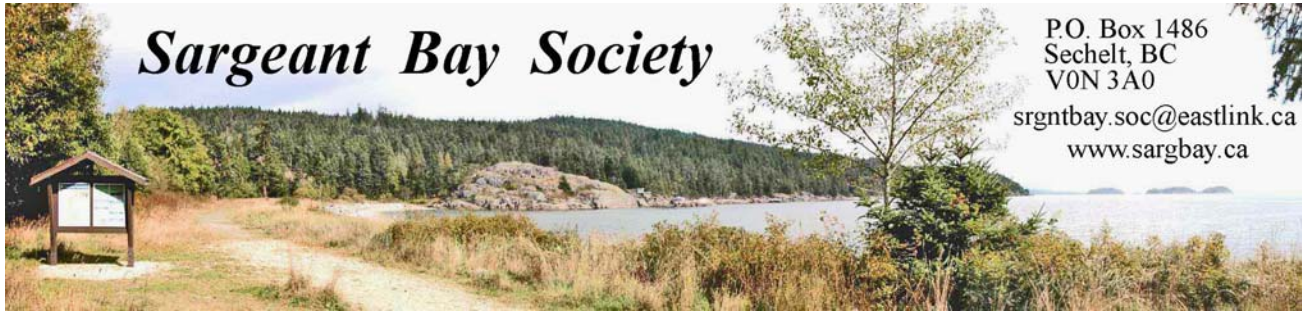


# Sargeant Bay Society

P.O. Box 1486  
Sechelt, BC  
V0N 3A0

srgntbay.soc@eastlink.ca  
www.sargbay.ca



## Newsletter # 88

Editor: Rand Rudland  
April 22, 2013

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MAY 29, 2013 – 7PM COOPER'S GREEN HALL



#### Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Minutes of 2012 AGM
3. Business arising from the minutes
4. Annual Report, Tony Greenfield/President
5. Financial Report, Maggie Marsh/Treasurer
6. Membership Report
7. Election of Directors
8. Other business

#### Welcome Beach Community Association (WBCA)

The WBCA held an open house for local community and non-profit groups at Coopers Green Hall on Sun. April 14, 2013, from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. This was an excellent opportunity to learn about volunteer groups operating within our community.

#### Summer Program

Elise Rudland has organized the following events for our spring enjoyment

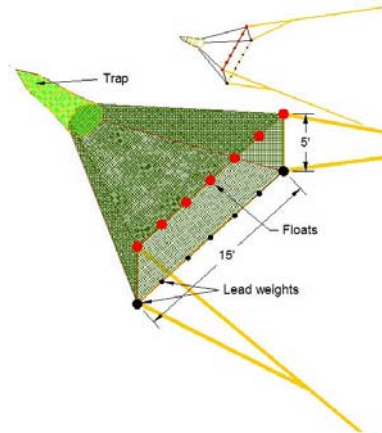
#### 1 - Birding on the Berm

Tony Greenfield leads this annual welcome-to-spring birding event, starting at **9 AM** at the upper parking lot on **Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup>**. This outing is a great opportunity to kick-start that 2013 year list and to learn about the birds that frequent the Park. Maybe even some first-of-the-year species will show up for us.

#### 2 - Beach Seine with Lee-Ann Ennis

Join Naturalists from the Sargeant Bay Society and Ruby Lake Lagoon Society for a low tide on **Sunday June 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM** to observe and document the marine life of Sargeant Bay. Learn from displays about

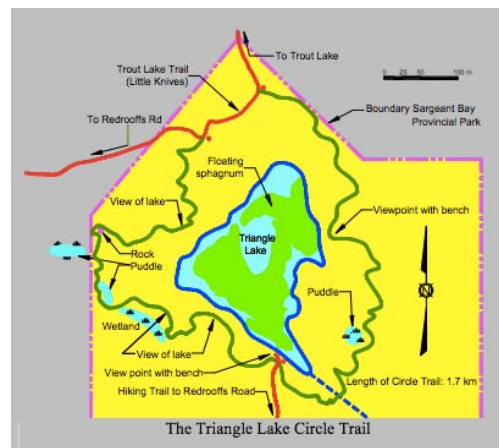
the history and ecology of the Park open from **12 - 3 PM**.



Participate in a beach seine to observe and document species. Get a close up look at marine invertebrates in aquaria and talk to people who have been volunteer Stewards of the Park for decades.

This is an exciting opportunity to learn through hands on interaction and celebrate our West Coast Heritage. Lee-Ann would like to thank the Sunshine Coast Community Foundation for sponsoring "Nature in Your Neighborhood", providing nature programming to local children and youth.

#### 3 Triangle Lake Botany Hike



Join local expert Kye Goodwin leaving at **10:00 AM on July 7, 2013** from the south parking lot at Trout Lake. Explore the unique plant life

around Triangle Lake. The walk will begin and end at Trout Lake.

The route will include the loop trail through remnants of old-growth forest on the south side of the lake. This should be considered a "moderate" hike; appropriate sturdy footwear is advised.



There have not been that many ducks in the little lake at Sargeant Bay for a long time.

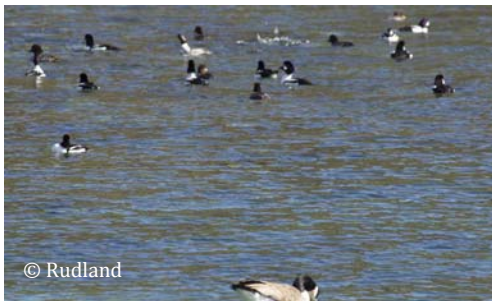
**Sightings in the Park**

As Joop’s banner photo above suggests, the log in Colvin Lake occasionally attracts many different species, but this looks like a record number on a sunny day in mid-March. Mallards and Hooded Mergansers out enjoying the sun!! Others to be on the lookout for are:



Wood Duck – have successfully bred on Colvin Lake, although they are very secretive until the brood is hatched. Look for them from the bridge over

the fish ladder. Red-winged Blackbirds are already staking out their territories.



In the water you might see mixed flocks of ducks

like these Barrow’s Goldeneye with their large white “inverted comma” on the cheek. Off to one side of the flock was a single pair of Common Goldeneye with the male’s characteristic circular white spot cheek markings. And there are always a few Canada Geese.

**Report Your Sightings Please**

To further develop our database we would greatly appreciate any sightings and photos of the rare species such as Green Heron, Lincoln’s & Swamp Sparrow, Northern Shrike, Surfbird, American Coot, Cinnamon & Blue-winged Teal, Gadwall, dowitchers, and certainly anything else that might be new to the park.

For a checklist of sightings, and their abundance throughout the year, see this page on our website. <http://www.sargbay.ca/photos/Birds.pdf>

On March 18<sup>th</sup> a wedge of Trumpeter Swans lifted off from in front of Wakefield Creek and made their way to Sargeant Bay for a short stopover. Marcia Mason reported these, as well as Golden-crowned Kinglets carrying nesting materials. Spring is officially here – for the birds anyway.



**Invasive Plants**



With the successful elimination of the Scotch Broom, Himalayan Blackberry, Evergreen Blackberry and Yellow Flag, the current target

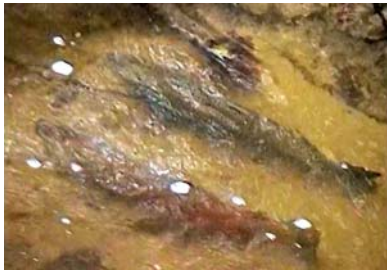
species is St. Johns’ Wort. The ever-increasing area near the bench on the mid-berm will be targeted this spring and summer for removal, accompanied by planting of Red-flowering Currant. Stay tuned for work parties later this spring and summer.

**Dogs in the Park**

Too many visitors are totally ignoring the posted advisory about dogs on leash and no beach access. This one was freely visiting the shoreline and the berm!



## 22 years of Beavers and Salmon

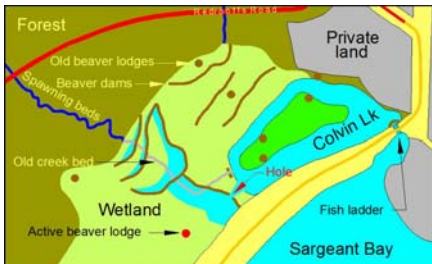


(Photos by Joop Burgerjon) When our society restored the wetland in 1991, Coho used to spawn in Colvin Creek:



As did Chum: From 1991 to 1994 their numbers varied from 20 to 50 for Coho and 10 to 25 for Chum. In 1995 Chum were no longer seen and the number of Coho reduced to just a few. Eager beavers had built several dams upstream of the lake as well as one in front of the fish ladder:

The first years after the restoration project we cleared the dams upstream of the lake, but this was too onerous a job and had to be abandoned. The dam at the fish ladder is much easier to reach and has been cleared by volunteers every year between November 15 and December 15.



However, on December 2, one of these volunteers, Vaughan Borton, had gone a step further and

made a hole in the dam close to the beach berm, a formidable job. This dropped the level in the pond by 25 cm and allowed the salmon an easier way to get to the spawning beds.

For many years we had not seen any salmon spawning in the creek, though there must have been some Coho, as there were always fry in the spring. But on December 6 we counted 12 Coho spawning again. An interesting surprise! The beavers were rather slow at repairing the hole, but eventually they did and the pond is back to its old level. (Submitted by Joop Burgerjon)

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



garbage can security system.

## Bears on the Berm (photos by Joop)

A cautionary tale for those that frequent the Park, to be particularly careful in the spring as the bears are hungry after coming out of hibernation, and obviously have been testing the

## SCNHS Birdwalk at Sargeant Bay April 7<sup>th</sup>

The SCNHS had a good turnout for a Bird Walk in Sargeant Bay Provincial Park. In total the majority of the 16 present saw or heard 45 species, including the following first-of-year species for the Park: Cassin's Vireo, Northern Rough-wing Swallow and Common Yellowthroat.



## Website

Our website, [www.sargbay.ca](http://www.sargbay.ca), contains lots of information about Sargeant Bay Provincial Park and the rôle of the Sargeant Bay Society. Visit it if you want to know something about the park. If you can't find it, let us know: [srgntbay.soc@eastlink.ca](mailto:srgntbay.soc@eastlink.ca) Maybe we can do something about it.

## Feedback

We are interested in your comments.

Please call us at: 604-885-4642 or e-mail to: [srgntbay.soc@eastlink.ca](mailto:srgntbay.soc@eastlink.ca)