

## May Events

Sunday, May 4th

**Hike – UPDATE** Meet at Art Spring to car pool departing at 1:00 or at the top of Broadwell to set out at 1:15. We will follow the west boundary of Channel ridge and then return on the ridgeline.

Tuesday, May 6th

**Hike –** Lynn Thompson will lead a hike on Mt Tzouhalem to see the wildflowers. Meet at Portlock Park to consolidate vehicles before proceeding to Vesuvius for the 9:35 ferry, leaving Portlock at 8:45. If anyone requires a pickup from Art Spring, I will be there at 8:35. Drive to the Kaspas Road trailhead (map will be posted nearer to the date).

Tuesday, May 6th

**WALK –** Barb Baldwinson will lead an easy walk on quiet roads and small trails from St Mary Lake public access parking along LePage to Whims Rd and on to Fernwood Beach. Lunch and beach combing on Fernwood Beach. The tide will be falling. Note that the coffee shop is not currently open on Tuesdays.

Depart ArtSpring at 10:00 AM or meet at St. Mary Lake public access at 10:15 AM.

**Ramble –** Meet at ArtSpring at 10:30 then the far end of Sky Valley Road at 10:45. There is a trail and a road so we can do some of each or whatever combination we want. Brock and I just checked it out and it's do-able for us all. Take your lunch.

Sunday, May 11th

**Hike –** Maple Mountain Blue Trail. Meet at ArtSpring at 11:30 to car pool or at 11:45 at the Vesuvius terminal to walk on the 12:05 ferry. We will take the Crofton boardwalk and continue to the trailhead to hike to a viewpoint and return by the same route. Expect to return on the 4:50 ferry.

Tuesday, May 13th

**Hike –** Bob Keates will lead an off-island hike on Saturna's Brown Ridge. Meet at Art Spring to car pool at 7:15 or at Fulford by 7:30 to walk on the 7:50 ferry to Swartz Bay. Alternatively, park in Ganges and take the bus to Fulford (bus leaves at 7:05). Transfer to the 9:10 ferry to Saturna, arriving at 10:20. Return will depart Saturna at 4:35 pm, with a transfer at Mayne at 5:50 pm, scheduled to arrive in Swartz Bay at 6:43 pm. at 6:43 pm.

\*\*\* If you are planning to park in Ganges and bus to Fulford for the 7:50 ferry, note that the bus now leaves Ganges at **7:05** due to a schedule change. \*\*\*

**WALK –** Sue Lehmann will lead a short but pleasant walk on Cape Keppel at the southern tip of Salt Spring. Follow Mountain Rd about 6 km from Isabella Point Rd. Drive through the Eco Reserve and past #1205 to meet Sue Lehmann at the bottom of the hill. We will walk along the forest trail to lunch on the beach, then walk back along the beach to the cars.

**Ramble –** Meet at ArtSpring at 10:30 then whenever you get through the construction, meet at Burgoyne and Paul will lead us from there. Take your lunch.

PS

I suggest you keep in touch by phone if you have to drive through the construction so we will wait for you.

Sunday, May 18th

**Hike** – Jack Foster Beach walk and the Cupples Trail. Meet at ArtSpring to car pool at departing at 1:00 pm or at the trailhead for the Cupples Trail on North End Rd, to set out at 1:15 pm. We will do the Jack Foster Beach walk afterwards to catch the low tide at 3:15

Tuesday, May 20th

**Broom pull for all.**

Here's a little more information on the upcoming broom pull, plus a clarification on start time and parking, from what was originally communicated.

In a break from tradition (usually, we pull broom at Ruckle or Burgoyne), we'll be tackling a new location: the Howard Horel Nature Reserve. Howard Horel is a beautiful reserve and when it was acquired by the Salt Spring Conservancy in 2018, it contained extensive broom stands. Over the years, the Conservancy has spent countless hours clearing the broom, mostly the work of Kees Ruurs, Warden of Howard Horel, a TNC member and formerly Trail Coordinator of the TNC. It takes a few repeat visits to get broom under control and this month's visit by the TNC should really help out.

**Where to meet on Tuesday, May 20:**

Meet at the parking area near the end of Mereside Rd at 10:00.

Carpoolers leave from ArtSpring at **9:40**.

If necessary, we can double park in the parking area, which should hold 8-10 cars, with 3 more on the road.

**What's the plan for the day**

We'll walk as a group from the cars to Howard Horel, approx 10-15 minutes. Kees will give an overview of the best way to cut the broom and pull it out, and when it's best to cut and when to pull. Unlike Ruckle, there will be no bin for disposal (so no long hauls of giant tarp loads of broom) and Kees will show us how to dispose of the broom in a nearby shaded area. We'll be tackling three separate areas within the Reserve, so we'll split into three groups and Kees, Bill Palmer and Larry McIntyre will each lead a group to one of these areas.

At 12:30 we'll all meet back at the entrance to Howard Horel, have some lunch, then head back to the cars.

**What to bring:**

Bring gloves, clippers, loppers or a folding saw, lunch and a drink. **What about rain?** If the weather's bad, we'll reschedule and send out a cancellation email.

We look forward to seeing many of you,

**Ramble** – Thanks for all those great suggestions! How about around Brinkworthy tomorrow? Meet at ArtSpring at 10:30 then at the first turn off into Brinkworthy at 10:45?

Take your lunch.

Sunday, May 25th

Burgoyne Bay – the boulders and the meadows. Meet at ArtSpring to car pool, departing at 1:00 pm, or at the trailhead in Burgoyne Bay to set out at 1:20 pm.

Tuesday, May 27th

**Hike** – Meet at Art Spring to car pool departing at 9:40, or at the trailhead in Burgoyne Bay to set out at 10:00.

**Volunteers are needed to lead in June; available dates are June 10 and 17**

**WALK UPDATE**– Horth Hill Regional Park

**8:30 AM – Depart ArtSpring** In an abundance of caution, on Tuesday, May 27 walkers will depart ArtSpring for Fulford Harbour at 8:15 AM. There is one more space left in Sheila's car if any one else is interested. Please pre-arrange your carpooling. Who else can drive? After the walk: Optional stop at The Stonehouse Pub with Wally, probably about 2:00 pm. Please reply if you wish to go to the pub, and plan your transportation accordingly. It may be possible to travel out with one driver and back with a different one. Return ferry: 3:00 PM if you skip the pub. Sheila needs to return on the 3:00 pm ferry.

OR

Return ferry: 5:00 pm is most likely for pub goers. **WALK DESCRIPTION** – Horth Hill Regional Park near Swartz Bay with Wally. **Depart ArtSpring at 8:15 AM** to allow for construction delays or meet at Fulford Ferry terminal to walk onto the 9:50 AM sailing. Walk with Sheila & Wally from the ferry to the Littlewood Road park entrance (about 2km). Explore Horth Hill park, watch for wild flowers and enjoy lunch at a pleasant spot provided by Mother Nature. Trails are generally good with some narrow, rough sections. Walk back to the ferry in time for the 3:00 pm sailing or go with Wally to The Stonehouse Pub, and probably the 5:00 pm ferry. Total elevation 150 m with several ups and downs. Total walking distance about 7 km.

**Leaders needed for walks on**

**June 3**

**June 10**

**June 17**

**Reminder:**

June 24 Strawberry Fest at Ruckle Park.

Meet at the lower parking area for a pre-strawberry walk .