

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SBS AGM, 2024

Thursday, May 2nd, 2024, 7:15 PM

COOPER'S GREEN HALL, HALFMOON BAY, BC

The 2024 Sargeant Bay Society AGM will be held **in person** this year for the first time since COVID-19 arrived on the stage. Please consider attending this meeting to celebrate some degree of normalcy!! Also, please ensure your membership is current in order to vote during the meeting. Memberships can be renewed online at our website <http://sargbay.ca/index.php/become-a-member/>

AGENDA:

1. Call to order – 7:15 PM
2. Adoption of agenda
3. Adoption of 2023 minutes
4. Business arising
 - a. Burgerjon Endowment update
5. Reports
 - a. President's – Rand R.
 - b. Finance – Garry P.
 - c. Membership – Rand R.
 - d. Salmon Update – Dave Spicer
6. New business
 - a. Fish ladder installation notice.
 - b. Disability access trail notice.
7. Election of directors
8. Adjournment

Sargeant Bay Society Bursary 2024

The SBS will continue to offer a \$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 spring.

Berm Invasive Species and Trail Cleanup

A spring clean-up of the berm and foreshore is scheduled for Tuesday, May 14th. Bring your gloves, rakes, pitch forks, cutters, hedge trimmers, etc for an 0900 start. Meet on the berm.

Yellow Flag Iris Removal There will be an announcement forthcoming for what looks to be an annual attempt to control the Yellow Flag Iris in the wetlands, or at least until something more definitive is found by BC Parks to address the issue.



Educational Activities – 2023

1 - Botany Walk with Kye Goodwin – May 5th – 1000 hrs.

Kye Goodwin, our local botany expert, will once again visit the trails and forest of the Breadner Loop. Roadside parking is available on Truman Road a few hundred metres after leaving Brooks Road. Sturdy footwear is a must, and a walking stick for those so inclined. Hopefully by doing this hike a bit earlier than in past years, at least some of the flowers will be in fine form.

2 – Birding on the Berm - May 26th, 0900

Tony Greenfield will lead our annual birding walk from the upper parking lot looking–and listening–for migrants as the spring moves into summer and the breeding season gets fully underway. Woodpeckers, vireos, flycatchers, swallows, rails - who knows what might show up.

3 – Intertidal Exploration with LeeAnn Ennis Sunday, July 21st, 1030 – 1230 hrs.

Once again LeeAnn will offer her expertise in all things intertidal. Bring the kids, grandkids, grandparents, (maybe not the dog) to the Park and explore the intertidal area for sea stars, ghost shrimp, sand lance, maybe even a herring. Buckets will be provided or bring your favorite one.



4 – Critter Dipping with Donna Giberson Sunday, July 21st, 1030 – 1230 hrs.

Concurrent with the intertidal exploration, Donna, Professor Emerita in entomology and freshwater ecology from the U. of PEI, and Rand Rudland, will bring their field microscopes to explore the wonders of the marsh environment looking for those species only visible with microscopy, like this copepod from Smuggler Cove. (Photo RR)



Trail Repairs on Triangle Lake Trail

Elyse Guzek of BC Parks provided all the materials and joined SBS volunteers Jeff Muckle, Dan Sklazeski, Rick Walters, Marcia & Ward Tinney, and Michael Miller to rectify a major flooding issue on the lower falls loop portion of the Triangle Lake Trail. The existing culvert was continuously becoming blocked by gravel and debris during high rainflow events to the point that the culvert was non-functional. As can be seen in the photos below, the stream bed has now been bridged by a raised wooden bridge that will not be affected by increased water flow below. Great work to the crew that provided 24 hrs of volunteer labour to the project, and thanks to BC Parks for providing all the required materials.



Salmon Monitoring Update – Dave Spicer

Last fall, salmon in Sargeant Bay began to make their way through the estuary and up the fish ladder for the first time on October 18th. Salmon were again sighted in the fish ladder, Colvin Lake and Colvin Creek in late October and late November. Fish of course often make it up the ladder in the night or other times when they are not easily observed. High or rising tides with a good amount of rain give the best chance to see the returning salmon. Jeff Muckle saw the last salmon in Colvin Creek on December 20th. There was a mix of Coho and Chum salmon seen. Not big numbers by any means. It is a positive that fish are still returning, but hopefully the low number can start to increase. The low return numbers are likely due to the fact the fish ladder was washed out twice during the huge rain events a few years ago. Fish ladder repairs did hold up well last fall...so did allow fish to return. Hopefully a planned replacement of the current fish ladder, with a more efficient and robust design, will allow better returns in the coming years. A group of six Sargeant Bay Streamkeeper volunteers worked to keep the fish ladder clear and also make daily observations for returning salmon. The duties by the Streamkeepers were done daily from October 15th to Dec. 31st last year. More volunteers are always needed for streamkeeping duties in the Park, so if you live in the area and can spare a half hour once a week in the fall please message the Sargeant Bay Society.

Fishladder installation update

It is going to happen this summer, barring any unforeseen occurrences. The fish ladder fabrication by Key Mill Construction Ltd. in Ladysmith is now completed and ready for transport from the Island to the SC. The photos (right) show the new all-metal design, including the so-called “beaver deceiver” pipe structure which will (hopefully) prevent total blockage of the lake outflow and reduce the risk of damage to the structure during high-flow events. All of this has been designed by Kirby Reitze and his team of DFO engineers in the Nanaimo office.

The installation date is now set for the week of August 6-10th to accommodate tides and the salmon window. Due to the presence of heavy equipment operating in the berm area of the Park, **there will be a total closure of the lower reaches of the Park for the duration of the installation to all except those involved in the project.**



Interesting Sightings Around the Coast

Belted Kingfisher waiting for lunch over Colvin Lake. (Photo RR)



Barred Owl – one of three seen together at the Powerline Beaver Pond in HMB (Photo RR)



Hooded Merganser with the highly invasive - and recently arrived on the SC - European Green Crab (Photo RR taken in Oyster Bay)



Double-crested Cormorant in full breeding plumage – a not-so-regular visitor to Trout Lake. (Photo RR)



The provincially Blue listed Northern Red-legged Frog (Photo D. Spicer) is one of the three species of frogs known on the Sunshine Coast. This species is found in complex wetlands as well as forested areas with abundant canopy cover and ground litter, and was photographed recently near Colvin Creek on the upper side of Redrooffs Rd.



The Coastal Tailed Frog is by far the least known while the Pacific Chorus Frog is surely the most vocal.

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