

## Newsletter #109 – Fall 2023

Editor – Rand Rudland

### **AGM 2023 – Wednesday, June 7th, 7:30 PM**

The 2023 Sargeant Bay Society AGM was held by Zoom. Your officers elected at a subsequent Directors Meeting remain the same as for 2022:

Pres. – Rand Rudland

Vice-pres. – Tony Greenfield

Treasurer – Garry Paulson

Secretary – Maggie Marsh

Directors at large are Dave Spicer, Heather Newman, Jeff Muckle, Rick Walters, Wendy Griffin, Katie Caple.

### **Sargeant Bay Society Bursary 2023**

This was the first year that Sargeant Bay Society offered a bursary to high school graduates on the Sunshine Coast. The SBS thought it would be appropriate to financially support the next generation of young adults starting their post-secondary education. For the first year \$500 was made available. Applicants from all high schools in School District 46 were welcome to apply. The bursary was intended for a student entering environmental studies/sciences, marine studies, or ecology. Financial need and academic achievement were also considered. The SBS received 9 excellent applicants. It was a difficult decision, but it was decided that Owen Tonis from Elphinstone Secondary would be the recipient of the 2023 SBS Bursary. He is attending University of Victoria with plans to study microbiology and marine ecosystems. Congratulations Owen! We also received a nice thank you letter from him. Check our website to read his thank-you letter.

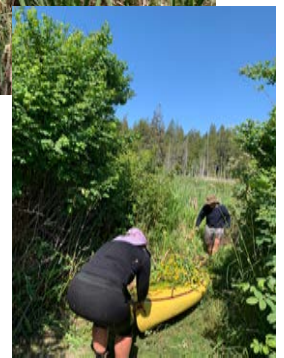
The SBS is also excited to announce that we will continue to offer this \$500 bursary to a worthy 2024 local graduate. If you know of someone that may be a good candidate for this bursary, have them apply through their high school this coming spring.

### **Yellow Flag Iris Removal**

Once again, a small group of members continued the Society's attempts to prevent Yellow Flag Iris from

taking over the wetland above the beaver dam. June 3<sup>rd</sup> was right in the

flowering window for this aggressive invasive, and we utilized kayaks to haul away stems removed by cutting below the water line where possible, in the hope that the remaining structure will die off. The Society is presently in discussion with BC Parks and their Invasive Species Specialists to see if there is any program that may be available to our group to address this pressing issue.



### **Berm Invasive Species and Trail Cleanup**

A fall clean-up was well attended on Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>, 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, including BC Parks staff Elyse Guzek (centre) and Roisin Cumming (left).





**Educational Activities – 2023**

**1 - Birding on the Berm - May 13<sup>th</sup>**

Tony Greenfield led our annual birding walk from the upper parking lot with members from our Society and the Sunshine Coast Natural History Society. 38 species were observed, including 7 species of warblers, 4 species of sparrows, 2 species of swallows, a Pacific-slope Flycatcher, and both hummingbird species, to name a few.

**2 - Botany Walk in Sargeant Bay Provincial Park with Kye Goodwin - May 21<sup>st</sup> - 0900 hrs.**

Kye Goodwin, assisted by Jeff Muckle, led a botany walk on Little Knives-Riley Falls- A-side trails near Trout Lake.



Fly Agaric – Jeff Muckle



**BC Parks Douglas' Squirrel Abundance Surveys**

BC Parks undertakes an annual survey within all the SC Parks in their mandate to monitor biodiversity and ecosystem health. The study this year involved 2 - 3 SBS volunteers walking three pre-established transects on 3 consecutive days on the trail to Triangle Lake and recording heard or seen squirrels and recording the location of middens - new or old - with GPS co-ordinates. These numbers will then be compared to prior years to identify trends in population numbers.

**Fish Ladder Replacment - Dave Spicer reports**

The fish ladder replacement project has had some ups and down with funding. Last spring we had good news that DFO was funding the main costs of replacing the ageing and damaged wooden fish ladder. The current plan is for a new aluminium fish ladder to be build off site this winter and installed next summer in the same location. In November we have had some communication with DFO Engineering department that they had been

having some trouble accessing the funds they need to start fabricating the ladder. We hope that will be resolved before the end of this year. BC Parks, the SBS and DFO are working hard on this project.

**Salmon Monitoring Update – Dave Spicer**

A few coho have been seen arriving this fall. October 18th was the first day a coho was seen going up the fish ladder in the park. A Harbour Seal was seen chasing the salmon in the estuary below the fish ladder on the week of November 20th. A incoming high tide is the the best time to possibly see the returning salmon. There is once again a notebook on the bridge to make a note if anyone has anything to report. The Sargeant Bay Stream Keeper volunteers continue to monitor and clear the beaver debris at the top of the ladder each day until the end of December. The Chum salmon are usually late in the season, so we hope to see some return soon on big rain days.



Northern Pygmy-owl on the berm at Sargeant Bay, Nov 22, 2023 – Dave Spicer



Coho salmon jumping in Sargeant Bay, October 2023 - Dave Spicer

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.

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Contact us at 604-885-4642