



Volume 11 Issue 5 The Chilliwack Field Naturalists November 2006

- CFN 2005-6 EXECUTIVE

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FBCN REPORT re: Fall Meeting

– Sept 28 – Oct 1/06 hosted by
Burke Mountain Naturalist Club in Port Coquitlam.

For the early risers, Friday morning birding was at Burnaby Lake in the fog – not so easy to see the birds, but what a good place to see wood ducks. We also saw a few shorebirds, a pipit, and a grebe,

as well as the usual mallards and geese. After Friday morning introductions we had a couple of presentations on Colony Farms, the return of the purple martins, and an address by the Environmental Manager for Port Moody. This



is an environmentally friendly city with bans on certain pesticides and herbicides and much native landscaping. We were impressed.

Field trips in the afternoon were offered to Colony Farms, Maple Flats, and - most popular-a boat trip thro' the Burrard Inlet.

Saturday was a combination of meetings all day for some, or an am field trip to the Riverview Arboretum and an afternoon general meeting.

The finances were explained, with a view to reducing the capital to allow the FBCN to become more eligible for grants. Approximately 20% of the members responded to the survey, which pleased Jeremy.

The FBCN office may elocate to Richmond.

The FBCN has a sub-title name of "BC Nature" and



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there was discussion on what the logo should be. "Concept Design" in Prince George will be contacted for some draft ideas.

Some information on the Mt. Pine Beetle was distributed and The FBCN has indicated support for replanting or re-forestation.

For the past few years the FBCN has funded park interpreters in the summer program in a number of BC Parks. For the next year the decision may be to fund the training module and let Conservation Core Youth take care of the hiring. There has been a closer relationship recently with Parks and the regional MOE, which will hopefully continue.

A call for Ecological Reserve Wardens has been requested, with links to someone in each Naturalist club, who would be a contact person for bird sightings.

The Canadian Nature Network is planning a survey of Naturalist Clubs throughout Canada.

The evening speaker was Michael Church and his presentation was on the Fraser River.

We have a copy of the FBCN Fall report for anyone who wishes to read it

Helen Turner – FBCN Director

MEETINGS

September 19th/ 2006

Brian Walton

Due to renovations in the school library, our meeting was relocated to the cafeteria – resulting in a bit of temporary confusion.

Our guest speaker showed his excellent videos: "Wildflowers of the Cascades" as aired on his Shaw Cable series. He also included a program he had produced for the Knowledge Network on the same topic.

Marlene was away, so Roy was in charge of the refreshments assisted by Annabelle. Roy produced a delectable tray of goodies – "home made" of course (we hope he will share some of his recipes). Thirty members enjoyed a successful evening.

Hazel Cannings

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October 17th/ 2006

Kelly Pearce

Hope Mountain School is working toward becoming a "base camp for wilderness exploration." It offers guided trips, combined with teaching the human and natural history of the area being explored. At present, the focus is on the Fraser River.



Kelly, biologist and naturalist, described enthusiastically the recent trips and plans for future excursions. Some of our members have already benefited from Kelly's expertise and leadership skills at this summer's Alpine

Meadow adventure. Kelly enhanced his talk with lovely "eye candy" slides of flowers and vistas in Manning Park, as he described its 5 geo-climactic zones, and gave us information (and a photo) of the destructive pine beetle.

We look forward to continuing our positive connection with Hope Mountain School.

BOOK REVIEWS

Butterflies of British Columbia by J. Acorn and I Sheldon, 2006,- field guide published by Lone Pine Publishing

The *Butterflies of British Columbia* is a handy less technical field guide for beginner butterfly enthusiasts. To date, it is the first field guide to



cover the entire province of BC. Other field guides such as *The Butterflies of Cascadia* (2002) by R. Pyle cover only the southern portion of the province.

Until the publishing of this field guide, the only other specific resource referring only to BC butterflies was a large illustrated and comprehensive text, *Butterflies of British Columbia*, (2001) by C. Guppy and J. Shepard (414pp).

Prior to the discussion of the merits of this new field guide, readers should understand that each field guide and text on butterflies uses different yet



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similar terminology (from technical to common) to described identifying features on a butterfly's wings. The *Butterflies of British Columbia* field guide (360pp) has attempted to use 'plain English' to describe the markings on the wings. If you own more than one field guide on butterflies or want to check a question on identification with the more comprehensive text by C. Guppy and J. Shepard, you will find yourself having to refer to more scientific terminology. This terminology switch between the various field guides and texts can be confusing for the beginner. In addition, unlike bird species, the common names of butterflies are not standardized and you will find that various field guides and texts use several different common names for one species. In the *Butterflies of British Columbia* field guide, the authors have not tried to standardize their common names with the more comprehensive text by C. Guppy and J. Shepard (2001).

The feature I like most in the *Butterflies of British Columbia* field guide is the quick picture reference guide of species, with size and page reference, at the very front of the book. As you go through the field guide you will find that each species will have mainly hand drawn illustrations, descriptions, range maps, caterpillar food, habitat and flight season information, in addition to small insert drawings of similar species to aid in identification. The field guide contains informative information on butterfly biology and entertaining anecdotes on the species. One failure of the field guide revolves around wing pattern features on worn specimens, geographic variations, and variation between spring and summer broods in species such as the Marginated white. The lack of illustrations or discussion in regards to these differences can lead you to think you have discovered a butterfly that does not exist in the field guide or to misidentify your specimen. But as the authors state, you will likely want to own more than one field guide or text if you get caught up in the love of identifying butterflies. In fact, when it comes to harder to identify species or pattern variations, you will find it a necessity to refer to a more comprehensive text such as the *Butterflies of British Columbia* by C. Guppy and J. Shepard (2001).

So next butterfly season, whether in your garden or travelling, make sure you have this field guide in hand as you embark upon a new journey of discovery within our province to seek out the *Butterflies of British Columbia*.

Lee Larkin

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Wildlife & Trees in British Columbia

By Fenger, Manning, Cooper, Guy, and Bradford

This book imparts an amazing amount of information about what goes on in the bushes. Even those to whom "the outdoors" means the shortest possible route to Starbucks will find this book interesting and readable. Those with some (or even a lot) of knowledge of the outdoors will find it a to be a great reference book.



Birds and mammals are listed under their nesting habits. Some of us do not know that some ducks nest in trees, or where bats and flying squirrels hang out. Lots of good stuff and a wide variety of topics are neatly interwoven with the way each aspect of the forests and grasslands have an impact on something. And often, how man can help or hinder, preserve or destroy.

The 336-page volume is sprinkled with great photos, maps, charts, and sketches. It is an easy read, and at \$29.95, a good value, and pretty safe for gift giving.

Helen Peterson

Note: CFN members may purchase a copy at our December Potluck Supper, at a reduced price.

FIELD TRIPS

1. Sunshine Valley, Sunday, September 17th, 2006.

What a difference a week can make! That's what a dozen CFN members were muttering as they wended their way up to Neil Grainger's cabin in Sunshine Valley, just east of the Hope Slide area, on a cool autumn day in September. Only days ago we had been sweltering in summer temperatures hot enough to make a hike in a forest or a swim in a lake feel good! But the weather changed mid-week,



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snow had fallen on local mountain peaks, and fall was in the air.

Neil, and his wife June, led a convoy of three vehicles up the forest road beyond the scattering of homes and cabins that make up the unincorporated village of Sunshine Valley, and opened the locked gate allowing access to cabins in the once-active Sumallo ski area. We all parked in a rough area amid trees, and set off up a trail for his rustic cabin.... but where was it? Well hidden, it turned out, in a conifer grove, but well placed for views of Brown Mountain, named for a war veteran some years earlier. But Brown mountain was more white than brown on this day, and we were all well aware that we really did need jackets at this altitude of roughly 4,000 ft.

A brisk walk to the inoperative ski lodge warmed us up, and provided views and points of interest. Some members found a black raspberry bush, and some one-sided wintergreen and pipsissewa (also known as Prince's Pine) plants, while red paintbrush flowers were still in full bloom beside pearly everlastings – the drop in temperatures had not got to them yet. There were wild strawberry plants in many places (though the fruit was all gone) and the flora and fauna reminded me of some parts of the Strawberry Flats trail in Manning Park, which is of course at a similar height. Spruce and pine trees looked healthy, and views of the ridge at the head of the valley were impressive.

In the meantime, Neil and June had started a log fire in their wood stove and kettles were boiling for mugs of tea...much appreciated, as we sat in their cosy cabin to eat our lunches. The food and company were also appreciated by a cheeky gray jay, which flew to his tree branch overlooking the balcony the moment we arrived, clearly expecting his usual round of seeds from human friends.

Luckily, the day stayed fine, and we all enjoyed this unusual outing – an easy drive up the highway from Chilliwack or Harrison – thanks to the kind hospitality of the Graingers. Same time next year?

Elizabeth Scotson

2. CULTUS LAKE Tuesday, October 17th, 2006

Five of our members attended a Public Forum on the Sockeye Salmon Recovery program, at the Cultus Lake Community Hall. The afternoon outing was extremely interesting as we observed part of

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the life cycle of Sockeye Salmon as they traveled through the counting fence on Sweltzer Creek. Evidently 3500 sockeye have passed through the fence to date.

As we watched the salmon (and later the colored slides), the life cycle was explained and we could ask questions of our knowledgeable and helpful host. The weather was perfect; the sun was



Sweltzer Creek

shining. If this event is held again it is well worth attending.

Nora Mitchell

3. CHILLIWACK RIVER TRAILS Saturday, October 21st

Twelve naturalists met Brian Walton at Paulson and



Brian Walton with the CNF group

Chilliwack Lake Road. Brian led the group through the Yukalaup side channel and the Post Creek area. All along the way he informed us about the flora and fauna of the area. He explained that because it was transition or crossover time for the birds, they were not plentiful. We did see salmon in the clear water



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of Post Creek and were entertained as Brian fed his pet Douglas squirrels and one red squirrel. The



Post Creek

Cool, clear air and beautiful pristine forest made this outing most enjoyable.

A CAMP RIVER afternoon... October 14th/06

I decided to take some photos at the Kournosoff property this fall, having heard rumors of big changes – a couple of large “ponds” surrounded by new plantings; a bulldozed path right through the pesky blackberries alongside the slough; and some small rhododendrons in place behind the Cairn. Lee and Denis have been busy organizing and supervising these developments. Lee warned me that I would have to climb a fence to access the Kournosoff property, so I persuaded one of our hardy club members to accompany me (along with her kitchen stool).

Here are the photos:



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Up and Over



Down the path



View of two ponds





there was water



Someone was here



View of the Slough



Rhododendrons behind the Cairn

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Rhododendrons behind the Cairn

What's Next?? **Camp River Coffee Cutters**

Hi all,

Thanks for the support at the last planting at Camp River Wildlife Area. Since the planting we have had a mulching machine (they donated one full day) into the site removing the blackberries. Denis also spent a day with our tractor brushing blackberry patches in the field. The difference is amazing!

The first Saturday of each month is ear marked for a one hour clean-up at Camp River from 9-10am. Today, the rain held off and we were able to work away at the blackberries nearest the cairn. We then strolled through the property and saw that the newly dug ponds are filling with water! We also saw several coyotes and bunnies dashing about and a northern shrike sitting on one of the bird boxes. Afterwards, it was a warm cup of coffee at Tim Horton's. Hope to see you armed with your clippers and shears again at 9am on December 2nd!

Lee Larkin

This 'n That

1. Apology: the editor regrets the date error on the announcement page in the September Heron Herald re: the Cheam Lake Field Trip. We knew we weren't perfect!
2. Lee tells us that things at the Camp River Wildlife Area are getting better all the time. Since the article on page 5 was written, a mulching machine has been in to scoop up most of those blackberry bushes. Do consider joining the Coffee Cutters for their work sessions - first Saturday morning of each month.
3. Your executive has appointed a steering committee of two (Janne and Helen T.) to check out accommodation and banquet facilities in Harrison. Our club is planning to host the FBCN fall meeting, which will take place at the end of September in 2007.
4. Plan to join us for our annual Christmas Bird Count – details below. The Potluck Supper will again be held at Hazel's clubhouse – corner of Knight and Evans, Gate #3. We will enjoy Christmas music, games, and good food with our naturalist friends.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE CALL OUR CO-ORDINATOR HAZEL FOR QUESTIONS RE: FIELD TRIPS

Date	Time	Event	Location	Details	Contact
Sat. & Sunday November 25 th & 26 th	N/A	Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival		<i>Note:</i> A bald eagle will be released on Nov. 22 nd at 11am at the Fraser River (GVRD Matsqui Trail Park)	fraservalleybald eaglefestival.ca (604-220-3455) Janne 796-9182
Saturday, Dec. 2 nd	9am	Coffee Cutters (work session)	Camp River - at the Cairn	Bring your clippers or shears	Lee 858-5141
Tuesday December 12 th	7pm	Pre-Bird Count	Chilliwack Public Library	Registration and designation of counting areas	Janne 796-9182
Saturday December 16th 	6pm-	All day Christmas Bird Count & Pot Luck Supper	Cottonwood Retirement Centre Club House (Call Hazel for directions to Gate #3)	Bring your potluck offering  Dishes and beverage provided	Hazel 858-0803
Saturday, January 6 th	9am	Coffee Cutters (work session)	Camp River - at the Cairn	Bring your clippers or shears	Lee 858-5141
Tuesday January 16 th 2007	7:30 pm	Regular Meeting	Vedder Middle School	Silent Auction (begin to collect your items for sale)	Janne 796-9182
Saturday January 20 th	11 am	Field Trip	Minter's Country Garden Parking Lot	Our annual walk on the Hope River Trail (lunch at Minter's)	Hazel 858-0803

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