bridge on the Chris Hatfield trail. We are awaiting approval from BC Parks to do that. Earlier this year a grant had been applied for (and was approved) for the development of new, updated trail signs in Ruckle now that the Yeo Point extension trail and the Chris Hatfield trail have become official trails within Ruckle Provincial Park. We'll need a crew to replace a large number of updated trail signs next spring.

Having access to trails is of the utmost importance to all members of our club. Hiking on clear trails without obstructions or dangerous branches is vital. Trails need to be maintained through the year. All members have a chance to indicate their willingness to help with this ongoing chore. If you are willing and able to come out and help maintain our trails, please email [keesruurs@hotmail.com](mailto:keesruurs@hotmail.com) so that he can contact members as needed. Thanks!





The annual Blackberry event took place in Ruckle Provincial Park. Many members attended and enjoyed cake, berries and whipped cream courtesy of Country Grocer.

## VOLUNTEERING

There is an ongoing need for volunteers to act as leaders during rambles, walks and hikes. This entails selecting a favourite trail, posting the announcement and guiding the group. Please consider doing this whenever it

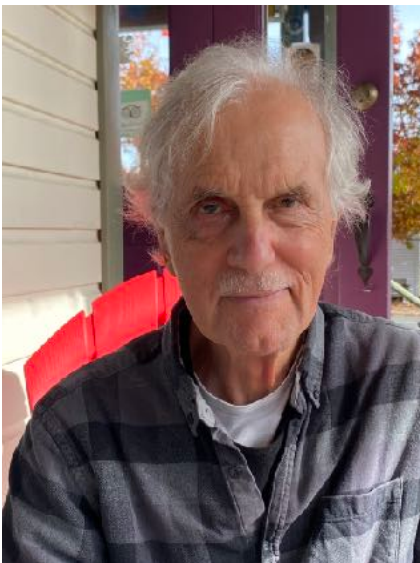
suits you. Walk leaders are needed for November 14, 21, 28 and Dec 5

## THANKS!

Our club likes to recognise businesses or groups at Christmas which have supported us over the previous year. This year we will be presenting our SS Library, the Driftwood, the Info Centre as well as the SS Sailing Club (where executive meetings are held) with tokens of our appreciation.



### MEET SSTNC Treasurer Wayne Locke



You may see this name in many places, or you may walk a trail with him if you are a Rambler, but let's find out a little more about one of our volunteers. Wayne has lived on SSI for many years and served as SSTNC treasurer for 4 years now. As a retired accountant he is very qualified to serve in this position. His love of walking prompted him to join SSTNC. He often joins the Ramblers on walks and especially appreciates walks on fairly level land. Wayne not only hikes on island but often takes trips abroad to walk. In the past he has walked through Italy, Spain, Portugal and The Netherlands. Next time you see Wayne, say hi and thank you!