

Newsletter #107 – Fall 2022

Editor – Rand Rudland

AGM 2022 – May 4th, 7:30 PM

The 2022 Sargeant Bay Society AGM was held by Zoom this year once again. Your executive and directors for the upcoming year will be 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 – website hosting

Jeff Muckle, Rick Walters – directors-at-large.

Our membership stands at 84 individual &/or family memberships. Please ensure your membership is up to date.

sargbay.ca/index.php/become-a-member/

Educational Activities – 2022

1 - Birding on the Berm - May 15th

Tony Greenfield led a successful birding walk from the upper parking lot attended by a dozen or so enthusiastic birders.

2 – Botany Walk in Sargeant Bay Provincial Park with Kye Goodwin – May 22nd

SBS members and guests interested in local botany participated in an exploration of flowering plants, ferns, and other taxa on a tour of the berm.

3 – Intertidal Exploration with Lee-Anne Ennis Sat., July 16th

Always a popular event, this year was no different. Wet tanks with fish, starfish, molluscs, shrimps, and other intertidal inhabitants were caught, identified, and later released back into the bay.

Berm Invasive Species and Trail Cleanup

A fall clean-up was well attended on October 4th, with another large load of blackberries and Nootka Rose being removed from the trails and view corridors on the berm. Thanks to all the volunteers. And to Suzanne for the goodies.



Trail Maintenance Activities

Once again, we are asking for assistance in locating any downed trees or drainage issues within the Park. Any issues within the Park boundaries should now be reported to the dedicated email SBStrails@gmail.com and Rick Walters will advise our volunteers of the details. Locations outside the Park between Highway 101 and Redroofs Road should be reported to the Halfmoon Bay Environmental Society email trails@HBES.ca. An accurate location, size of trees, and if possible a photo should be included.

Streamkeepers Update – Dave Spicer

Some of you may have seen that the coho and chum salmon have returned and have been jumping in Sargeant Bay since late October (photo below – D. Spicer). The fish may seem late, but actually last year Wayne Rolfe saw the first fish at the end of October, so maybe things are not as far behind with the late rains as we



would think. In previous years we usually see fish in the Bay by late October and then actually entering the fish ladder during rain events and high tides in November. We did open a small channel in the beaver dam at the top of the fish ladder for the first time this year on October 25th now that the rain has started. There is not much water in the ladder yet for fish to enter Colin Lake (the beaver pond) but it is still good to get water moving and fish starting to home in on the fresh water. Colvin Creek will now be monitored for fish and debris clearing until mid- to late December. This is done by Sargeant Bay Society members who have taken the Stream Keepers Course. If you would like to get involved this year or in the future, please let us know. There will be some openings in the future for the Stream Keepers course if others would like to consider taking this.

The water level on Colvin Lake (the beaver pond) is nice and high and even the upper creek is high with water backed up from creek debris, so lots of areas for fish to survive, which is nice. There were some worries it may dry out or become very low in the summer, but water flow remained adequate. Water temperature has stayed cool, likely due to all the nice shade and bank vegetation, averaging around 12-15C. Ideal for salmonoid 10-16C. pH has also been good for fish at 7.6.

We hope the salmon have a better time getting up the ladder this year than last. Some of you may recall the earth surrounding the fish ladder was greatly eroded during huge rain events last fall,

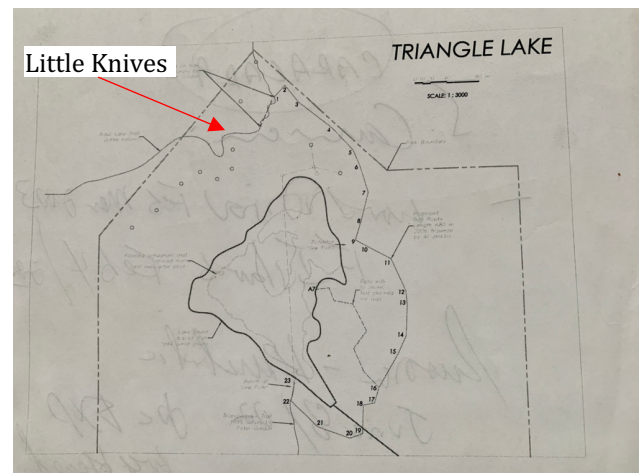
making it almost impossible for fish to use the ladder at times. Repairs that were completed included a culvert for overflow, which should help with future high-water events.

Fish Ladder Replacment

The aging fishladder is slated for replacement during next summer's fish window. Funding has been secured largely by BC Parks, with additional funds received from the Pacific Salmon Foundation upon application by SBS. We hope that the process can be navigated successfully and a new structure installed to serve the salmon, and Park visitors, well into the future.

Little Knives trail damage by ATVs.

There is a small section of the Little Knives trail that crosses over the north-west corner of the Park. See map below of the original survey for the Park boundary and the location of the adjacent trails, including Little Knives.



The northern and western Park boundaries of Little Knives where the trail enters the Park were posted in June as "NO ATV" by BC Parks, but the signs were illegally removed. New "NO ATV", "Park Boundary", and "Dogs on Leash" signage was installed in early October, along with cameras to monitor the area. Boundary signs have also been installed by BC Parks at the western entry points of Roller Coaster, 1st Bench and 2nd Bench.

The policy within BC parks is very clear – no motorized vehicles of any kind are allowed to operate within our provincial parks, and mountain bikes are restricted to "mountain biking-specific or multi-use trails that have been identified by BC Parks".

There is newly released clarification on the issue of how BC Parks classifies e-bikes. The excerpt below is from a BC Government [website](#).

“In response to the growing popularity of electric bikes, BC Parks is implementing an e-bike policy to help protect sensitive wildlife, ecosystems and cultural values.

Following the e-bikes classification system already being used by industry and other government bodies, the new policy allows e-bikes in certain areas, depending on the classification.

People with Class 1 e-bikes can ride on any BC Parks trail where mountain bikes or other cycling is already allowed. People with Class 2 and 3 e-bikes can only ride on trails and/or roads designated for motorized vehicles, depending on the park. People using adaptive mountain bikes are allowed in areas designated for Class 1 e-bike use.

Cycling in parks can have an impact on trails and wildlife. Electric bikes allow more riders to use trails and reach areas that were previously limited to a few visitors, leading to increased pressure on sensitive wildlife and ecosystems.

The new e-bikes policy is now in effect. Anyone with an e-bike is encouraged to visit the BC Parks website for specific information on where they can ride. Classifications for e-bikes can be viewed at: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/recreation/biking/>?

In order to address this specific issue, is there an option to re-route part of Little Knives to take it outside the Park boundary, recognizing that motorized vehicles like ATV's are allowed to operate on crown land providing they are licensed and follow the rules of the road?

Invasive Species of Concern.

Yellow Flag Iris is now expanding significantly within the marsh ecosystem. In an attempt to at least slow the progress of his species, a group of four of us undertook to remove the seed pods from all the plants we could identify in the marsh and on the island in Colvin Lake. At the end of the day, we had collected over 900 seed pods.

It is hoped that there will be some BC Parks assistance for future efforts to control this species.



Another species of concern is Bull Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*) above, which has been rapidly spreading along the berm. Next spring there will be a concerted effort to remove flower heads before seed development is complete.

A third species to be on the look-out for in the Park—and anywhere for that matter—is Fern-leaf Yarrow (*Achillea filipendulina*).

This is an Asian introduction, and a prolific member of the sunflower family. It can out-compete most native plants and quickly forms a monoculture, with no benefits as a larval food plant for pollinators.

