



# Sargeant Bay Society

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

## Newsletter #84

Editor: Joop Burgerjon  
April 21, 2011

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



**Thursday, April 28, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.**

Halfmoon Bay Elementary School  
8086 Northwood Road, Welcome Woods.

### **AGENDA**

1. Call to Order
2. Minutes of the 2010 AGM
3. Business arising from the minutes
4. President’s Annual Report
5. Financial Report
6. Membership Report
7. Election of Directors
8. Proposed viewing platform
9. Any other business

We will swiftly move on to #8, which has some strongly in favour and some with reservations. We will aim to reach a consensus on this interesting proposal. If you care about Sargeant Bay, you can’t afford to miss this meeting.

### **Summer Events**

**Sunday, May 22, 9:00 am at Sargeant Bay Parking Area**

“Birding by the Bay” with Tony Greenfield. This is a great opportunity to learn to recognize many birds seen or heard frequently at Sargeant Bay and beyond.

**Sunday, July 10, 10:00 am at Trout Lake**

Hike around Triangle Lake. Kye Goodwin will guide this nature interpretation walk. The walk will begin and end at Trout Lake and will explore both the unique plant life around Triangle Lake and the remnants of old-growth forest to the south. This is a “moderate” hike, but sturdy footwear is advised.

### **Birds**

Several people saw the Trumpeter Swan that spent about ten days in the wetland in November. It liked to sit and preen itself on the fallen tree between the island and the north shore.



Photo: Joop Burgerjon

The Western Meadowlark, pictured below, was first seen by John Newell and spent a few days on the berm in March. This bird is a grassland bird that visits us once every few years and was seen only by a few more observant birders.



Photo: Joop Burgerjon

Then there is the Virginia Rail. It lives in the wetland all year round, is often heard but seldom seen. You have to be really lucky to get a glimpse of it. The lucky ones were Marcia Mason and Penny Hall, who saw it on March 20, swimming in the enlarged beaver pond.



Photo: Penny Hall

On the morning of April 16 Tony Greenfield recorded 40 species of birds in less than an hour at Sargeant Bay, including Great Blue Heron, Merlin, Virginia Rail, Black Oystercatcher, 5 species of woodpeckers (all the local sp), Hutton's Vireo, Violet-green Swallow, Marsh Wren (singing in the marsh), Hermit Thrush, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler.

On April 8 John & Elvie Newell and Peggie Collins discovered a new heron nest in the wetland near the road-side parking lot. On April 17 Joop Burgerjon was lucky to get some intimate pictures of the Great Blue Herons that built it. For more pictures of the herons, click: [here](#)



Photo: Joop Burgerjon

This is the first active nest in the wetland since 1999 and 2000 when a pair bred across from the island. In both years the young hatched but probably fell prey to predators before they could fly. In 2007, -8 and -9 three to four pairs bred in the forest upland from the wetland and Redrooffs Road. The first year some birds may actually have flown out, but the nests were disturbed during the last two years, probably by eagles. In 2009 we found a dead adult heron under the nests.

### Invasive Plant Control

In 1997 we pioneered invasive plant control in Sargeant Bay Park with remarkable success. It is gratifying to hear that this initiative now seems to resonate in the community. Mary Beth Knechtel is organizing a Broom Busters team who will attack Scotch Broom along all of Redrooffs Road. The team will start at Mintie Road on April 28 at 10:00 am and work till 2:00 pm, to be continued on April 29 and 30.

Everybody is invited to take part in this effort. Wear reflective vests or similar and bring loppers if possible.

### Triangle Lake

Those who like to hike around pristine Triangle Lake will now have the luxury of two new benches to enjoy the scenery and have a comfortable rest. Of the old benches one was vandalized and the other was rotting away. The benches were paid from a grant from the SCR D and installed by BC Parks. The one below features a Flintstones-style table for your convenience.



Photo: Joop Burgerjon

### Beavers

During the fall the beavers were active as usual building a dam above the fish ladder. We removed the dam many times between November 15 and December 15 to allow the salmon to enter the wetland. Erik Berntsen deserves credit for most of this effort. Then, during the winter months, the beavers left the fish ladder alone and concentrated their efforts on the long dam that runs all across the wetland near the bench in the middle of the berm.

A few years ago they built a new lodge upstream of that dam and it looks like that is now their headquarters. Previously they had a lodge on the island, which seems to have been deserted. As the dam grows the water level in the SW half of the wetland rises and the dominant vegetation of Sweet Gale is being replaced by Cattails. They also cut down a big alder tree, which makes the lodge easy to see from the berm. For photos of the main beaver lake and lodge, click: [here](#)

### Website

Our website, [www.sargbay.ca](http://www.sargbay.ca), was completely updated. It has a new banner, good-looking maps and pdfs of the last thirteen newsletters. The pages on history, bibliography, and environmental links were updated. It is worth checking it out. It has lots of information on Sargeant Bay and its watershed as well as on the where-about of last year's visit by a Grey Whale.

### 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 and give us your valued opinion.