



Editor: Rand Rudland
April 20, 2014

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MAY 7th, 2014 – 7PM
COOPER'S GREEN HALL



Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Minutes of 2013 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

Summer Program

Come on out and enjoy the following events:

1 - Birding on the Berm

Once again Tony Greenfield will lead this annual welcome-to-spring birding event, starting at **9 AM** at the upper parking lot on **Monday, May 19th**. This outing is a great opportunity to learn about the birds that frequent the Park. This is well into the spring migration and usually produces some good year birds.

2 – Intertidal Explorations with Lee-Ann Ennis

Join naturalists from the Sargeant Bay Society and the Iris Griffith Centre Interpretive Centre for a very low tide on **Sunday June 14th** to observe and document the marine life of the intertidal portion of Sargeant Bay. Activities run from **12 - 3 PM**.

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

3 - Triangle Lake Botany Hike

Join local botany expert Kye Goodwin leaving at **10:00 AM** on **July 6, 2014** from the south parking lot at Trout Lake. Explore the unique plant life around Triangle Lake. Walk begins and ends 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.

Work Opportunity – Summer Students

The Ruby Lake Lagoon Society is now recruiting enthusiastic summer students to fill a team of 4 at the Iris Griffith Interpretive Centre, near Ruby Lake. Employment runs May 9 - August 29th, 2014, \$14/ hr, 40 hours per week. These positions are made possible through the Canada Summer Jobs Grant. To be eligible, students must be enrolled in a post-secondary program in the fall of 2014. Please visit the society website to view past Alumni and read a full job description. Please have your interested children/grandchildren etc send resumes to Dr. Michael Jackson, michael@lagoonsociety.com

Invasive Plants

With the successful elimination of the Scotch Broom, Himalayan Blackberry, Evergreen Blackberry and Yellow Flag, the current target species remains the St. Johns' Wort. The two areas of concern are near the bench on either side of the main trail on the mid-berm. Good progress was made last year, and the “native” grasses seem to be doing well in replacing the invasive plants as they die back.

Dogs in the Park - Again

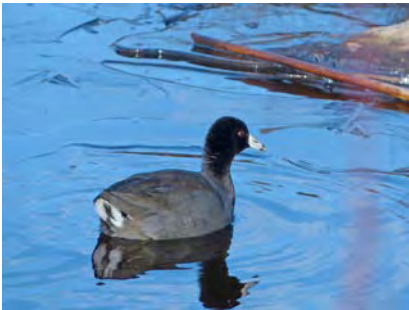
Too many visitors continue to totally ignore the posted advisory about dogs on leash and no beach access. Not only are they going wherever they wish, the owners often discard the so-called biodegradable green bags into the shrubbery beside the outhouse and by the road near the upper parking lot.

Sightings in the Park

Joop's many visits to the Park continue to produce excellent sightings, confirming the old adage that in order to see wildlife one must spend time in the wild.



This American Dipper was enjoying the bounty offered during the very heavy 2013 salmon spawning season.



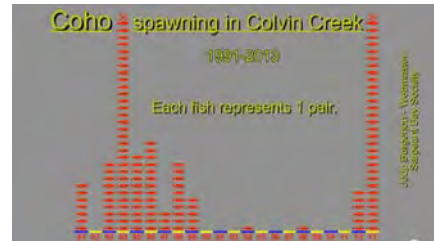
Colvin Lake had this American Coot, a rare visitor to the Coast now as compared to 20 years ago. It was trapped in the last open hole in the ice.

(Both photos by Joop Burgerjon)

Red-winged Blackbirds are already staking out their territories. The herons have been seen collecting nest-building material. Numerous sightings of Wood Ducks have been reported. The Common Yellowthroats are back on station, and try banging two rocks together and listen for the Virginia Rails to respond with their *kdik-kdik-kdik* calls from the depths of the marsh.

2013 – the Year of Spawning Salmon

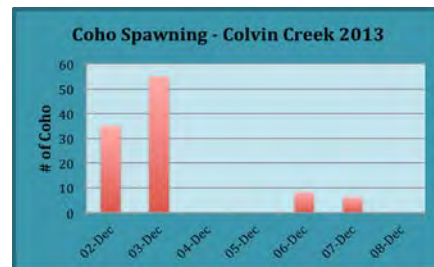
As Joop pointed out last year, Colvin Creek has historically provided spawning habitat for both Coho and Chum salmon since the fish ladder was installed. 1991-1994 saw numbers vary from 20 to 50 for Coho and 10 to 15 for Chum. Chum were no longer seen after 1994 and the number of Coho was reduced to just a few, although Coho fry were seen regularly over the intervening years. Then came 2013 spawning season – something happened out there and the Coho returns were to levels not seen since the 1990's. Over 100 Chum made it up the creek to spawn in Nov. 2013, and 60 Coho in Dec. 2013. Considering there has been no documented Chum activity since 1994, this is quite the story. The large returns undoubtedly provided food for some of the bear, river otters, and racoons in the area. Maybe even coyotes or wolves?



This graph shows historical Coho numbers 1991-2013.



This graph shows historical Chum numbers. Note void from 1995 - 2012



This one shows 2013 day-to-day Coho results.



To view some of Joop's excellent video footage of Chum spawning see:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-BUWwTOhY8s>

For Coho spawning footage see:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0GTfdsV7fm4>

To see what effort it takes to open the beaver dam at the fish ladder, see:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S3_esKpnM5U

(Graphs, data, photo, videos and web links courtesy of Joop Burgerjon)

Celebration of Excellence

Congratulations to Joop Burgerjon on his receiving a volunteering award at Chatelech High School ceremonies on April 11 in the category of Environmental Enhancement. These awards are presented bi-annually to deserving community volunteers in seven categories. Well deserved Joop.

Feedback: We are interested in your comments. Please call us at 604-885-4642 or e-mail to:

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