

Sargeant Bay Society

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Newsletter #98 – Spring 2018

Editor – Rand Rudland

AGM, Cooper's Green Hall

May 30th, 2018

Agenda

1. Call to order – 7:30 PM
2. Adoption of agenda
3. Adoption of 2017 minutes
4. Business arising
5. Reports
 - a. President's – Rand R.
 - b. Finance – Garry P.
 - c. Membership – Rand R.
 - d. Salmon Update – Dave Spicer
6. New business
7. Election of directors
8. Adjournment

Please put this date on your calendar. Also you can renew your membership online at sargbay.ca, or by completing the mail-in application accompanying this Newsletter and join us for our AGM.

Joop & Jessie Burgerjon Endowment for the Sargeant Bay Society

The Endowment now stands at a total of \$16,417 as of March 8, 2018. Our dividend for 2018 was \$612.

Thanks to John Peat, and family, for a bequest to the SBS. Donations such as this help us grow the endowment and provide programs to users of the Park.

Berm Beach Clean-up

Thanks to all the users who diligently pick up debris



like this group of styrofoam-filled tires after the storm in late January this year.

Now if we could just

get some of the dog owners to do the same!!!

Summer Activities - 2018

1 - Botany Hike – May 6, 2018 – 9:30 am

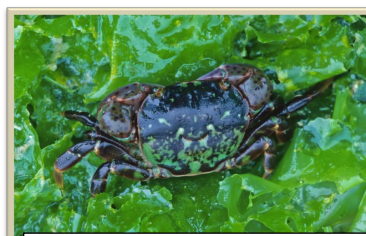
Kye Goodwin leads a hike to explore the botany of 3 new trails on Welcome Hill above Datsun Alley and Little Knives—Nick, Misty and Sparky. This is a small but beautiful area of original old growth forest and natural arbutus openings supporting native wildflowers. Meet at Connor Park near the HMB Elementary School. The trails on this hike have some areas of moderate difficulty, so good footwear and good hiking capabilities are needed.

2 – Birding on the Berm – May 19, 2018 – 9 am

Join Tony Greenfield and other local birders on the annual spring birding outing in the Park. Always a great way to kick off the 2018 birding season with this annual event. Meet at the main—not lower—parking lot in the Park.

3 – Intertidal Explorations - Lee-Ann Ennis – Iris Griffith Centre (IGC) - Sunday July 15th.

Come and join us for our annual intertidal educational activities with Lee-Ann and the IGC staff. This is a particularly exciting time for the IGC considering the impressive successes they are seeing in their efforts to develop the PODS project in



Purple Shore Crab – ©Duane Sept

Pender Harbour.

Wet tanks and lots of specimens will be on display for all those young biologists to wonder at. See what you can find, and have it identified by the

biologists. Who knows, maybe one of the grandkids will end up working at the PODS as a researcher in the future, all as a result of an interest in marine biology launched on this day!

Beaver Dam Overflows Fish Ladder

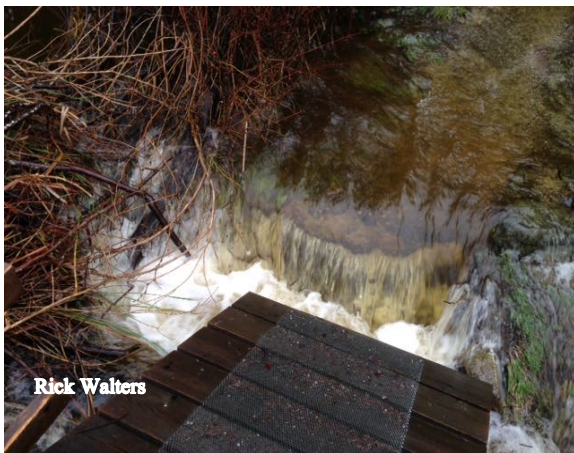
The heavy storms overnight on Jan. 28th certainly illustrated the massive volume of water that can be generated in a few short hours in the Colvin Lake drainage. Not only was the upper water body flooding the parking lot (Don Basham photo), but



the high-volume flow essentially floated the beaver dam materials above the fish ladder onto the inflow and blocked most of the flow through the ladder. As a result, there was significant flooding across the berm trail, and some of the flow eroded the fill materials adjacent to the ladder under the east side access ramp—lower photo.



Don Basham



Rick Walters

After a bit of work, it was possible to open the dam and get it flowing again, reducing the bypass and erosion temporarily.



After discussions with BC Parks, they agreed to fund the repairs before further damage could be done to the fish ladder structure. A major concern was that, should further erosion occur along the east side, the ladder could shift sideways, and the pressure of the water from above could have forced the ladder into the bay and it would have been lost.

So a special thanks to HMB resident Daiton Craig of Coast Septic for rearranging his work schedule to bring his small excavator and dump truck the following morning, and to Rick Walters for his capable assistance. We removed the walkway, backfilled the eroded area with rip-rap and road base, then replaced the walkway, all in a period of about 5 (wet) hours. 2500 kg of beaver dam debris was removed.



We also took the opportunity to address the issue of wheelchair viewing access to the fish-ladder bridge from the west end. The original configuration was far too steep to allow a wheelchair to be brought onto the walkway viewing area. We were able to alter the angle of the ramp, so the walkway is now accessible for all to view the workings of the fish ladder and other activities on Colvin Lake.



Now the question will be, how long before the beavers are back at it? Not too long I imagine. But the lesson

learned is simply that it does not pay to allow this beaver dam to become so high that a flood event such as we experienced on Jan. 28th can put the fish ladder in jeopardy. An additional fact for consideration is how tolerant the veteran Douglas Fir on the berm are to a rising water table.

We have seen the impact of the Colvin Lake water level rise on the composition of plant growth on the berm after the installation of the fish ladder and the formation of Colvin Lake. Prior to the installation of the fish ladder the berm was much drier overall, with fewer Nootka Rose. Dry grass ecosystem species like the Indian Consumption Plant were relatively common in the park, although regionally very rare. With the higher water table, the Nootka Rose have



proliferated dramatically, to the detriment of the Indian Consumption Plant, as dry open spaces have become over-run with roses.

Memberships may now be completed online.

www.sargbay.ca and follow the "Join/Donate" Link

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

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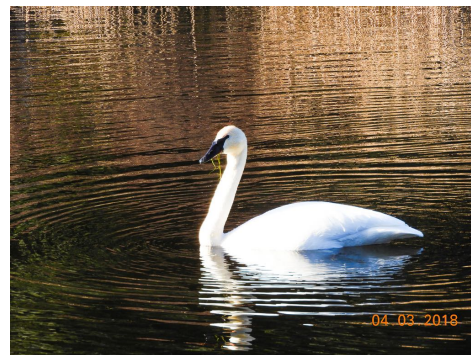
Sunshine Coast Wildlife Project

Thanks to Dave Stiles and crew for installing some basking logs in Colvin Lake, allowing ducks to rest on logs and away from any land predators.



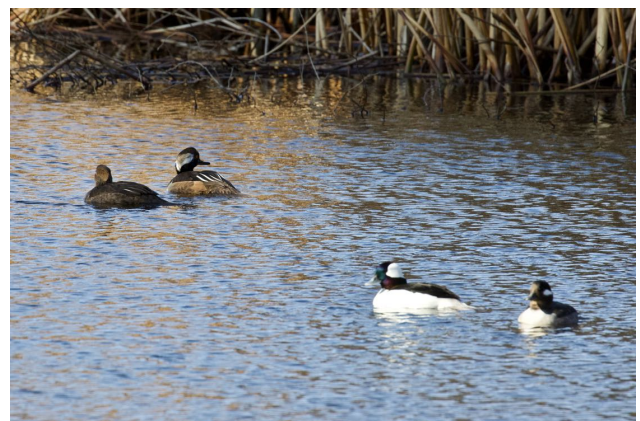
The cedar slabs are tethered to bottom weights, allowing them to adjust to varying Lake levels.

Avian Visitors to the Park this spring.



A couple of Trumpeter Swans were seen visiting the Lake over a period of at least 2 weeks during late

Feb. – early March. (Photo Garry Paulson)



Pairs of Hooded Mergansers (left) and Bufflehead, two of our smallest species of waterfowl, conveniently share the same field of view for a size comparison on Colvin Lake.

Photos ©R. Rudland except as noted