

Sargeant Bay Society

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Newsletter #80

Editor: John Newell

April 5, 2009

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Wednesday, April 15, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

at the

Halfmoon Bay Elementary School
8086 Northwood Road, Welcome Woods.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order.
2. Minutes of the 2008 Annual General Meeting.
3. Business arising from the minutes.
4. President's Annual Report.
5. Financial Report.
6. Membership Report.
7. Election of Directors.
8. Any other business
9. Slide Presentation by Annette Clarke

When the necessary business part of the meeting is complete, Annette Clarke will give a half-hour slide presentation on her Frog Pond project, reported on in previous newsletters.

Field Program

Elise Rudland has organized three events for the spring and early summer. Make a note of the following dates in your calendars.

Tony Greenfield' traditional **Birding by the Bay** walk will be on **Sunday, May 17**. Meet in the parking lot at 9:00 am. This is a great opportunity to learn to recognize many birds seen or heard frequently (and some not so frequently) elsewhere on the Coast.

On **Sunday, April 19**, Kye Goodwin will guide a plant identification walk in **Smuggler Cove Provincial Park**. Meet in the parking lot at the end of Brooks Road at 10:00 am.

The date has been chosen with a view to seeing Easter lilies in all their spring glory.



Photo: Rand Rudland

On **Sunday, June 21** Kye will guide a similar walk around the **Triangle Lake Loop Trail**. Meet at the southeast parking lot at Trout Lake at 10:00 am. The walk will begin and end there. It will explore both the unique plant life around Triangle Lake and the remnants of old-growth forest to the south. Although well constructed and already popular with hikers, this should be considered a "moderate" hike. Appropriate sturdy footwear is advised.

Winter Activities

The Sunshine Coast Natural History Society has been conducting monthly bird walks this winter, guided by Tony Greenfield. Sargeant Bay was the venue on January 10,



Photo: Lexi Harrington

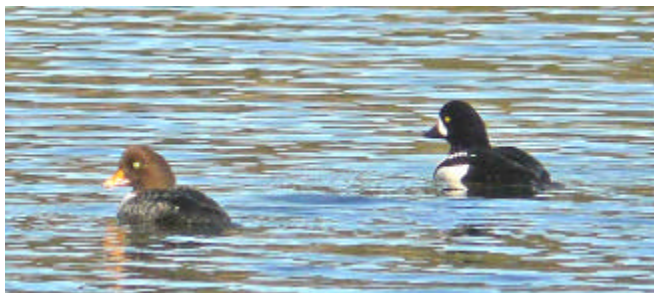
among the most miserable days of the winter as far as weather was concerned, possibly only surpassed by the day of the Pender Harbour Christmas Bird Count. The temperature was 4°C and the wind speed approaching 40 km/h. A total of 34 mm of rain was recorded in the Sechelt area that day. Nevertheless, a group of 13 hardy souls, peering through fogged-up binoculars and striving to hear faint bird calls over the noise of the wind and rain, toughed it out for over any hour. Both the turn-out and the count of 22 species were quite amazing.

Tony was overheard to ask “What’s wrong with these people?” They look cheerful enough in the picture – perhaps because they were about to go home to a shower, dry clothes and a hot toddy!

Other Birding News

One of the more notable bird sightings at Sargeant Bay this winter was the two *Anna’s hummingbirds* seen by Patricia Bowman on January 12. This species is a relative newcomer to BC, first appearing in Victoria in the 1950s. The first record on the Coast was in 1972. Its preferred habitat is suburban areas with a warm, southern aspect, and lots of gardens with hummingbird feeders. Over the years there have been records from Gibsons, Davis Bay, West Sechelt, Secret Cove and parts of Pender Harbour and this year produced the first reports from the Welcome Woods and Redrooffs areas.

Elvie and John Newell beat Tony Greenfield to the first *yellow-rumped warbler* of the year by just an hour or two. It was seen in the alders along the berm on March 21. Don Basham reported 16 *trumpeter swans* on the bay later the same day. A *mountain chickadee* has been present in the Welcome Beach area from December to late March. This is an Interior resident and a rare visitor to the Coast.



Barrow’s goldeneyes remain the most common duck at Sargeant Bay in the winter. They are usually seen in large rafts, most often along the northeast shore of the bay. More than 200 birds were recorded on the December Coastal Waterbird Survey, 55 on the February count.



Fish Ladder

After the dam at the fish ladder had been cleared by the Halfmoon Bay Volunteer Fire Department last July, the beavers retaliated in their usual style. Don Basham, Neil Meikleham and Joop Burgerjon cleared the dam again in November and December. In the process they built two huge piles of branches and debris. Erik Berntsen deserves much credit for taking on those piles. He removed them without leaving a trace and has also cleared the dam occasionally.

Some salmon did use the fish ladder this year. Two big coho were observed chasing each other at the spawning beds in Colvin Creek in late November.



Photo: Joop Burgerjon

Windfall

The fallen tree in the picture below is actually not a windfall. The heavy snow in March brought down a big fir on the north shore of Colvin Lake. It landed right across the lake, almost touching the island. It is right in view from the fish ladder and should provide an excellent perch for ducks. In the past we have placed some logs in the lake to serve this purpose. One of them can be seen bottom right in the picture. It looks a little like a toothpick, completely dwarfed by the fallen fir.

Feedback

We welcome your comments, suggestions and questions. 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 sargbay@dccnet.com.