

Sargeant Bay Society

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Newsletter #73

October 20, 2005

Old News

Yes, there was an AGM back in April! The editor apologizes for the fact it has not been reported on until now, but there really was not much to write about in the summer, so no mid-year newsletter was produced. Perhaps if members would e-mail the editor any small items of interest, there would be sufficient material to again fill three newsletters in the coming year.

Back to the AGM; all the directors agreed to stand for another year. There were no new nominations so the full slate was re-elected unopposed. The most significant event reported was the granting of Royal Assent to the legislation implementing expansion of the park boundary to include all the Triangle Lake watershed.

The President congratulated Joop Burgerjon on the successful production of his Sargeant Bay DVD. It has received wide exposure, including several broadcasts on Channel 11 TV.

Dwindling membership is a source of some concern. Our numbers are fast trending downwards to below 100. With no compelling issues to attract new members, this is probably inevitable, but if any of you know someone who might be interested, please give them a nudge or two in the right direction.

Summer Program

The summer program organized by Elise Rudland was well received. The traditional events, Tony Greenfield's bird walk, the hike through the park guided by Jeff Muckle, and Kye Goodwin's two walks on the berm and The Rock when the spring flowers were at their best, were all well attended. As evidenced by the photograph, birds trump flowers for at least one enthusiast – precarious position notwithstanding, he is still with us!

Jeff Muckle guided us skillfully around Triangle Lake through areas where there is no official trail and took us to some Old Growth. For further details see page 2.



Photo: Joop Burgerjon

Birds

The best birding news is that we now know that *wood ducks* are breeding in the wetland. My records are far from complete, but my first sighting this year was a female that showed up for the Waterbird Survey count in April. A pair was seen on May 13 and a female with six ducklings, on June 5. Joop saw the mother and two ducklings on June 18.

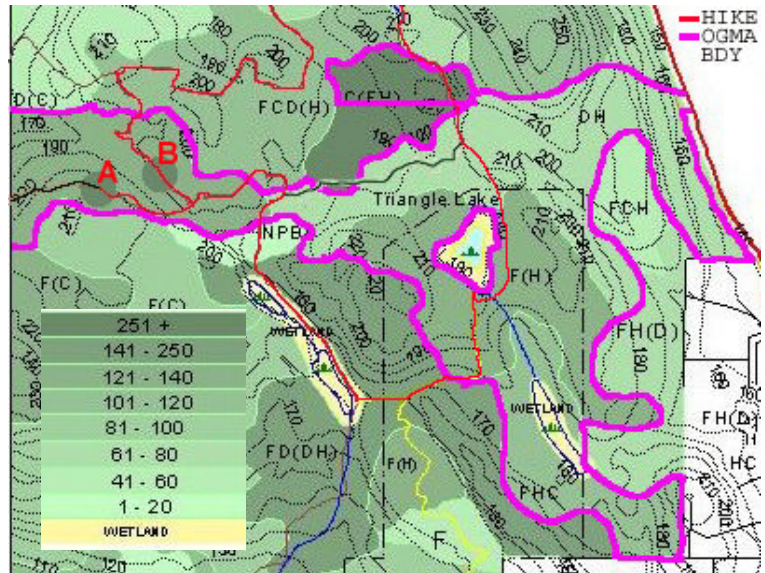
Checking the nesting boxes on June 20, he found one full of ducklings and another with two old, broken eggs, suggesting breeding last year and a second clutch this year. The survival rate is uncertain, but varying numbers were seen through July and August, with five on July 23 and four on August 13, probably all young birds

Other sightings of interest include two *western meadowlarks* on April 23, a *northern house wren* on June 26, a *northern harrier* on August 27 and a very late *Wilson's warbler* near the fish ladder on October 8. The *surf scoters*, largely absent all last winter, returned, at least briefly, in late May, when a raft of well over 100 were present some distance off-shore.



Photo: Joop Burgerjon

Giant Douglas Fir



“Old Growth Management” around Triangle Lake

In our Newsletter #69 (April, 2004) we showed a map of the Old Growth Management areas (OGMA) near Triangle Lake, as it was available for review at that time. Jeff Muckle, on our hike around Triangle Lake on July 17, took us to some impressive Old Growth, shown as the dark-green areas A and B on above map. See photo at left. This inspired us to look a bit more closely at OGMA boundaries, by superimposing them on to the map showing the age of the forest according to the Ministry of Forests’ Forest Cover Maps.

The two areas Jeff showed us are well within the OGMA, but within an age class polygon of 121-140 years. OGMA’s may include areas that have the potential to become Old Growth “in due course”.

By-and-large the OGMA boundary follows the polygon boundaries. However, of the only real Old Growth polygon of 250+ years, only the northern half is shown as OGMA. See magenta-lined areas on map above.

How did this happen? It is obviously an error. The subject polygon happens to be located on the east-west boundary of two Forest Cover Map sheets and was treated as two polygons. While the half on the northern map sheet was included, the one on the southern one was simply forgotten.

This is an inexcusable error, but just one of many errors and inaccuracies on the OGMA map.

It is a typical example of how the government tries to save cost by reducing its own staff, then use consultants, who are often insufficiently supervised or not paid enough to do a proper job. The cost of corrections, if they are made, then exceeds the savings.

We are exploring ways to get this error corrected.

Feedback

Finally, the customary note that feedback is always welcome. As you received this newsletter by e-mail, it is easy for you to let us have your comments: Just click the reply button, or address to: sargbay@dccnet.com.