



Sargeant Bay Society  
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## Newsletter #112 - Fall 2024

Editor - Rand Rudland

### **SBS AGM, 2024**

**Thursday, May 2nd, 2024**

The 2024 Sargeant Bay Society AGM was held in person this year for the first time since COVID-19 arrived on the stage. There were 20 members in attendance – a new record!!

Your Directors for 2024-25 are as follows:

Rand Rudland, Tony Greenfield, Rick Walters, Dave Spicer, Heather Newman, Wendy Griffin, Garry Paulson, Maggie Marsh, Jeff Muckle, Katie Caple, and our newest Director, Scott Hodges. Welcome Scott.

At the following Directors' Meeting the executive positions were filled as follows:

President – Rand Rudland

Vice-president – Tony Greenfield

Treasurer – Garry Paulson

Secretary – Maggie Marsh

Director for Salmon issues – Dave Spicer

Director for Website – Wendy Griffin

Director for Facebook – Heather Newman

Director for Trail Upkeep – Rick Walters

Director for Trail maintenance – Jeff Muckle

Director for Membership - Katie Caple

Director-at-large - Scott Hodges

### **SBS SD 46 Bursary Committee Report**

The \$500 SBS Bursary was awarded to Chatelech Secondary School student Sarah Pearson-White. We had 6 excellent applicants this year... interestingly all young women, which is great. It was a hard decision with such smart and enthusiastic applicants.

We believe Sarah was the right choice as she will be attending UVic next year for science studies specializing in marine biology. This is also the first applicant who has a history with our Society as she has volunteered before at Low Tide Exploration through the Loon Foundation program. Good marks and a good attitude made us think she is the right choice.

Regarding some of the other applicants, we found that some were going to post-secondary education but with no interest in forestry, biology or ecology which is one of the focal points of this bursary. Also, we found some applicants may not have the financial need as much as others.



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

A spring clean-up of the berm and foreshore was held on Tuesday, June 14th.

All photos ©Rand Rudland unless otherwise noted.

### **Yellow Flag Iris Removal**



June 30th saw a small but dedicated crew venture into the marsh to remove the flowering portions of the invasive Yellow Flag Iris. The crew used a small kayak to ferry the stems and flower shafts to the shore for collection in a trailer to be taken to a local burn facility that we have the OK to utilize for invasives removed in Halfmoon Bay.



## **Educational Activities – 2024**

### **1 - Botany Walk with Kye Goodwin – May 5th**

Kye Goodwin, our local botany expert, along with nine enthusiastic botany lovers, visited the Breadner Loop Trails. The rain held off just long enough for us to complete the 3km hike. Some of the species that were seen are presented below.

Hookedspur Violets (*Viola adunca*) were showing in good numbers on the roadside of Truman Road near the entrance to the trail system.







One of the few locations to find Few-flowered Clover (*Trifolium oliganthum*) is on the bare moss-covered areas of the hike.

We also had extended views of a Barred Owl during the hike.



## 2 – Birding on the Berm - May 26th

Tony Greenfield once again led our annual birding walk from the upper parking lot looking—and listening—for migrants as the spring moved into summer and the breeding season was fully underway. Both hummingbird species, two swallow species, two vireo species, three flycatcher species, a Great Horned Owl, four warbler species and the colourful Western Tanager all made an appearance. A total of 41 species were listed on eBird.



Great Horned Owl



Northern Rough-winged Swallow



Willow Flycatcher



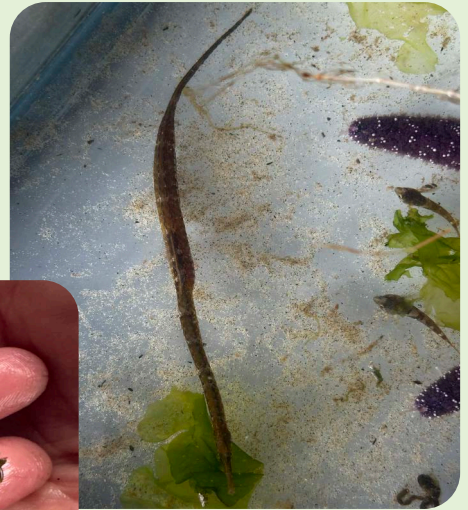
### 3 – Intertidal Exploration with Lee-Ann Ennis - Sunday, July 21st

Once again LeeAnn brought us another wonderful day of all things intertidal. Many species were located from the sands and rocky areas of the intertidal zone, a few examples are shown below.

Be sure to join us next summer and who knows what you might find.



Padded Sculpin



Kelp Pipefish



invasive European Green Crab



Northern Kelp Crab



Arrow Goby



Moonglow Anemone



#### 4 – Critter Dipping with Donna Giberson

Concurrent with the intertidal exploration, Donna, Professor Emerita in entomology and freshwater ecology from the U. of PEI, and Rand Rudland, brought their field microscopes to explore the wonders of the marsh environment looking for those species mainly only visible with microscopy. Species ranged from the microscopic amphipod Genus *Crangonyx* to the green algae *Spirogyra*, thought to be the closest living relative of land plants with origins in the Ordovician Period some 470 million years ago. A free-living bristleworm, a Nephthys's Sandworm species, was found in the intertidal area. Microscopic photos of representative species are shown below. We will do it all again next summer.



Donna showing a visitor a microscopic specimen taken from the freshwater marsh ecosystem.



*Crangonyx* sp.



Giant Water Bug species



*Simocephalus* sp. - a water flea



*Spirogyra*



Brown Water Scorpion



Nephthys's Sandworm -  
intertidal species



## Post and Kiosk Restaining/Repainting Time

The cedar posts and kiosk beams were showing their age due to wind, rain and sun exposure over the past 8 years or so. Nothing that a good sanding and coat of stain couldn't solve. They are nice and shiny again and ready for another 8 – 10 years.



## Park Users of Interest

On a fine sunny day I was visiting the Park in preparation for the new fish ladder installation procees and came across an activity that I had not seen in the Park previously. Carol-Anne Almquist, a local artist from Sechelt was busy honing her skills on the scenery from the foreshore near the lower parking lot. Check out her website [here](#).





## Out-of-Control Dogs

Once again the contentious issue of off-leash dogs on the berm raised its head this summer. Anyone who regularly hiked along the berm trail couldn't help but sense the dead animal on the foreshore. A third party account of an off-leash dog forcing a young deer into the ocean and



ultimately drowning the animal shows just how serious the dog issue has become.

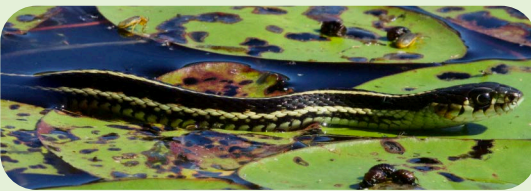
The Turkey Vultures eventually consumed most of the carcass, and the high tides removed the rest - and the stench - over a two week period.

## Garter Snakes of the Sunshine Coast (*Genus* *Thamnophis*)

We have three garter snake species on the SC (plus the very rare Northern Rubber Boa).



This very young 8" Wandering Garter Snake (*Thamnophis elegans vagrans*) was found near the new fish ladder during our recent berm cleanup. As you can see, this little guy is showing its teeth despite its small size.



The Common Garter Snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*) (left) is often found hunting in the water for fish, salamanders, tadpoles and large aquatic insects.

The slight mid-body bulge is the last meal being digested by this Northwestern Garter Snake (*Thamnophis ordinoides*) (right).





## Preparation for the Ladder Installation - July 16

In order to provide access to the fish ladder installation site, there needed to be a widening of the final fifty meters so the large excavator and dump trucks could navigate the berm. Calling for volunteers provided a dozen or so dedicated SBS members with rakes, clippers, trimmers and our new battery-powered Stihl Long-reach Hedge Trimmer that was purchased this summer from funds provided by a Grant-in-Aid from the SCRD (photo rt).

Jeff's truck was fully loaded by the end of three hours and the trail was widened enough to allow the large excavator (see next page) to pass.





## Fishladder installation update - Sept. 25



1 - Mike Husband bringing the Beaver Baffler for installation

After the #111 Special Edition News-letter directed specifically at the Fish Ladder installation, this update is for the Beaver Baffler (Beaver Deceiver to me), which is finally installed and operational. Now we will wait and see just how effective this new addition will be.



3 - Heavy concrete lock block being installed for the baffler to rest on.



2 - Jim and Dave preparing the level base for the lock block to rest on. The depth had to be within a few cms.



Jim Wilson in his dry suit positioning the pipe. Note the "oven-hood" end that prevents the beaver from blocking the bottom-positioned intake with mud, trees, sticks, etc.



Brandon Kirby (rt) from DFO Nanaimo joins Dave Key watching Jim Wilson (lt) bolt the Beaver Baffler in place.



## Berm Clean-up - Oct. 8.

Once again a group of hardy volunteers brought their pruners, hedge trimmers, rakes, pitch forks and boundless energy to clean up the berm trails of encroaching Nootka Rose and Himalayan Blackberries. Thanks to all the SBS members who continue to show why Halfmoon Bay is such a special community to live in. Thanks to you all!



The Perley crew clearing the view corridor approaching the new ladder and viewing platform.



© Dan Sklazeski

The corner entering the lower parking lot had been heavily overgrown and was obscuring traffic flow - not anymore!



We filled the BC Parks trailer plus another smaller trailer with invasive blackberries and Nootka Rose.



Nine of us - Sue, Dan, Chris, Jeff (red hat background), Peter (hiding), Denise, Mike, Dave & Rand (out of photo) - finished in 2.5 hours.

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](mailto:srgntbay.soc@gmail.com)

Contact us at 604-885-4642



A Big “Thank-you” to the following companies & organisations that contributed to the new ladder and viewing platform, and the pending final phase, the wheelchair-accessible pathway.

## MAJOR FUNDING



Fisheries and Oceans  
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