



Sargeant Bay Society
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Newsletter #114 - Fall 2025

Editor - Rand Rudland

SBS AGM, June 17th 2025

The SBS AGM for 2025 was held by Zoom and the following Directors were elected, and their positions as determined at a subsequent Directors Meeting are as follows:

Rand Rudland, pres
Tony Greenfield, vice-pres.
Garry Paulson, treasurer
Maggie Marsh, secretary
Heather Newman, Facebook co-ordination
Dave Spicer, fisheries-related issues
Wendy Griffin, website co-ordination
Jeff Muckle, trails maintenance
Rick Walters, trails maintenance co-ordinator
Richard Rowberry - Director-at-large

SBS SD 46 Bursary Committee Report

An \$800 SBS Bursary to be applied to tuition expenses was awarded to Jeremy Willhelm for his upcoming attendance at UBC Okanagan campus. We congratulate Jeremy, and look forward to following his progress through his higher education endeavours. Next year we will be providing a \$1000 bursary to SD #46.

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 approaching \$30,000..

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.

Berm Invasive Species and Trail Cleanup

A fall clean-up of the berm and foreshore was held on October 21st.

Thanks to the many volunteers for their clearing of the trails and wetland access points for us all to enjoy. We also cleared the area around the upper beaver dam to ensure unfettered access for the salmon entering the upper pond and into Colvin Creek.

Yellow Flag Iris Removal - June 3rd

A group of committed volunteers had another attempt to control the highly invasive Yellow Flag Iris threatening the wetlands behind the berm in the Park. Seed pods from the main infestation in the marsh numbered 2,350 - yes they counted them all - and 29 from the smaller infestation in Colvin Lake on the island.

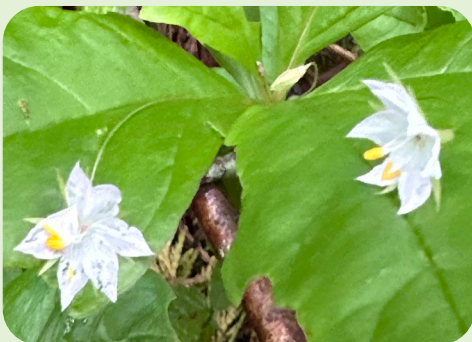
Thanks to Jeff Muckle for co-ordinating this event.



Educational Activities – 2025

Botany Walk with Kye Goodwin – May 18th - Smuggler Cove Marine Park

Kye Goodwin, our local botany expert, led our annual botany walk, this time into Smuggler Cove Marine Park. The weather co-operated, and an excellent variety of plants, mosses and fungi were identified. Here are a few examples.



Western Starflower



Fuzzy-horned Bumble Bee



Giant Blue-eyed Mary

Not to be left out a snake and a snail were out as well.



Puget Sound Garter Snake



Pacific Sideband (snail)

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

Tony Greenfield will once again led our annual birding walk from the upper parking lot looking—and listening—for migrants as the spring migration season began in earnest. We

saw a total of 29 species. For John Hodge's complete birdlist, go [here](#).



Numerous warblers, flycatchers, nut-hatches, woodpeckers made an appearance. The Virginia Rail responded to minimal calling. The Bald Eagle nestling(s) in the newly constructed nest high up in a Douglas-fir tree behind the marsh were not visible, but the adults were either on or perched near the nest.



MacGillivray's Warbler (m)



A baby-blue American Robin's egg - spring is in full swing



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

Once again the weather co-operated for the Sargeant Bay Society, LeeAnne Ennis and Donna Giberson for another exploration of the macro- and microscopic wonders of the intertidal foreshore and freshwater marsh of Sargeant Bay Provincial Park.

Here is a sampling of some of the 30+ species that were collected, identified and returned to their native habitat.



Northern Kelp Crab



Some of the estimated 125 attendees



Nuttall's Cockle



Plainfin Midshipman

Some Interesting Web Articles/Events

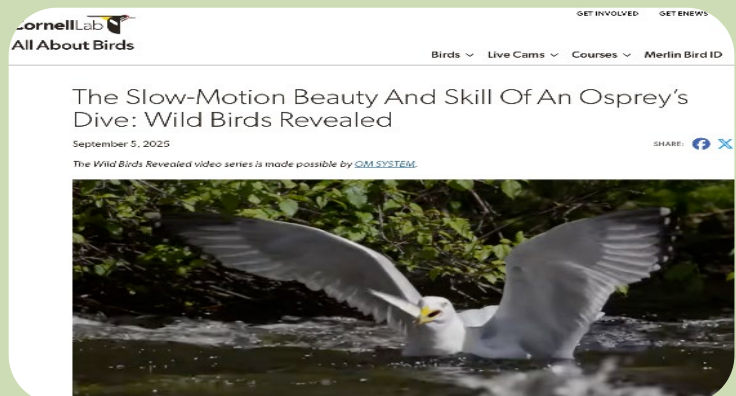
Michael Jackson sends along this interesting [link](#) on how bird migration is changing in light of climate change.



The Loon Foundation is sponsoring another [coast-wide bioblitz](#). This is a great opportunity to get out and learn about nature, and at the same time there will be an opportunity to learn more about the iNaturalist app. Come and visit my "iNaturalist Ambassador" table on Nov. 8th at the Earthfare Store. Sign up [in advance](#) for one of the mini-workshops led by local volunteers.



This Cornell Lab [link](#) has some amazing video photography of Osprey, swallows, and Atlantic Puffins in "Wild Birds Revealed".



Invasive Plant Species #3

The “Thistles”

Rand Rudland



Canada Thistle stems lack spines, have many branches, and carry alternate leaves with spines.

Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) is sometimes known as California Thistle in North America, but by Creeping Thistle in it's native Europe, northern Africa and western Asia. This plant is another major threat to native plant species and is considered a “noxious weed” in Canada and many other countries. The perennial grows vigorously from creeping roots and can out-compete many of our native grasses and shrubs.

There is a [native insect larva](#) of the Canada Thistle Seed Fly that feeds exclusively on the fertile seed heads in Europe, Asia etc, and is present in low density in the Americas. There are a few iNaturalist records in BC, all on Vancouver Island.

Bull Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), also called Spear Thistle, is another invader from the Eurasian and African continents. This is a biennial, although sometimes will flower in the first year.



Bull Thistle has a winged stem with spines along the length of the stem. Leaves are heavily spined with deep lobes. Taproot & basal leaves develop in year 1, flowering stem in year 2.

Both are spread primarily by aerial seeding, with each plant producing up to 1500 seeds. Seeds are available also for bird transfer, or by becoming attached to hikers clothing, or by animals rubbing against mature plants. Local spreading of Canada Thistle is facilitated by their extensive thick root system.

Control

Control is best achieved by repetitive cutting of the flower stalks (Bull Thistle) prior to the flower buds opening. This process will eventually ‘wear down’ the plants’ energy reserves. The other option is to attempt to dig up the root structures (Canada Thistle) every year, but this is a very energy-consuming process.

Update on New Butterfly Species for the Sunshine Coast Rand Rudland

Since Tony Greenfield and I published the second edition of Butterflies of the Sunshine Coast in 2022, there have been some exciting additions to the butterfly list. Here are the five new species in chronological order. Our SC total is now 45.

June, 2023 and June 2024, Monarch:

Sheryl McDougald in Roberts Creek photographed this mega-rarity from her deck. I spent a few hours unsuccessfully trying to relocate this one. John Hodges, while out birding in Sechelt, also photographed a Monarch in 2024.

Dependant upon Milkweed as a larval food plant, the Sunshine Coast sightings can only be considered an error in navigation. There are only a handful of records west of the Coast Range, with the majority of sightings coming from the Okanagan before the adults head south for the winter.

August, 2024, Tetrahedron PP - Anicia Checkerspot:

Arnold Skei photographed this individual about 100m from the peak of Mt. Steele in the Tetrahedron. Another species that is generally restricted to east of the Coast Range. Can be found from lower to upper elevations.

Sept, 2024, Stalashen Drive - Orange Sulphur:

Arnold Skei photographed this butterfly that is one of our migrant species and does not overwinter in BC. Another species that is only rarely found west of the Coast Range.

August 2025, Dakota Ridge access road - Western Sulphur:

Tony, myself and Eric Habisch found this single individual at the junction of the Dakota ski area road and the gas pipeline. More common on Vancouver Island than elsewhere in B.C., with only a few records east of the Coast Range.

Sept. 2025. Ouillet FSR, Port Mellon - American Lady:

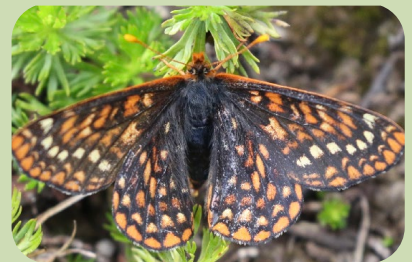
With only 5 mainland BC records showing on iNaturalist, and ten on Vancouver Island, this is another mega-rarity. Another migrant to add to our growing list on the Sunshine Coast.

Thanks to all the avid observers and photographers that keep adding to our knowledge of the great biodiversity on the Sunshine Coast.



Monarch
Danaus plexippus

©S. McDougald



Anicia Checkerspot
Euphydryas anicia

©A. Skei



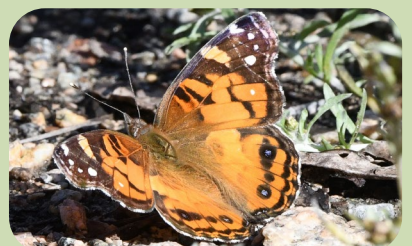
Orange Sulphur
Colias eurytheme

©A. Skei



Western Sulphur
Colias occidentalis

©R. Rudland



American Lady
Vanessa virginiensis

©K. Holland

Update on New Dragonfly and Damselfly Species for the Sunshine Coast

Rand Rudland

When I first published the “Odonates of the Sunshine Coast” there had been 40 species seen and/or photographed on the Sunshine Coast. Fast forward 6 years and today that number has risen to 47. Here is a summary of the new additions.

Emerald Spreadwing:

A single sighting of this small damselfly at Rick’s Pond near Phare Lake in July 2022. Known from northern Mexico to Alaska, as well as Europe and Asia in an holarctic distribution. Thorax and abdomen metallic green, front of thorax emerald green.



Emerald Spreadwing
Lestes dryas

Black Petaltail:

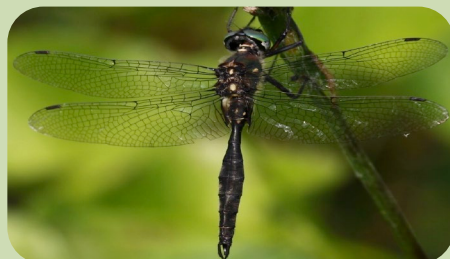
A single sighting in August 2022 above the day lodge on Dakota Ridge Ski Area, this is a “vulnerable” species with a narrow range from Whistler B.C., south to central California, and west of the Coast Range. Distinctive yellow face and yellow markings on thorax and abdomen on an otherwise black background makes for an accurate ID even in the field.



Black Petaltail
Tanypteryx hageni

Ocellated Emerald:

Two sightings on the SC, one on the FSR below Dakota Bowl and one on the small ponds above the Day Lodge in the Dakota Ridge Ski Area in August 2021. A mostly Canadian species from NL to BC, except Nunavut, with a few records in Alaska and northern tier US states. Face metallic green with dull yellow-brown on sides. Two pale yellow oval spots on each side of metallic green and brown thorax.



Ocellated Emerald
Somatochlora minor

Delicate Emerald:

A single sighting in mid-September in Dakota Bowl. Rescued by Arnold and I when we saw this individual “swimming” in a pond. A mostly Canadian species from NL to BC, except Nunavut, with a few records in Alaska and northern tier US states. Brown at wing bases, face black with yellow on sides. Thorax metallic green mixed with brown, dull yellowish spot under forewing.



Delicate Emerald
Somatochlora franklini

©R. Rudland

©A. Skei

©A. Skei

©R. Rudland

Brush-tipped Emerald:

8 records, mostly at mid-elevation, from Dakota Bowl ponds, Mt. Richardson Road ponds, and Lyndevy Lake in HMB. Readily ID'd by distinctly brushy appendages on conspicuously clubbed abdomen.



Brush-tipped Emerald
Somatochlora walshii

Black Meadowhawk:

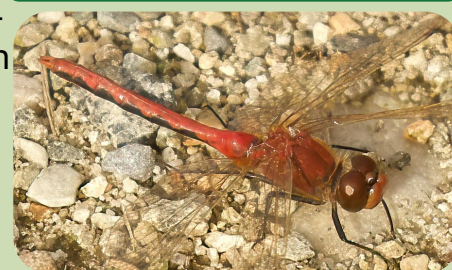
15 observations from July to October 2020-23 from Rick's Pond in HMB, Dakota Bowl, powerline above Sechelt Airport and Wilson Creek estuary area. Male entirely black/dark brown from face to appendages. Coast-to-coast distribution in North America and across Europe and Asia .



Black Meadowhawk
Sympetrum danae

Cherry-faced Meadowhawk:

35 observations from August to October, middle to lower elevations from Gibsons to Garden Bay. Distinguishable by cherry-red face, coloured basal veins on wings, and black legs. Coast-to-coast distribution in North America.



Cherry-faced Meadowhawk
Sympetrum internum

In addition to the new species we have added to the odonate list for the Sunshine Coast, there are 2 species that were known to inhabit this area but had never been photographed here by local photographers.

Spiny Baskettail:

I knew that this species reproduced in Ambrose Lake Ecological Reserve, but I had only been able to find the egg masses, until Arnold located an adult on top of Pender Hill in July 2021. Coast-to-coast mid-latitudes North America.



Spiny Baskettail
Somatochlora minor

Dot-tailed Whiteface:

I had seen this species on the powerline ponds between Trout Lake and West Sechelt in 2015, but it had not been photographed until Arnold found one at the HMB Powerline Beaver Ponds, July 2023. Distinctive yellow dot on dorsal mid-abdomen.



Dot-tailed Whiteface
Leucorrhinia intacta

Check out this link to the SC iNaturalist project:

<https://inaturalist.ca/projects/dragonflies-and-damselflies-of-the-sunshine-coast-bc-canada>