

OYSTERCATCHER



Salt Spring Trail & Nature Club

SSTNC Executive:

President: Larry McIntyre

Vice President: Bill Palmer

Past Pres: Carron Carson

Treasurer: Wayne Locke

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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:

June is suddenly upon us and with it comes warmer, sunnier weather perfect for ripening strawberries. It's the Club's tradition to take advantage of this and celebrate the end of regular season with our annual Strawberry festival. I hope you will join us.

This Oystercatcher also provides you with details of the Blackberry festival, early September, that marks the resumption of the new season, as well as an exciting presentation for later this month. Mark your calendars for all these great events.

During July and August, we will once again offer some outings, scaled back somewhat. Details in the body of this newsletter.

Lastly, I'm delighted to announce that, at last month's BC Nature Annual General Meeting, long-time Club member and Board member, Susan Hannon, was awarded the Ian McTaggart-Cowan Outstanding Naturalist award. Congratulations Susan! More about the award and Susan elsewhere in this newsletter.

Wishing you and yours a wonderful summer!

Larry McIntyre, President



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

SAVE THE DATES!

SATURDAY JUNE 13, 2 PM

SSTNC Presentation in the Salt Spring Public Library, see page 4

TUESDAY JUNE 23

Strawberry Festival hosted by the walkers. Picnic area at the end of the road, past parking area, Ruckle Park

Each group walks first followed by strawberries and ice cream at noon. Bring a picnic lunch, spoon and bowl as well as a folding chair!

TUESDAY JUNE 30

Bill Palmer will lead a group at Cupples Trail to pull broom. Please sign up to volunteer: palmer-b@telus.net

SEPTEMBER 8

Blackberry Festival, Ruckle Park

SEPTEMBER 12 - 13

Fall Fair, SSTNC Booth
To sign up to volunteer see page 4



The Club's Summer Season

Many club members like to continue to get out on the trails with fellow members after the regular season shuts down. For that reason, for the past 3 summers, the club has scheduled outings in July and August, but with some differences compared to our regular season: Tuesday walks and hikes were offered, but no rambles and no Sunday hikes. We also didn't post events on the website, just relying on email notifications.

This year, we'd like to continue with a scaled-back approach, with one key difference and that's to ensure every member on an outing is covered by liability insurance. Everyone's paid for it as part of their membership fee, so we should make sure it's valid for summer outings. All we need to do to ensure liability insurance is the recently introduced requirement (by BC Nature) to take attendance at each event, ideally on paper but if someone forgot to bring paper, then on a phone. This is a small price to pay for peace of mind. Previous summers, we've referred to outings as "unofficial". I think with this tweak every outing becomes official, but to distinguish the two seasons, let's refer to them as summer outings vs regular outings.

Another difference between regular outings and summer outings is how they are coordinated. During the regular season, this is done by our hardworking ramble, walk and hike coordinators. During the summer, we feel that everyone deserves a bit of a break, so we're going to allow each group or group coordinator to decide how they want to organize outings — the group won't have summer outings, or the coordinator schedules all outings, or leaders email their outing info each week (in Summer 2023, the walkers did it this way), or everyone shows up at ArtSpring and decides where to go or ...

The last difference relates to guests. Since we don't advertise events on the web, we aren't expecting guests, so no expectation that outing leaders need to bring day member forms. However, many club members have family or friends visiting and they might want to bring them to a club outing. This is fine, as long as the member arrives with the day membership form for the guest and \$1 to handover so no burden on the leaders.

So that's the plan for this summer season. Feel free to provide any feedback to Larry at lwmcintyre@gmail.com. We can tweak things as we go.



Salt Spring Trail & Nature Club Presents



Pat & Rosemary Keough's books will be for sale during the event:

- The Nahanni Portfolio
- The Niagara Escarpment: A Portfolio
- Wild and Beautiful Sable Island

Join Explorers Club Medalists & Internationally acclaimed Photographers **Pat & Rosemarie Keough**

Vicariously voyage the Arctic's fabled Northwest Passage via the Keoughs' great stories and stunning photography garnered during three transits. Topics include: people and culture, wildlife and vegetation, geology and ice, history and discoveries, climate change, boundary and waterway disputes.... and more!

Join us for this free, 90-minute talk/slideshow in the Library Meeting Room
SATURDAY JUNE 13 at 2 PM



Salt Spring Island
Public Library 

On **SEPTEMBER 12 - 13** we will once again have a booth at the **Fall Fair**. Please consider helping us promote our club to new members. It's a fun event.

Sign up for a two hour shift during the Fair or to set up/take down. Email dcafer@uniserve.com, indicate preferred day, time and your phone number please.

We are also looking for a few draw prizes. If you can donate (pottery, a massage, a CD, anything...) Please contact David Cater at the above email.



Have you hiked the lovely, shaded Cupples trail to the newly dedicated John Neville Bird Hide yet? If so, you will have noticed the blackboard on the wall. This is to provide a list of birds sighted from the Hide. We need your help to keep this list of birds. Please take a photo and email to palmer-b@telus.net



A HUGE THANK YOU to Sheila and Barry Spence for their many years of service to SSTNC as walk leaders, coordinators and as secretary. So many of you have enjoyed discovering trails and new friends in their company. We send Barry and Sheila many best wishes, hope to see you at SSTNC events!

Susan Hannon win's prestigious BC Nature award

This year, the Board nominated Susan Hannon for a BC Nature award, secretly voting to put her name forward before she got wind of it. We nominated Susan for the Ian McTaggart-Cowan Outstanding Naturalist Award:

This Award is presented to a member of BC Nature who has made an outstanding contribution to the knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the natural history of British Columbia.

An award with Ian McTaggart-Cowan's name attached is an appropriate award for Susan, who's an ecologist. Ian McTaggart-Cowan was known as "the father of ecology in Canada", a quote from his biography, written by Salt Spring's Briony Penn, *The Real Thing: The Natural History of Ian McTaggart Cowan*. This award has been offered since 2004 — twenty-two years — but only 10 awards have ever been given out. Previous winners included Salt Spring's Peter McAllister and the Canning twins, Syd and Dick.

To learn more about Susan, her passions and accomplishments, here's the nomination:

Dr. Susan J. Hannon, Professor Emeritus of Ecology at the University of Alberta and a long-time resident of Salt Spring Island, has devoted more than five decades to advancing ecological science, conservation, and public engagement with nature. An internationally respected researcher, she has authored or co-authored more than 100 scientific publications and mentored numerous graduate students whose work continues to influence conservation practice across Canada, including British Columbia. Her early research focussed on the behaviour and population ecology of Sooty Grouse near Courtenay B.C., which segued into a 13-year study on Willow Ptarmigan in the Chilkat Pass, northwestern B.C. She then spent the remainder of her academic career investigating the impacts of forest fragmentation in the boreal mixed-wood on forest songbirds, woodpeckers and raptors, attempting to influence forestry practices to conserve birds.

Since retiring in 2009, Dr. Hannon has been active as a volunteer with conservation organizations, including serving as a Director on the Board of the Salt Spring Trail & Nature Club and acting as BC Nature representative. She has also served on the boards of The Nature Trust of BC, Birds Canada, and the Islands Trust Conservancy, was a member of the Advisory Planning

Commission for Islands Trust and former President of the Salt Spring Paddlers Club. Her longest volunteer role has been with the Salt Spring Island Conservancy where she served as a board member, President, head of the Stewardship Committee, and ran the “Bring Back the Bluebirds” nest box program as well as offering numerous workshops on ecological fire risk reduction, Garry Oak ecosystem restoration and planting native plants for pollinators. She has conducted dozens of stewardship visits to private landowners on the island encouraging a love of the land and commitment to stewardship.

Among Dr. Hannon’s most outstanding volunteer contributions has been her leadership in helping secure the protection of approximately 160 hectares of Garry Oak ecosystem on Salt Spring Island through partnership with the Nature Conservancy of Canada. As one of British Columbia’s most endangered ecosystems, its protection represents a lasting conservation legacy. Her rare

ability to connect academic science with community conservation has encouraged broader public participation and strengthened evidence-based stewardship throughout the province. Through decades of leadership, scientific contribution, and community engagement, Dr. Hannon has made an exceptional contribution to the knowledge, understanding, and protection of British Columbia’s natural heritage.

