

OYSTERCATCHER



Salt Spring Trail & Nature Club

SSTNC Executive:

President: Larry McIntyre

Vice President: Bill Palmer

Past Pres: Carron Carson

Treasurer: Wayne Locke

Secretary: Nick Coghlan

Membership: Sharon Carmichael

PR & Communications:
Margriet Ruurs

Trail Development &
Maintenance Coordinator:
Bill Palmer

BC Nature Representative:
Susan Hannon

Hikers Coordinator: Bob Keates

Walkers Coordinator:
Sheila Spence

Ramblers Coordinator:
Marjorie Radford

Website Coordinator: Bob Reynolds

Greetings from the Chair:

I feel honoured and delighted to be elected President. When Jan and I moved to Salt Spring 11 years ago, we joined the Trail & Nature Club right away. It was the first club I ever joined anywhere, but it has been one of the best things we've ever done.

The weekly outings are an outstanding way to explore Salt Spring's natural beauty, get some exercise and fresh air and experience it with some of the nicest people. We've developed some very good friends through this Club.

I'd like to thank all the members who give back to the Club by volunteering to lead the weekly rambles, walks and hikes and those who have served on the Board -

Larry McIntyre, President



[Larry and Jan are currently hiking the Camino El Norte in Spain.]

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/>



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

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

Contact:

info.sstnc@gmail.com

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

AGM Report:

For those who missed the January AGM, it was a great success: all motions passed, a tasty lunch was served of sushi, pizza and vegetable platters.

A much-deserved special award recognized the trail crew who built the Bird Hide alongside a pond on the Cupples property (Kees Ruurs, Bill Palmer, David Cater, Philip Grange). Attendees also enjoyed an absolutely outstanding presentation by Dr. Claudia Schroder-Adams on the geology of Salt Spring. She rocks!

The slate of candidates for the Board was approved so we welcome Sharon Carmichael, the new Membership Director. We also extend a big thanks to Pat Miller who performed that role so well over the years.

Bill Palmer is now in the dual role of Trail Development and Maintenance plus vice-president.

We are thrilled to have Larry McIntyre as president and thank Carron Carson, who is Past-President, for a record-breaking four years as President, but she will be remembered for what a terrific job she did as President and not how long she was in the role. Charles Kahn, who is now our past past-President, led the club during Covid days and also was pivotal in the acquisition of a strategic parcel of land to link up Mt Erskine trails to the Manzanita Ridge Reserve.



SAVE THE DATES!

TUESDAY MAY 12

Broom clearing - Burgoyne Park to Daffodil Pt

SATURDAY JUNE 13, 2 PM

SSTNC Presentation in the Salt Spring Public Library

TUESDAY JUNE 23

Strawberry Festival hosted by the walkers



Volunteer Opportunities:

We are always glad to welcome new volunteer leaders — just contact the coordinators (Marjie, Sheila or Bob) if you would like to give it a try. You will receive all the support and encouragement you need. On the board, terms are often a two-year commitment and we have a few board members well beyond two years, looking to hand over to the next volunteer: .

Treasurer - Wayne (7 years) is looking to handover to someone with some financial background to keep the books, and offer sage financial advice to the Board. Timing: at the next AGM

Secretary - Nick (5 years) sends out agendas, takes minutes, manages the online club archive, coordinates the annual review of the Operational Policy manual and more. Timing: At the next AGM.

Web Master — Bob (4 years) took over managing the club's website with very little experience with websites and learned on the job. He's taken great notes and is ready to handoff to someone. Timing: anytime.

Oystercatcher editor - Margriet (4 years) wears three hats: oystercatcher editor, presentation coordinator and PR and wants to hand off the Oystercatcher to someone who likes to write or edit or publish nicely illustrated newsletters. Sooner rather than later. Three oystercatchers per year. Timing: for this summer's edition

We have a very cooperative board and every member's voice is valued. For example, the secretary is not a passive note taker, but an active member who contributes their view to discussions and decisions. There are only four board meetings per year, plus the AGM, and email discussions, so not a huge commitment.

Please contact Larry or any Board member if you are at all curious about any of these positions. We can work out a transition plan for any of these roles.

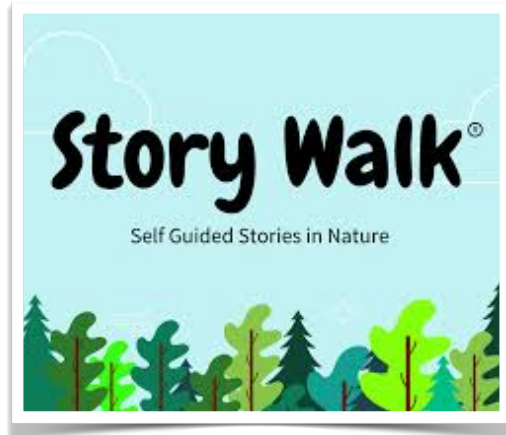
Another volunteer opportunity: we are asking people to lead more Nature outings. We currently do wildflower outings, traditionally at Mt Tzhouhelem, but also on Channel Ridge for the past couple of years. We do occasional shoreline walks -- stay tuned for details for one this spring.. We also do an annual broom clearing.

We'd like to have more of these events so if you have a passion for mushrooms, birds, mosses, ferns, native plants, geology etc, let us know. You don't need to be an expert. We'd also like to try to find ways to make some of the outings accessible to all, rambles, walkers and hikers, to bring the groups together.

Please contact Larry or other board members with your ideas, suggestions or to volunteer.



At the AGM, we reported that we had 96 members in the Club. Since then, our membership has grown to 110, with new faces appearing at rambles, walks and hikes. Welcome, new members!



Have you ever been on a Story Walk? Our Salt Spring Library organizes a walk “through” a different children’s book in Mouat Park. Every week features a different book - a fun way to walk and read at the same time!

SSTNC in the News

- A recent article in The Driftwood feature SSTNC's favourite trails, including Daffodil Point and Jarrod's Grove. Check out the article here:
- <https://saltspringtnc.ca/index.php/newsletter/>
- The Driftwood also used a profile of our very own Carron Carson, who was our President at that time: <https://gulflandsdriftwood.com/island-volunteer-series-makes-debut/>

- This Library event might be of interest to our nature loving members.



LOUISE K. BLIGHT

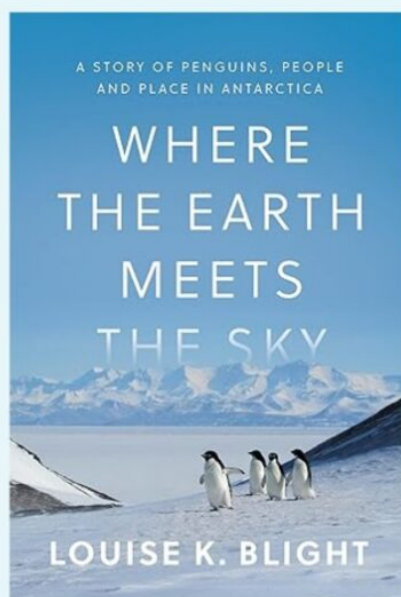
BOOK LAUNCH

APRIL 21, 2026 - 7 PM

AT THE LIBRARY

Based on one of Louise Blight's summers living and working in Antarctica as a seabird ecologist, *Where the Earth Meets the Sky* is a science-based travelogue about what it's like to live and do science in the remotest place on Earth, with just one other human and 3,000 Adélie penguins for company.

Salt Spring Island
Public Library



JOHN NEVILLE BIRD HIDE DEDICATION

Over the past year, members of our Trail maintenance & construction team have built a beautiful bird hide at a pond along the Cupples Trail (North End). Recently, the bird hide was dedicated to the memory of local bird expert John Neville who passed away in April 2025.

John and his wife Heather called Salt Spring home since 1998. Inspired by bird song, John authored two books and numerous articles. John was an active member of both Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club and Nature Salt Spring. He served as President of BC Nature from 2010 to 2014. After his presidency John served as both past president and Regional Coordinator for Vancouver Island, and spent many years on the BC Naturalists' Foundation Board. He was known for his fascinating talks and presentations on owls or birding. Check out his recordings here: <https://www.nevillerecording.com/> and be sure to check out the new bird hide! It was officially dedicated by members of the design and building team along wife Heather Neville, daughter and grandsons.

