

Newsletter #101 – Fall 2019

Editor – Rand Rudland

AGM 2019

The 2019 AGM was held at Cooper's Green Hall on May 2nd. Your executive and directors for the upcoming year are as follows:

Rand Rudland – president

Tony Greenfield – vice-president

Maggie Marsh – secretary

Garry Paulson – treasurer

Katie Caple – membership

Dave Spicer – responsible for salmon-related affairs

Wendy Griffin – website design and maintenance

Heather Newman, Elise Rudland, Jeff Muckle, Rick Walters – directors-at-large.

Vancouver Foundation News

A recent arrival in the Sargeant Bay Society mailbox contained an unsolicited, and very welcomed, donation to the Sargeant Bay Society to support the work we are doing in the Park.

The Joyce & John Frazee Fund, held at Vancouver Foundation, provided a check in the amount of \$2,013.83. The "Vancouver Foundation is dedicated to creating healthy, vibrant and livable communities in BC". The Sargeant Bay Society certainly supports these goals, and will utilize these funds to benefit of citizens of Halfmoon Bay, and all of the Sunshine Coast, on projects for the Parks that we are involved in.

New Website

The departure of Bob D'Arcy, our previous webmaster, left the Society with a major dilemma as we no longer had a hosting site, nor anyone to maintain and update the site as new events required. Many thanks to new Director Wendy Griffin for taking on the onerous task of constructing and maintaining a new website, and to Heather Newman for hosting on her server.

Our website will remain www.sargbay.ca, once re-launched in the near future. Please let us know if there are any errors when you visit it next.

Summer Activities - 2019

Botany Hike – May 11

Kye Goodwin led another hike to explore the botany of the Breadner Loop Trail system from Brooks Rd. in Halfmoon Bay. Twelve "budding" botanists enjoyed a sun-drenched hike along the Arbutus ridges and coastal Douglas-fir habitat overlooking Halfmoon Bay and the Salish Sea.



Northern Twayblade (*Listera borealis*), an orchid near the end of the flowering cycle, still showed a few "flowers", albeit not very colorful compared to the bright orange Western Trumpet Honeysuckle (*Lonicera ciliosa*).



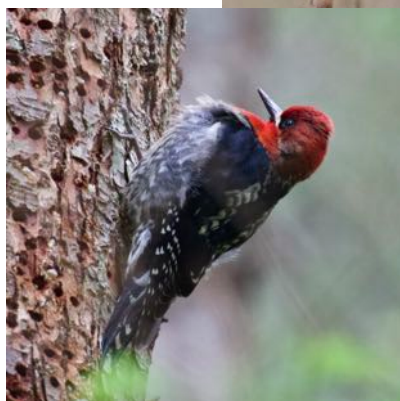
Birding on the Berm – May 19, 2018

This year Tony Greenfield and five local birders from the Sargeant Bay Society and the Sunshine Coast Natural History Society spent three hours documenting the spring migration activity on the berm of the Park.



This year we saw, or heard, 40 species, including some early Hammond's and Pacific-slope Flycatchers, Common Yellowthroat, American Goldfinch, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Orange-crowned Warbler and Virginia Rail. The highlight was seeing Tree Swallows utilizing the new nest

boxes that we had installed only a few weeks earlier.

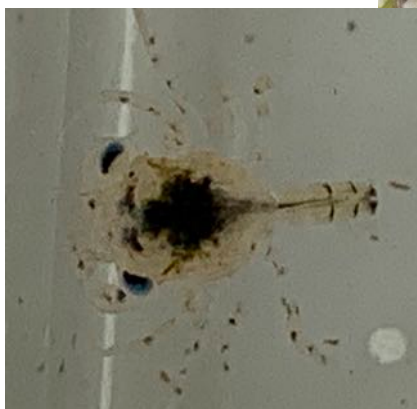


Intertidal Explorations – LeeAnn Ennis with the Iris Griffith Centre & PODS staff

Once again, this popular event explored the intertidal habitat of Sargeant Bay, with over 150 participants. The low tide on July 14th allowed adequate access to the lower areas of the beach.



A Tidepool Sculpin (right) & a Plainfin Midshipman (bottom) were among the 62 marine species



identified this day. A 2cm megalop larval stage of a crab (left) was a first for the event. (See next page for full species list.)

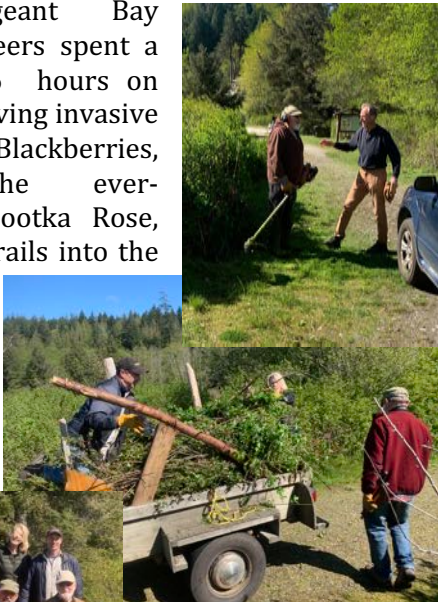


Species List found at Sargeant Bay Low Tide July 14, 2018

Purple sea star, (<i>Pisaster ochraceus</i>)	Rockweed Isopod (<i>Idotea wosnesenskii</i>)
Mottled star, (<i>Evasterias troschelli</i>)	Stubby Isopod (<i>Gnorimoshaeroma oregonensis</i>)
Leather star, (<i>Dermasterias imbricata</i>)	Sea Slater (<i>Ligia pallasii</i>)
Mossy chiton, (<i>Mopalia muscosa</i>)	Common acorn barnacle, (<i>Balanus glandular</i>)
	Small acorn barnacle, (<i>Chthamalus dally</i>)
Starry flounder, (<i>Platichthys stellatus</i>)	Thatched acorn barnacle, (<i>Semibalanus cariosus</i>)
Sand dab (<i>Platichthys spp.</i>)	
	Family Polynoidae, Scale worm
Crescent gunnel, (<i>Pholis laeta</i>)	Family Nereididae worm
and/or	Nemertea - Light edged ribbon worm (<i>Cerebratulus spp.</i>)
Saddleback gunnel, (<i>Pholis ornata</i>)	Goddess-Worm (<i>Nephtys spp.</i>)
Penpoint gunnel, (<i>Apodichthys flavidus</i>)	Platyhelmenthes, Flatworm (<i>Notocomplana spp.</i>)
Ribbon prickleback, (<i>Phytichthys chirus</i>)	
	Moon jelly, (<i>Aurelia labiata</i>)
Bay pipe fish, (<i>Syngnathus leptorhynchus</i>)	Water jelly, (<i>Aequorea spp</i>)
Black eyed goby, (<i>Rhinogobiops nicholsii</i>)	Comb jelly
Pacific sand lance, (<i>Ammodytes hexapterus</i>)	
Tidepool sculpin,	Burrowing anemone, (<i>Antropleura elegantisma</i>)
Sculpin unidentified, possibly Roughback sculpin	
Fringed sculpin, (<i>Icelinus fimbriatus</i>)	Pacific oyster, (<i>Crassostrea gigas</i>)
Brown Irish lord (<i>Hemilepidotus spinosus</i>)	Bentnosed macoma, (<i>Macoma nasuta</i>)
Pacific herring, <i>Clupea pallisii</i>	Pacific littleneck clam, (<i>Protothaca staminea</i>)
	Manilla clam, (<i>Venerupis philippinarum</i>)
Northern kelp crab, (<i>Pugettia products</i>)	Purple varnish clam, (<i>Nuttallia obscurity</i>)
Red rock crab, (<i>Cancer productus</i>)	Washington butter clam, (<i>Saxidomus gigantea</i>)
Dungeness crab, (<i>Cancer magister</i>)	Nuttall's cockle, (<i>Clinocardium nuttallii</i>)
Green shore crab, (<i>Hemigrapsus oregonensis</i>)	Pacific blue mussel, (<i>Mytilus trossulus</i>)
Purple shore crab, (<i>Hemigrapsus nudus</i>)	
Hairy shore crab	Lewis's moonsnail, (<i>Euspira lewisii</i>)
Hermit crabs, many observed, looks like:	Wrinkled dogwinkle, (<i>Nucella lamellosa</i>)
Greenmark hermit crab	Sitka periwinkle, (<i>Littorina sitkana</i>)
White knee hermit crab	Checkered periwinkle, (<i>Littorina scutulata</i>)
Grainy hand hermit crab	
	Mask limpet, (<i>Tectura persona</i>)
Bay ghost shrimp, (<i>Neotrypaea californiensis</i>)	Plate limpet, (<i>Tectura scutum</i>)
Side striped shrimp, (<i>Pandalopsis dispar</i>)	
Skeleton shrimp, (<i>Caprella spp.</i>)	<i>Porphyra spp.</i>
Krill	Sea lettuce, (<i>Ulva lactuca</i>)
	Eel grass, (<i>Zostera marina</i>)
Splash-Zone Beach Hopper (<i>Traskorchestia traskiana</i>)	Rockweed, (<i>Fucus gardneri</i>)

Berm Clean-ups, 2019

Fifteen Sargeant Bay Society volunteers spent a productive 5-6 hours on the berm removing invasive Himalayan Blackberries, trimming the ever-encroaching Nootka Rose, widening the trails into the wetland and generally improving safe access for visitors to the Park.



We removed two full truck and trailer loads.



Swallow Boxes Installed by Volunteers

Thanks to the Robert Allen for constructing a dozen nest boxes, and to Robert, Tony Greenfield, Rick Walters (and myself), who installed the boxes in Sargeant Bay (photo right) and Smuggler Cove (photo



left) Provincial Parks and a small pond on Trout Lake Road in Halfmoon Bay. Some of these boxes were used this season, and we plan on cleaning them in advance of the next nesting season.

Installation of New Educational Signage

A grant from BC Parks—thanks to LeeAnn Ennis for submitting the application—allowed the Sargeant Bay Society to expand the educational signage project into Smuggler Cove, as well as along the trail system to Triangle Lake. The 20 new signs cover multiple natural history topics from raptors, waterfowl, marine inhabitants, woodpeckers, ferns, trees and more. The response has been very positive to date.



Some of the signs were able to be mounted on vacant existing kiosk spaces, but most

required mounting on the railings of the boardwalks, or by either the more labour intensive rock drilling into bedrock, or pouring concrete bases. Many thanks to the ten volunteers that made the installation process go smoothly, despite a few minor hiccups along the way.

Peter Hews holds the cordless rock drill kindly made available to us by Dale Benner at Rent-It-Canada. Without this tool our job would have been much more difficult. Thanks Dale!!!

The fern sign for Smuggler Cove (below).





If you haven't hiked the Smuggler Cove or Triangle Lake trails recently, take the family for an educational outing and see what we have done.

Sunshine Coast Butterflies and Dragonflies

Two new contributions to the Sunshine Coast natural history reference library were released this summer. "Butterflies of the Sunshine Coast", compiled by Tony Greenfield and Rand Rudland,



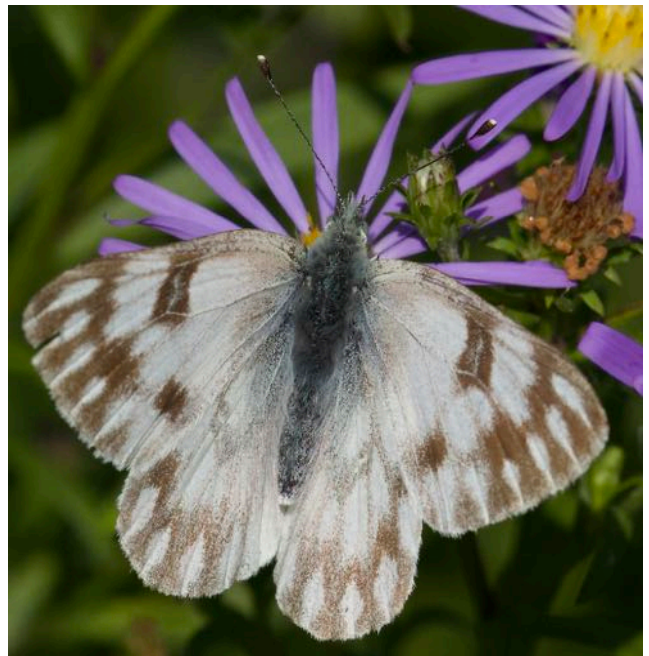
describes all 37 known butterfly species on the lower Sunshine Coast at the time of printing. "Odonates of the Sunshine Coast", by Rand Rudland, describes the 40 dragonfly and damselfly species known to be found here. The majority of the photographs were taken locally.

Funding for the printing was provided by the Sunshine Coast Community Forest as part of their commitment to biodiversity education on the Sunshine Coast. Both are available free to all current SBS & SCNHS members, and additional copies are for sale as a fund raiser for the two societies at Tailwind Books in Sechelt, the Earth Store in Madeira Park, and at the Iris Griffith Centre.

New Butterfly for the Park & the Sunshine Coast



Eric Habisch of Gibsons has the distinction of adding the first new species of butterfly to our recently published reference—in Sargeant Bay! The Western White (*Pontia occidentalis*) is an overall white butterfly, with dark brown or black markings dorsally depending on the season. Ventral veins of the hindwing and the forewing apex are outlined in yellow-green.



According to Cris Guppy's "Butterflies of British Columbia" this species occurs throughout much of BC, although it is rare on Vancouver Island and coastal BC generally. The larval foodplants are entirely in the Brassicaceae (mustard) family. Adults feed on many flower species, including numerous introduced species in the mustard family.

Beaver Dam Debris Removal Work Party

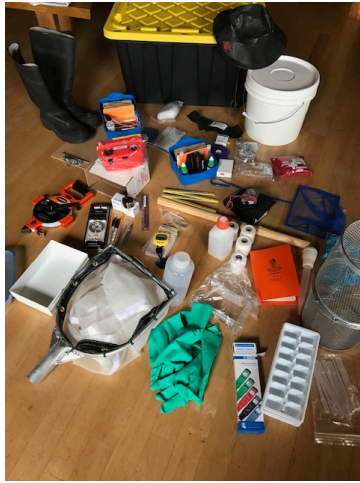
Sept. 25th saw 7 SBS volunteers, including 2 visitors from New Zealand, load up the trailer provided by the Park operator with beaver dam debris that had been piled on the land near the fish ladder and the double benches. This was necessary to ensure ready access to these areas to allow clean-out of the transit channels for the spawning salmon, some of which have shown up much earlier than expected on 27th September—likely thanks to the rains and high run-off in Colvin Creek.

Thanks to Don Basham, Rick Walters, Rand Rudland, Dave Spicer, Wayne Rolfe and New Zealand visitors James Boshier and Julia Marin.



Stream Keepers Monitoring Equipment

Our sincere thanks go out to Jim Shinkewski and the Pacific Salmon Foundation, Salmon Programs, for the generous support of our Stream Keepers program. A \$1372 grant to purchase a fully updated monitoring kit will allow the SBS to accurately monitor the biological and physical health of Colvin Creek.



Not only does this allow volunteers to capture and identify young fry in Colvin Creek, but also their prey items, like these caught—and released—during the training session last year.

Flathead Mayfly nymph.



Caddisfly larva



All Photos ©R. Rudland

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Coho fry.



Physical parameters, including temperature, pH, oxygen levels and sediment loads are added indicators of the overall bio-physical health of the stream.

Fall Bioblitz Sargeant Bay Provincial Park

Starting at 0900 on Sunday, Nov 3rd, a co-operative project between the Sargeant Bay Society (SBS) and the Pender Harbour Ocean Discovery Station (PODS) will see a fall season biodiversity study of Sargeant Bay Provincial Park from the shores of Sargeant Bay and to the upland around Triangle Lake. Groups of volunteer observers/recorders will join leaders in botany, birding, and general biology to explore selected areas of the Park.

For those who are familiar with the iNaturalist platform for the reporting of ecosystem biodiversity, please come prepared to enter data on the device of your choice. An iNaturalist project--Sargeant Bay Prov. Park Bioblitz - Fall 2019--has been set up for all data entry. See <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/sargeant-bay-prov-park-bioblitz-fall-2019>

This can be done while in the field or later from compiled notes. For those interested in learning how to use this internationally accessible app, there will be an opportunity to see how this straightforward platform can be used to identify all forms of life virtually anywhere in the world you may travel to.

For further information contact Rand Rudland (SBS) (randrudland@gmail.com) or Jenn Blancard (PODS) (jenn.blancard@gmail.com). Or just arrive at the main parking area at the Park at 0845.

If you photograph any interesting events or activities in the Park, please send along for inclusion in the Newsletter, with a short description of what you saw.

Send to: srgntbay.soc@gmail.com
Contact us at 604-885-4642