



Sargeant Bay Society
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Newsletter #113 - Spring 2025

Editor - Rand Rudland

SBS AGM, 2025

Date & time TBD. Email notification will be sent to the membership in the near future.

The 2025 Sargeant Bay Society AGM will be held in person at Cooper's Green Hall

All current members are invited to attend. Interested non-members are welcome but may not vote - unless they become members prior to the opening of the AGM.

Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Adoption of agenda
3. Adoption of 2024 minutes
4. Business arising
5. Reports
 - a. President's – Rand Rudland
 - b. Finance – Garry Paulson.
 - c. Membership Update
 - d. Salmon Update – Dave Spicer
 - e. Burgerjon Endowment update
 - f. SD 46 Bursary update
6. New business
 - a. Dates for educational activities
7. Election of directors
8. Adjournment

SBS SD 46 Bursary Committee Report

An \$800 SBS Bursary to be applied to tuition expenses will be offered once again for SD 46 graduating students with intention to enter one of the fields of Environmental Studies, Forestry, or Fisheries Biology. Success will be determined on the basis of financial need, academic standing and community involvement.

Applications are being considered at the present time.

[Application](#) period closes on May 12th at the latest for this bursary.

Berm Invasive Species and Trail Cleanup

A spring clean-up of the berm and foreshore was held on Wednesday, April 23rd.

Thanks to the many volunteers for their clearing of the trails and wetland access points for us all to enjoy.

Yellow Flag Iris Removal - June 3rd - 0900 - 1200 hrs.

Join committed volunteers in our attempt to control the highly invasive Yellow Flag Iris threatening the wetlands behind the berm in the Park. This will involve wading in the marsh, cutting the plants as low as possible, and transporting the debris to shore in small kayaks for removal to our burn site. Some use high waders, others only shorts or long pants. You will need either a hand-held small saw blade, or a knife to cut the plants. Gloves are suggested as some people react to the chemicals produced in the stem of these plants.



Educational Activities – 2025

1 - Botany Walk with Kye Goodwin – May 18th, 0900 hrs - Smuggler Cove Marine Park

Kye Goodwin, our local botany expert, will lead our annual botany walk, this time into Smuggler Cove Marine Park. Meet at the Smuggler Cove Park main parking lot at the end of Brooks Road.

This is considered a moderate hike, so good foot wear is important. Also water to drink. There is one toilet at the parking lot only.

2 – Birding on the Berm - May 25th, 0900 Sargeant Bay Provincial Park

Tony Greenfield will once again 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 is fully underway.

Meet at the upper parking lot where we will start by listening for warblers, flycatchers, nuthatches, woodpeckers We will then make our way down to the waterfront to scan for seabirds, and finish off by strolling along the berm hoping for vocalizations of the secretive Virginia Rail and fly-bys of our three species of swallows if we are lucky. By this time we may be able to get a look at juvenile Bald Eagle nestling(s) in the newly constructed nest high up in a fir tree behind the marsh.

3 – Intertidal Exploration with Lee-Ann Ennis - Saturday, Aug. 9th 1:30 - 4:30

Join the Sargeant Bay Society and LeeAnne Ennis in exploring the wonders of the intertidal foreshore of Sargeant Bay Provincial Park.

Search the sands, seaweeds and rocky outcrops for marine invertebrates, fish, seastars,

and many more. Bring them up to the wet tanks for LeeAnn to identify before returning them to their home.



4 – Critter Dipping with Dr. Donna Giberson - Saturday, Aug. 9th 1:30 - 4:30

Following on last years successful introduction to the freshwater microscopic world, Donna will once again bring her field microscopes and examine samples of the freshwater environment found in the wetland and lake behind the berm. Donna is Professor Emerita in entomology and freshwater ecology from the U. of PEI.

Look for intriguing species like the voracious dragonfly and damselfly larvae, water fleas, water scorpions and green algae *Spirogyra*, to name a few.



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

Joop & Jessie Burgerjon Endowment Update

This Endowment was established with the [Sunshine Coast Foundation](#) to honour the contributions of Joop and Jesse in the formation of the Sargeant Bay Provincial Park. Without their tireless work in the early days of the Sargeant Bay Society we would not be able to enjoy the natural beauty of this Park today.

As of April 15th 2025, the total contributed capital amounted to \$26,000. Adding in retained earnings, the Fund balance is now \$28,860.

With a 2025 disbursement of \$1,320, this brings the total to \$7,388 disbursements to date. Continued donations will further increase the value of the Fund over time, and will result in higher disbursements. [Donations](#) may be made at any time, and are always welcomed.

Funds generated from this Endowment go towards Society projects in the parks, as well as the bursary to SD #46 graduating students.

New Bald Eagle Nest in the Park - Dave Spicer - photos ©Robyn Rietze

Last November some visitors to the park saw a pair of Bald Eagles carrying sticks to make a new nest on the backside of the lake at Sargeant Bay. It is quite easy to spot the nest now as it is in unique shaped tree that has a cradle shape with the nest in the middle. As of late April it seems the Eagles



have now laid some eggs and are spending quite a bit of time in the nest. This will be exciting to see how this goes and hopefully some fledging young Eagles later this summer. Locally it has been found that Eagle chick usually hatch around May 1st (give or take a week), and first flight is July 25th give or take a week. Local photographer Robyn Ri-

etze has been capturing some great bird photos at the park lately..of this Eagle pair and other birds. Here are a few great photos of some of the birds of Sargeant Bay. Of note is that one of the Eagles has a damaged eye. It was noted by Robyn that she had taken photos of this Eagle for a few years before on the coast as this made the Eagle quite identifiable, but this is the first time this pair has nested in this tree in the park.



Tumpeter Swans (TRUS)
©R. Rowberry

4 – Salmon Report 2024 Summary - Dave Spicer

Last fall was a very interesting time for the Sargeant Bay Streamkeeper volunteers as it was our first opportunity to see how the newly installed fish ladder at the Park was functioning. We are happy to report that there was the second highest return of Coho and Chum salmon in the 35 years of salmon monitoring. So this shows that the new water pipe intake and the more efficient slope/ design of the ladder are contributing to easier access to Colvin Lake and Colvin creek for the spawning salmon. We hope to see the salmon numbers naturally increase in the next few years. For 2025 we also are waiting to see if perhaps we have Pink salmon return to Sargeant Bay. In past years the fish ladder was closed due to low water levels in summer and beaver activity, but the new underwater outflow pipe may allow Pinks to access the lake and creek now during late summer.

In late March dozens of Coho fry were seen along the edge of the lake and at the top of the fish ladder. This is not something we normally see, so we hope this is an indication of good survival of juvenile coho over the winter. Coho usually stay in the freshwater system for 1 year before going out to the ocean. The Coho that were seen in March were just 3-4 cm but are already growing quickly. The Sargeant Bay Streamkeepers, Jeff Muckle, Rick Walters, Jim Quirk, Richard & Ilene Rowberry, Peter Bogardus and myself, will continue to maintain the fish ladder and monitor/count salmon for this coming fall. We are always looking for more volunteers to help with salmon monitoring so please reach out by email (srgntbay.soc@gmail.com) if you may have some time in the fall.



Coho fry - ©D. Spicer



Great Blue Heron (GBHE) ©R. Rietze



Anna's Hummingbird(ANHU) ©R. Rietze

Upcoming Events of Interest - come visit the SBS booth at this popular SC event



Join us at
Chapman Creek Hatchery

4381 Parkway Drive, Sechelt, BC,
(off Sunshine Coast Hwy on to Field Road, 950 metres to
Parkway Drive then down the dirt road)

Salmon Release Festival

Saturday, May 17, 2025

11:00 am – 3 pm

A Family & Community Day & Salmon Release Day

FREE Admission FREE Parking

Schedule for the Day

Opening Ceremony

Shishálh Nation will be opening the festival and providing a blessing to the salmon

Release of young Salmon –

Children and adults will assist and release young Coho Salmon into Chapman Creek

Other Activities

- **Arts and Crafts**
- **Archery Demonstration**
- **Scavenger Hunt**
- **Fly Tying and Casting Demonstrations by Sean Van “The Fish Whisperer”, Jim Verret, John Gibson and Tall Paul**
- **Food concession**
- **And much more.....**

Also Attending:

SC Arts Council, SC Community Forest, Butterfly Rangers, Rotary Club, Conservation Officers, Bear Alliance, Roberts Creek Fire Fighters, BC Wildfire Service, SCRD FireSmart and many more.....