

Newsletter # 91

Editor: Rand Rudland Sept. 22, 2014

2014 AGM

At the 2014 AGM the following members were elected to the Board of Directors for the ensuing year. Tony Greenfield, Lexi Harrington, Jeff Muckle, Elise Rudland, Rand Rudland, Maggie Marsh, Katie Caple, Heather Newman & Garry Paulson. See the SBS website (www.sargbay.ca) for positions held by these board members.

The Board would like to thank Joop Burgerjon for his many years of dedicated service to the SBS as he steps down from the Board. Joop will continue to be the webmaster for the SBS website.

Triangle Lake Botany Hike

The annual Triangle Lake Botany Hike with Kye Goodwin was another success this year, although quite moist. July 12th saw a dozen or so botany enthusiasts trek the Triangle Lake Loop. Some unusual species were seen, such as this Gnome Plant (*Hemitomes congestum*) pictured here. This is said to be one of the rarest of the subfamily Monotropoideae, which includes Indian Pipe.

They can be pink as here, yellow, or almost white in colour. It obtains nutrients by the process of "mycoheterotropism", relying on mycorrhizal relationships with specific fungi that are attached to the roots of a vascular

plant to provide them with inorganic compounds and trace elements. All those with an interest in the flora of the area should put this hike on next year's calendar for next year.



Intertidal Exploration – June 14th

Taking advantage of an extremely low tide (<1'), volunteers from the SBS joined staff from the Iris Griffiths Centre (IGC) to explore the low intertidal areas of the Sargeant Bay waterfront. Although the weather started out a bit blustery, it gradually improved, and in the end it proved a very productive day. Approximately 40 park visitors, young and not so young, local and off-coast, were able to see the results of their efforts in the salt water tanks provided by Lee-Ann and her enthusiastic crew from the IGC. Starfish, flounder, ghost shrimp, sea worms, and many others were identified. The youngsters in particular were enthralled at the variety of life hidden in this lowest accessible tidal zone. (Photos – R. Rudland)

Next summer be sure to join us when we expect to do another beach seine at a very low tide in June.



Invasive Plant Removal on the Berm and Colvin Lake Wetlands

Invasive plant control in the Sargeant Bay Provincial Park (SBPP) began in 1993 and has been a daunting task ever since, as documented in the publication “Invasive Plant Control in Sargeant Bay Provincial Park”, 2003, Kye Goodwin and Joop Burgerjon. The table below from this publication, updated in 2014, lists the main species of concern from the perspective of aggressive plant species with the potential to displace native species and therefore alter the ecology of the Park. These species continue to be on the watch list for those volunteers involved in the monitoring and removal of invasive plants. Two examples of our ongoing efforts are

Species	Location	Start Control	Present Status	Comments
Scotch Broom	Berm + Trail Head	1996	Eliminated.	Last new sprouts Pulled out in 2012.
Himalayan Blackberry	Everywhere See map p. 17	1993	Eliminated in most areas.	Sporadic new sprouts keep appearing.
Evergreen Blackberry	Island: 5 bushes	2001	Island: 1 or 2 bushes	Not increasing.
Yellow Flag	Island + North Shore	2001	Eliminated.	
St John's Wort	Berm	2012	On its way out	
Common Reed*	Wetland		Increased from 1 to 5 spots.	Not listed as invasive in BC. Hard to control.

**Phragmites australis*. Considered very invasive in Ontario

1 - Scotch Broom: although this species was very effectively “eliminated” with extensive work by Kye Goodwin and lately by other volunteers, there continue to be sporadic specimens showing up, either from dormant seeds, or other means of entry. As an example,

Photos on this page by Joop Burgerjon & Rand Rudland



this plant was found “in plain sight” on the berm, but only after it outgrew the 6’ high Nootka Rose plants. As you can see, there were seedpods on the ground, and any left may well produce more stems in the near future.



2 - Yellow Flag Iris: a wetland species often planted for decorative purposes on private properties, but has the potential to significantly alter the Colvin Lake ecosystem. A group of volunteers removed a full trailer-load of rhizomes and stems, before the seedpods were mature, from this site on Colvin Island. Continued annual surveillance will be required to ensure ongoing control.

John, Jeff, Jim, Rand, Elise & some of the rhizomes removed



Before



After



Phragmites

Another species that is showing rapid growth in the back area of Colvin Lake is Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*). At time of publishing we are waiting for final identification from the plant specialists at the Royal BC Museum in Victoria to determine if this is the native subspecies (*P. australis americanus*) or the invasive subspecies (*P. australis australis*).

Upcoming Local Lectures of Interest

Oct. 3rd – Sunshine Coast Natural History Society Michael Bradley presents an intriguing lecture entitled “Forests of the Anthropocene” at the Sechelt Arts Centre at 7:30 PM.

“Anthropogenic climate change is putting unique pressures on forested ecosystems worldwide, as they have to cope both with the effects of rising levels of carbon dioxide and increasing human population. These conditions are creating new and usually destructive pressures. Forests are essential to protecting our environment, as they along with oceans, protect us from the full climate impact of our greenhouse gas emissions, by absorbing approximately half of them. How long can they continue to do this?”

Oct. 21st – Pender Harbour Wildlife Society For those who were unable to take in Dr. Rand Rudland’s Paraguay/Pantanal/Iguazu Falls nature tour presentation at the SCNHS last year, take a drive to the Pender Harbour High School for a 7:30 PM lecture and slide presentation.



Iguazu Falls from the Brazilian side

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Thanks to Eri§ Bj @°-i a &r clearing the five paths from the berm to the wetland and for picking up garbage in the park. Your good work is appreciated!



Northern Red-legged Frog

A COSEWIC Species of Special Concern, this BC Blue-listed frog at its northerly range limit inhabits moist forests and wetlands of Vancouver Island and the south coast of BC. Compare the dark colouration of the frogs taken on a log in Colvin Creek with the orange hues of the same species taken at the head of Narrows Inlet. One might initially consider these two colour phases to represent two different species.

Note that both specimens show the prominent dorso-lateral folds extending from the back of the eye to the rump area. Also, both have dark “freckles” on smooth skin. Other characteristics include horizontal iris of the eyes, eyes are gold in colour, and if viewed from above, the upper eyelids mostly cover the side-oriented eyes. Not shown in either photo, the undersides of the hind legs are reddish in colour, appearing translucent.



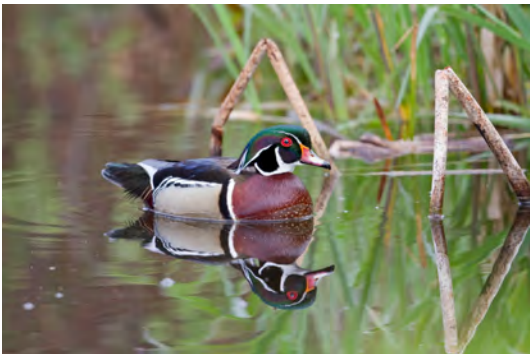
© Joop Burgerjon



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Photo Gallery from Sargeant Bay - 2014

The photos above the line were kindly forwarded from Dr. Paul Uebele who spent 2 days photographing the natural beauty of the Park and has kindly agreed to allow us their use in the Newsletter and on our website. Photos below the line identified on each photo.



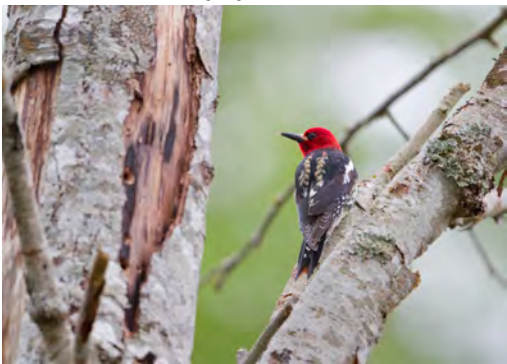
Wood Duck (m)



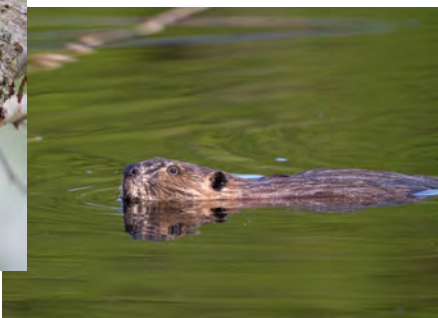
Great Blue Heron



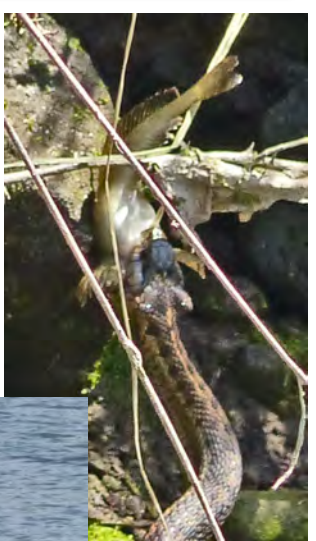
Cooper's Hawk



Red-breasted Sapsucker



Beaver!



Garter Snake eating Sculpin



© Joop Burgerjon

Common Merganser & chicks



Sea Lion basking

Joop Burgerjon

Link of the month: Who says birds can't learn!!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VjE0Kdfos4Y&feature=share>

We are always looking to increase our membership, so please pass this onto friends and contacts that you feel would be interested in joining us.

A Membership Application Form is attached

Membership (April 1 to Mar 31) – 1-year \$10, 3-year \$25

If you haven't already renewed, please send your cheque to;
Sargeant Bay Society, Box 1486, Sechelt, BC V0N 3A0.
Thank you.

Feedback
We are interested in your comments.
Please call us: 604-885-4642
or e-mail to:
srgntbay.soc@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- Membership for 1 year (Now – March 31, 2015) \$10.00
- Membership for 3 years (Now - March 31, 2017) \$25.00
- Donation \$.....

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