

Sargeant Bay Society

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Newsletter #70

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Annual General Meeting

The 27th Annual General Meeting of the Society was held in the library of the Halfmoon Bay Elementary School in the evening of April 19, 2004 and was well attended.

The President's Annual Report, and reports from the Treasurer and Membership Director, were accepted. Maggie Marsh indicated that the Society's finances remain in good shape, but Katie Caple expressed concern that membership continues to decline and at an increasing rate. The President highlighted the Society's achievements over the past year. These include the Forest District's approval of the boundary adjustment that will add 4.2 hectares to the park northwest of Triangle Lake, finally bringing the entire Triangle Lake watershed under protection, and the planting of 12 *Pacific flowering dogwood* trees at the park entrance, as a fitting memorial to Eric Hoare.

An important item of business at any AGM is the election of officers for the coming year. Tony Greenfield reported that Ron Basford, a founding member of the society, did not wish to stand for re-election and thanked him for his years of service. Joop Burgerjon nominated Pam Runkle to fill the vacancy. There were no other nominations and the full slate was declared elected. This year's Directors, and their duties, are as follows:

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|------------------------|---|
| Tony Greenfield | President |
| Joop Burgerjon | Correspondence Secretary / Webmaster |
| Maggie Marsh | Treasurer |
| John Newell | Recording Secretary/ Newsletter Editor |
| Katie Caple | Membership Director |
| Don Basham | Membership Administrator |
| Elise Rudland | Summer Program Organisor |
| Michael Jackson | Director at Large |
| Pam Runkle | Director at Large |

The business of the meeting was completed very expeditiously this year, to allow time for a showing of the Sargeant Bay DVD produced by Joop Burgerjon. This is truly a superb effort and Joop was congratulated on both his wildlife videography and production skills.

Summer Program

The summer program organized by Elise Rudland in 2003 was well received. She arranged two similar events this year, both in May: Kye Goodwin's botanical Walk on the Berm and the Rock and Tony Greenfield's Bird Walk.

As always, the spring flowers provided a good show and bird activity in the wetland was close to its peak. Rand Rudland was among those enjoying the flowers and provided a number of excellent pictures, unfortunately more than can be published in a single newsletter. However, as the example below clearly shows, the botanical field trip may well lead to recruitment of young enthusiasts for future bird walks.



Photo: Rand Rudland

Salmon

In the spring, Don Basham reported seeing salmon fry in the fish ladder and Joop Burgerjon saw them in one of the beaver ponds. Further investigation also discovered salmon fry in Colvin Creek, in Colvin Lake and even in the lagoon downstream of the fish ladder. Last fall both *chum* and *coho* were observed in and around the fish ladder, but we did not see any salmon spawning in the creek.

Specimens trapped by Joop were all *coho*. He also took video shots of the fry in creek, the beaver ponds and the lagoon, single frames of which are shown below.



Coho Fry in Colvin Creek



Coho Fry in Beaver Pond



Coho Fry in Lagoon

Birds

Sargeant Bay rarely disappoints birders. Many species nest in and around the wetland, but young birds are not always easy to find. *redwing blackbirds* are by far the most common. In spring, courting males, with their brilliant red epaulets, are everywhere in the reed beds. It is no surprise that newly fledged youngsters are so abundant later in the summer.



Photo: Rand Rudland

This year the young of many other species have been seen on various occasions. Two pairs of *Canada geese* were successful breeders, raising clutches of five and three goslings. The larger family was still around in late July, the young now in adult plumage and almost the same size as their parents. Both *common* and *hooded mergansers*, and *mallards*, have been seen with ducklings on occasion and the much more elusive *Virginia rail* can sometimes be observed shepherding her chicks through the reed beds behind the pit toilet. A noisy trio of *belted kingfishers*

Coho fry can be identified by the black and white borders on the dorsal and anal fins.

It is gratifying to know that, although we have not seen salmon spawning in the creek, a few must have done so and more must have spawned elsewhere in the wetland.

It remains somewhat of a mystery why no *chum* fry have been seen or trapped. This is probably because *chum* don't stay in fresh water like *coho*, but migrate directly to the sea after hatching. They are also reported to do this at night, a strategy to reduce predation.

probably includes at least one juvenile. Among the song birds, young *tree swallows*, *song sparrows*, *American robins* and *yellowthroats* have been much in evidence.

Wood Duck Festival

The annual Wood Duck Festival at Ruby Lake was held on May 2nd. The Sargeant Bay Society has always been invited to set up a booth, but in prior years nobody came forward to staff it. This year, Jeff Muckle graciously volunteered. The Society is grateful to him for raising our profile while at the same time supporting an organization with shared directorships and objectives similar to our own.



Photo: Joop Burgerjon

Feedback

If you received this newsletter by e-mail, it is easy for you to let us have your comments: Just click the reply button. We need your critical comments so we can be responsive to our members' interests.