

Sargeant Bay Society

P.O. Box 1486, Sechelt, BC, V0N 3A0
sargbay@dccnet.com
www.sargbay.ca

Newsletter #78

Editor: John Newell

April 10, 2008

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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WILD HALFMOON BAY

Slide show by Annette Clarke



Friday, April 18, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.
at the at the
Halfmoon Bay Elementary School
8086 Northwood Road, Welcome Woods.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order.
2. Minutes of the 2007 Annual General Meeting.
3. Business arising from the minutes.
4. President's Annual Report.
5. Financial Report.
6. The Future of the Sargeant Bay Society.
7. Election of Directors.
8. Any other business
9. Presentation by Annette Clarke

When the necessary business part of the meeting is complete, Annette Clarke will give a slide presentation entitled "Wild Halfmoon Bay". It will show images from nature observations in Sargeant Bay Park and surrounding areas, including examples of our living legacy ranging from ancient yew and juniper trees to tree frogs, bears and eagles. This is the presentation planned for last year's AGM, but which did not materialize because of a malfunctioning projector.

New Constitution

The change in the Society's constitution, expanding its mandate to "neighbouring watersheds", which was approved in principle at last year's AGM, is now in effect. The condition that the charitable status of the Society not be adversely affected has been met. A sub-committee of the directors, chaired by Ron Breadner, will explore how the expanded mandate can best be implemented, particularly with reference to Smuggler Cove Provincial Park.

The sub-committee currently has three members and would welcome more volunteers.

The concept of exercising stewardship over our small but precious wetlands is spreading within the community. The Halfmoon Bay Citizens' Association is starting a program of invasive plant control around the lagoon at Coopers Green.

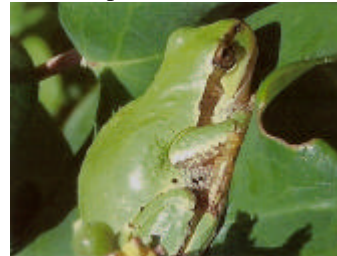


Photo: Annette Clarke

Pacific Tree Frog

We wish them every succes.
Annette Clarke, one of the Society's directors, together with Halfmoon Bay School and the local Girl Guides, is working on a project to restore a small wetland between Fawn, Coopers and Lohn roads, destroyed when this area was planned to be subdivided. Tree frogs and other wildlife are already benefiting from this initiative, written up in detail in the April 4 edition of the Coast Reporter.

Summer Program

Elise Rudland has organized two events for later in the spring:.

Birding by the Bay

Sunday, May 11 (Mothers' Day)

With Tony Greenfield. Meet in the parking lot at 9:00 am. This is a great opportunity to become familiar with many birds seen or heard frequently (and some not so frequently) elsewhere on the Coast

Plant identification walk

Sunday, May 18

With Kye Goodwin. Meet at the south parking area at Trout Lake at 10:00 am.

Explore the unique plant life around Triangle Lake. The walk will begin and end at Trout Lake. The route will include the newly completed loop trail through remnants of old-growth forest on the south side of the lake. Although well constructed, and already popular with hikers, this should be considered a "moderate" hike; appropriate sturdy footwear is advised.

Should it become possible to organize a third event, details will be posted on the Society's web page: www.sargbay.ca. as well as announced via e-mail.

Wildlife

A *river otter* was active around the fish ladder, and along the edge of the lake to the north, on March 9. The *beavers* have also been busy, keeping the water level in the lake very high.

On January 11 a *pied-billed grebe* took up residence on the lake and stayed there until the lake froze over. On January 30, after the lake thawed, Joop Burgerjon found a dead but otherwise undamaged *pied-billed grebe* in the beaver debris at the fish ladder. It was probably the same bird, unable to flee from the freezing lake.

On March 13 John Newell noted two *wood duck* drakes on the shoreline on the north side of the berm. None have been reported since; however, the birds that nested last year were rarely seen until their ducklings fledged, so there may be one or two pairs breeding in the wetland again this year.

Joop reported 15 *trumpeter swans* on the bay on March 19, but these migrating birds probably did not linger very long. Three *great blue herons* were noted on April 5, one perched in the crown of a tall tree north of Redrooffs Road, near the nests active in previous years. Maybe they will breed there again. A pair of *Canada geese* are again nesting on the island in Colvin Lake. The *surf scooters* below were seen close to the beach feeding on mussels. Note the turbulence in the water, where some of the birds were submerged.



Photo: Joop Burgerjon

In Memoriam

If you walk the berm regularly, you may have noticed the appearance of three small, native, flowering currant bushes on the inland slope below the volunteers' bench. They were planted in mid-March, in memory of Jessie Burgerjon. Joop and Jessie were founding members of the Society and their efforts were critical in the campaign to preserve the Sargeant Bay wetland. In line with Joop's wishes, the planting ceremony was very low-key, but we believe that Jessie would have approved of this token recognition of her contribution. Elise Rudland expressed the hope that these shrubs will long be enjoyed by her children and grandchildren.



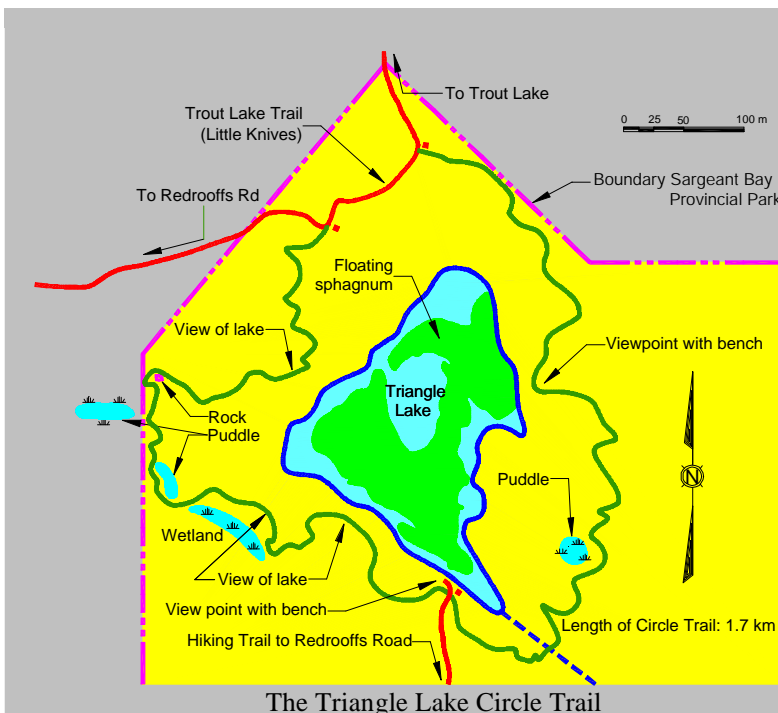
Photo: Ron Dinsdale

Feedback

We are interested in your comments.

Please call us at: [604-740-9984](tel:604-740-9984) or e-mail to: sargbay@dccnet.com.

We urge you to select to receive the newsletter by e-mail. You get vivid colours and we save time and money.



The Triangle Lake Circle Trail

The Triangle Lake Circle Trail

The western half of the Circle trail around Triangle Lake was completed in January by Kye Goodwin, with much appreciated help from John Nicholson and Kaja Scott.

The trail can be reached from Redrooffs Road via the Triangle Lake Trail, a one hour hike, or from Trout Lake via the Little Knives Trail, a half hour hike. The Circle Trail itself takes about one hour. Features along the trail include impressive views of Triangle Lake and old growth trees and wetlands with Red Legged Frogs and Tree Frogs.

The trails were built with grants from the Union of BC Municipalities, the SCRDP, and the Sunshine Coast Community Foundation and contributions from the Sargeant bay Society and BC Parks.