



# THE OSPREY

Newsletter of the  
West Kootenay Naturalists' Association

1054 Bridgeview Cr, Castlegar BC V1N 4L1  
vol 37, no 3 November 2010 – February, 2011



"Coyote Rock" and Lower Bonnington Falls

c. Margo Saunders

Member address label  
HERE

## GENERAL MEETINGS

Meetings are held on the last Monday of each month, 7:00 pm, *except as noted*. Check newsletter for each month's venue. **Changes may be mentioned at meetings, and/or in your local newspaper.** Beverages will *not* be available at Nelson meetings until someone steps forward to handle this task. Venues for '10/'11: Sept – Trail, Oct – potluck always in Robson Hall, 6 pm. BYO dishes, cutlery, etc, Nov – Trail, Jan – Castlegar, February dinner – Castlegar, March -- Nelson, April – Robson, May -- Nelson. For June annual picnic venue, see appropriate Field Trip Schedule. No meetings in July, August, or December. **“The Osprey” is distributed at September, January, and May meetings. Please attend to pick yours up or ask a friend** to also request yours, unless you are receiving it by email. Saving postage keeps costs down and dues stable.

## WKNA OFFICERS 2010-11

### **ELECTED:**

PRESIDENT	Brent Hancock	250-304-6840 <a href="mailto:bthancock@shaw.ca">bthancock@shaw.ca</a>
VICE-PRESIDENT	Arnold By	250-368-3068
PAST PRESIDENT	Joan Snyder	250-226-0012
RECORDING SECRETARY	Linda Szymkowiak	250-362-7107
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY	Felicity Ross	250-367-9179 <a href="mailto:dfrossbc@telus.net">dfrossbc@telus.net</a>
TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP	Esther Brown	250-368-3663 <a href="mailto:estherbrown@shaw.ca">estherbrown@shaw.ca</a>

### **APPOINTED:**

AREA REPRESENTATIVES:		
CASTLEGAR/SLOCAN VALLEY	Marg Webster	250-365-2572
	Mary Martin	250-365-3827
TRAIL & AREA	Pamela Wik	250-368-3378
NELSON/SALMO/KASLO	<b>vacant</b>	
SUNSHINE COMMITTEE	Pamela Wik	250-368-3385
BC NATURE DIRECTOR (WKNA)	Joan Snyder	250-226-0012
ARCHIVIST	Mary Martin	250-365-3827
NEWSLETTER EDITOR }	Margo Saunders	250-693-2229
JUMBO WILD CONTACT }		<a href="mailto:penandpaddle@gmail.com">penandpaddle@gmail.com</a>
FIELD TRIP DIRECTORS	Audrey Mann, Rossland, Trail & areas	250-362-9465
	(Nell Plotnikoff, Slocan/Nelson)	250-359-7406
	(John Golik, Slocan/Nelson)	250-359-7278
	Hazel Beynon, Castlegar	250-365-7806
	Webb Webster, Castlegar	250-365-2572
PRESENTATION COORDINATOR	Michael McMann	250-365-5647

### **SECTION CONTACTS AND COMMITTEE HEADS:**

BIRDING	Ed Beynon	250-365-7806
ENERGYCONSERVATION	Shirley Coffin	250-364-0339 <a href="mailto:sicoffin@shaw.ca">sicoffin@shaw.ca</a>
BIRD COUNTS: Bird Studies Canada, WKNA, Christmas and Summer	<b>vacant</b>	
BLUEBIRDS	<b>vacant</b>	
BUTTERFLIES	Rita Wege	250-359-7234
INJURED BIRDS/ANIMALS	Carol Pettigrew (birds)	250-365-3701
	Helen Jameson, Blewett (animals)	250-352-2356
	Carolyn Amantea	250-368-5365
INVASIVE PLANTS	<b>vacant</b>	
RIVERS DAY (National)	<b>vacant</b>	
RIVERS DAY (Provincial)	<b>vacant</b>	
VIOLIN LAKE STAKEHOLDERS	Margo Saunders	250-693-2229
WEBSITE, KOOTENAY REGIONAL	Kevin MacAskill	250-825-2245
	Arnold By	250-368-3068

## JOIN/RENEW MEMBERSHIP IN WEST KOOTENAY NATURALISTS' ASSOCIATION

Circle one and enclose cheque for this amount:      Single \$30      Family \$46      Local \$16 \*(ask FMI)  
Membership covers 2011 calendar year

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (10 digits) \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive "The Osprey" in    \_\_\_ hard copy    \_\_\_ email    format    (choose **one**)

**Suggestions for outings, speakers, projects, improvements to the Club:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please send this in NOW while it is fresh in your mind!**  
**Mail to: 1054 Bridgeview Crescent, Castlegar BC V1N 4L1**  
**To be eligible to win a 2012 Single membership (prize value \$30)**  
**Your membership must be paid BY January 9, 2011**

### **\*\*JUST A REMINDER \*\***

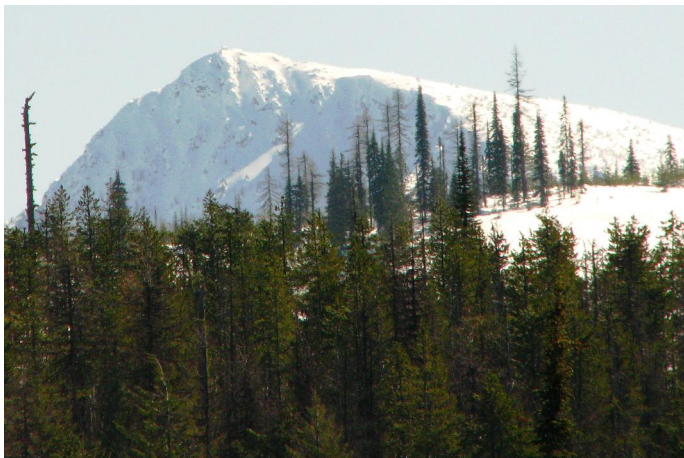
1. **Everyone likes cookies and squares!** We need TWO people to bring them to each meeting. Contact Shirley Coffin to volunteer your baking skills. Get your name in early and choose your month (new list begins each September).
2. **Do you have any suggestions for new areas to visit?** Would you be willing to lead a hike? Please contact a Program Director with your great ideas. Thank you to all the contacts/leaders in all seasons. We learn so much from each of you.
3. **Common courtesy and common sense** dictates that you call the contact person to confirm your attendance at an event on the program. Lead time for the newsletter is as much as nine months between planning and execution. Nothing is written in stone and changes may have to be made from time to time, due to weather conditions or personal reasons. We would not want you to miss out on a single chance to enjoy our environment! **Don't wait until the last minute** to phone if you are interested in any of our events.....leader may have already left, especially if camping or long distances are involved.
4. **The leader of an outing is responsible for:**
  - ✓ Finding a replacement contact/leader if you cannot be available for your planned outing. A replacement *leader* may choose to do the same outing, or they may suggest another,
  - ✓ Getting the appropriate waiver form signed by every person attending, and forwarding this form to Webb Webster or Esther Brown immediately. Waiver forms are included in your newsletter (if you are getting hard copy), one for each hike you are leading. If you are getting your newsletter by email, please request the waiver as an attachment and the Editor or the Treasurer will be happy to supply it,
  - ✓ Make it a policy with the entire group to keep the person behind you in sight. If your follower on the trail is lagging, slow your pace to keep them in sight. If everyone in the group continually checks to make sure they can see the person behind them, it is impossible for anyone to get into serious trouble. If you split into groups, do not allow any one person to 'take off' by him/herself.
  - ✓ Making sure that no one is left behind with car trouble at the parking area, especially in winter,
  - ✓ ARRANGING TO HAVE THE TRIP REPORT FORWARDED TO THE EDITOR. It is not necessary to write it – you may delegate this, of course, but please advise the Editor from whom to expect it. In a perfect world, we would have a different participant write each report, so we could have many different viewpoints. The writer also has the obligation to get the report submitted *in time*.

## TRIP REPORTS

### Saturday, March 6, 2010:

Approximately eight Nats participated in the Ski and Snowshoe along the Sunshine Trail onto the Ridge. Conditions were icy for Cross Country Skiing. Snowshoes were required from the head of the Sunshine Trail and it was pretty much an all uphill climb. We took our time with Margo in the lead. It was a beautiful sunny trip. Lunch was eaten on a plateau which overlooked Bonanza and Michener areas. When we reached the top with clear blue skies, Old Glory could be seen to the southeast and Gladstone to the northwest, as well as other wonderful snowpacked mountain ranges. No one took the leader up on a toboggan ride back down the logging road! It would have been a hoot - maybe there will be takers next time. Relaxation at the Ben Shaw Hut was appreciated before the ski back to the parking lot under much improved snow conditions. Thanks to Webb for transporting various articles via snow sled.

**Leader of the Pack - Pat West**



Old Glory from Sunshine Trail

c. Margo Saunders

### Saturday, May 1, 2010:

Nine WK Nats hiked on the Deer Point Trail in cool, but not wet, weather. The forest was very beautiful, particularly because the deciduous trees, bushes and smaller plants were decked in wonderful shades of spring green. A number of flowers also graced the trail with their beauty. We were unable to reach a particularly good view point and flower area that was our objective as the group spent too much time waiting for people. Flowers seen were blue camas, calypso orchids, blue-eyed Mary, orange Indian paintbrush, woodland star, balsam root, arnica, shooting stars, small leaved montia, blue clematis, and racemose pussytoes just coming out. Birds seen and heard were Townsend's solitaire, black-capped chickadee, red-breasted nuthatch, ruby-crowned kinglet, golden-crowned kinglet, Hammond's flycatcher, turkey vultures, ruffed grouse, Nashville warblers, orange-crowned warblers, yellow-rumped warblers and ravens. Frank showed us many different types of lichens.

**Hazel and Ed Beynon**

### Saturday, May 8, 2010:

Eleven people turned out for the hike to Cascade Falls. We were fortunate in having a geologist and a biologist in the group. They were able to point out many interesting features which we might otherwise have missed. Water flows were high and the rainbows in the gorge were beautiful. Some remains of the old hydro electric development are still visible. The weather was perfect and a good day was had by all.

**SW Webster**

### Saturday, May 15, 2010:

Nine Nats cleaned up Violin Lake road, and eight hiked the circuit of the lake. The new trail across the talus slope on the west side of the lake is well-built and lovely to walk with a new perspective. Nell won a prize for volume of garbage collected; no one could decide on weight. Dennis got a special prize for best sport, carrying a lot of stuff for the others. Big items included a car wheel (tire and rim), a vacuum cleaner, a *very heavy* starter motor and a basket full of laundry, including a burnt red bra, which of course we highlighted – see photo below. This photo was also published in the Trail Daily Times with an appropriate caption courtesy of Shirley Coffin. Margo, a director with the Genelle Recreation Commission, thanked the entire group for donating all the recyclables to the Genelle Hall for their family events.

**Margo Saunders**



Clean-up crew at Violin Lake gate c. Margo Saunders

**Saturday, May 22, 2010:**

As the Western Painted Turtle is listed by BC Frogwatch as of "Special Concern", the fourteen Nats that walked around Rosebud Lake counted them. We saw and counted between 15 and 30 turtles. On this little hidden gem of a lake we observed a male Barrow's Golden-eye duck, and a female goose with six goslings. The week before, Gloria and Pat had seen a common loon, enjoying the lake all to himself. Apparently this lake is stocked by the BC Fish Society [sic] and the lake and most of the surrounding area is owned by the Regional District of Central Kootenay. What a jewel of a lake to canoe or row on, or just observe the wildlife, which can be moose, bear, duck, turtles and birds.

**Pat Thomson**

**Saturday, May 29, 2010:**

Whisky [sic] and Tamarack Trail -- We were so lucky with the weather. We just got a few drops of rain, that's all. Thirteen Nats, most of them from Nelson, Slocan and Castlegar came out. Everybody told me they loved the hike. We had some very worthwhile views, especially on the Whisky Trail. Some cars waited for us at Maldie Creek Rd and the rest took us to the Railgrade almost where the trail begins. The following lists were provided by Ed Beynon:

**Birds** -- Hammond and Olive-side flycatchers; warbling and Cassin's vireos; MacGillvrays, Orange-crowned, Townsend's and Yellow-rumped warblers; Northern Flicker; Hairy Woodpecker; Red-naped Sapsucker; Oregon Junco; Stellars Jay; Chestnut-backed and Black-capped Chickadees; Western Tanager; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Red-breasted Nuthatch; Pine Siskin; Hermit Thrush; American Robin; Black-headed grosbeak; Chipping and Song Sparrows; and Townsend's Solitaire.

**Flowers** -- Calypso Orchid, Racemose Pussytoes, Yellow Violet, Meadow Rue, Kinnickinick, Huckleberry, Red Twinberry, Shooting Stars, Arnica and Blue-eyed Mary.

**Gloria Maigler**

**Saturday, June 12, 2010:**

Ten Naturalists hiked the Merry Creek Trails south of Castlegar. The area was lush after the recent rains and Merry Creek, Iverson Creek, Milestone Brook and Trillium Brook that make up the watershed were full and beautiful. We were hoping to see trillium flowers but only a few were spotted and they had finished flowering. We did see other lovely flowers, and several green bog orchids were a highlight. Snacks were eaten at a view point over looking the valley. The trail is easy but rewarding, with lots of variety including viewpoints, history, trees, birds, flowers and delightful creeks.

**Ruth Ingles**

**The Merry Creek Trail June 12, 2010**

**Submitted by Lynda Stevens (with a little help from her mother, a Happy Hooper Hiker in Ontario)**

**On a bright day in June the West Kootenay "NATS"**

**With packs on their backs and colourful hats**

**Set out to hike the Trail.**

**Over watershed, bridges and babbling brooks**

**They searched for wildflowers to add to their books,**

**Alas, there were none on the Trail.**

**Then a scenic side trail enticed them to climb**

**To an outlook which gave them a view so sublime**

**They gazed down in awe at the Trail.**

**They drank in the sights o'er the magnificent trees,**

**Then started back down the incline with ease**

**To find another Trail.**

**'Twas then they discovered that two of their group,  
To their dismay, had flown the coop  
And so they searched the trail.**

**They found them again, just over a hump,  
Both hikers admiring a giant cedar stump  
As they waited by the Trail.**

**Tho' the wildflowers were few and the trilliums were done,  
They'd had a lovely day and said "We've really had such fun"  
On the Merry Creek Trail.**

**Saturday June 19, 2010:**

Dave Bush of Salmo led twelve Nats on a birding hike along Cemetery Road, just outside of Salmo, and along the Salmo River. The weather was warm and sunny, and there were many birds to delight us. The highlights included a male Western Tanager bathing in a puddle at close range, a female Black-headed Grosbeak sitting on her nest, a couple of male Lazuli Buntings competing for a female's attention, a Harlequin Duck on the Salmo River, and an American Dipper feeding its young.

**Linda Szymkowiak**



Photo submitted from Dave Bush's Erie Lake birding hike

**Wednesday, June 23, 2010:**

Six Nats looked at glacial lake features in the area between Nelson, Crescent Valley and Castlegar. These features, including lake silts and kame terraces stand well above the present river level and were formed when remnants of stagnant glacial ice still filled the local valleys. Ice or other glacial sediment deposits locally temporarily blocked the flow of the Kootenay, Slokan and Columbia Rivers forming local lakes which were filled with silt and then covered by a layer of river gravel. As the blockages to flow were removed or worn through the rivers dropped to lower levels forming new lakes with new layers of river gravel and leaving behind (above) the former river bed as a terrace. Most of the lake silts were nearly horizontal, just as when they were originally deposited, but some were inclined at about 30 degrees possible due to being deposited over ice and subsiding as the underlying ice melted. Lake silts had been pushed and folded into a nearly vertical position at one location about 5km north of Crescent Valley, indicating possible local renewed glacial movement, but then being overlain by flat lying kame terrace deposits. Several glacial erratics were noted indicating transport by ice. Possible ice flow directions were discussed while viewing Coyote Rock just below the Lower Bonnington Power Station.

**Frank Fowler**

**Saturday, July 3, 2010:**

Record Ridge hike -- Seventeen members and one guest met at the Seven Summits Trail Head on the old Cascade Highway at 9:15 am. As we started out the clouds were low and the temperature was quite cool, perfect weather for biting insects. The sun came out after we reached the ridge allowing us good views in all directions. A wide variety of flowers were blooming; the sought after bitterroot was in bud but hadn't opened yet. We had lunch on a rocky knob with a panoramic view and the sun kept us warm. While walking along the ridge we saw a pair of Three-toed Woodpeckers feeding their very noisy young, and a female Blue (Dusky) Grouse with very small chicks. One of the leaders briefly saw a weasel beside the trail.

**Hazel and Ed Beynon**



Bitterroot, courtesy of Beynon's

**Saturday, July 10, 2010:**

14 of us met at the Rossland library at 10 am to set out on one of the most picturesque hikes in Rossland: the Whiskey trail. We had some welcome cloud cover on a hot day and toward the end of the hike storm clouds were forming and it became quite muggy. A lot of the wildflowers were past their bloom, but we saw a few such as the Indian paintbrush, the harebell, spring beauty and others. The hike led us through the forest one minute and out in the open the next. It is steep going up the Whiskey trail and Tamarack trail going down is gentle and curvy. Great for some of us with knee problems. There had been a few bear sightings in the area which was hardly an issue for a group like ours. All in all a great day.

**“Adriana”**

**Saturday July 17, 2010:**

Eleven WK Nats and two guests hiked up to the RCAF plane that crashed in 1947 and took the lives of nine people. The trail climbs from Murphy Creek, on the Nancy Green Highway, 1400 feet to the crash site. The day was cooler with no bugs. We had an enjoyable hike together with lunch and photos at the top. Ed Beynon took the lead, watching for local birds.

**Edward Davies**

**Saturday, July 31, 2010:**

We found that Grassy Mountain is not just grass and everything was unusually green due to the frequent precipitation this year. Many flowers were blooming and many more will bloom shortly. One of the most prominent flowers was a carrot family plant which Brian d'Eon has identified as Loveroot. Some of the other flowers seen were Monk's Hood, One Sided Wintergreen, Lupine, Sulphur Buckwheat, Paint Brush, and Yellow Columbine. Blue Grouse with chicks was the bird of the day. Grizzly scat was observed with interest. The weather was not perfect and it rained quite hard when we stopped for lunch at the Grassy Hut. Many good views were seen despite the fairly low cloud. We were 8 members and 2 guests.

**Hazel and Ed Beynon**

**Saturday, August 21, 2010:**

Fifteen Nats and guests ventured out from Glade along the Ward's Ferry Trail. Coyotes were heard howling as we starting the hike. In the morning we covered the approx. 4 km to the Slocan Pool meadow. There was some boat activity on the Kootenay River as it was fish derby day in Glade. We saw eagles, osprey, hairy woodpeckers, and some bear and elk sign along the trail. The afternoon trek back to the parking area was hot and humid but we finished about 1:30pm. I think we all enjoyed the hike along this portion of the Kootenay River. Thanks to all who attended.

**Len Dunsford**

**Missing reports: June 26; July 24; August 7, 14 ..... c'mon people! We need to know what a great time you had.**

**CHECK OUT OUR CLUB WEBSITES**

**[www.kootenaynaturalists.org](http://www.kootenaynaturalists.org)**

**<http://www.columbiariver.ca/wkna/>**

**(powered and funded by Sharpwit Web Consulting “Virtual Community”)**

**Deadline for submissions for the next newsletter is December 15, 2010**

Material accepted by the Publisher any time up to this date.

We reserve the right to edit for space, clarity, spelling and syntax.

Major changes will be discussed with the contributor.

## FIELD TRIPS

**N.B. For all field trips, please call the leader for meeting time and place,  
and level of difficulty.**

### NOVEMBER

<b>Saturday November 6</b>	Violin Lake Fall Stakeholders' hike	Webb Webster 250-365-2572
<b>Saturday November 13</b>	Bike or x/c ski Slocan Valley rail trail	Len Dunsford 250-354-4325
<b>Saturday November 20</b>	Leader's choice	Pamella Wik 250-362-7424
<b>Saturday November 27</b>	Leader's choice	Anja Logodi 250-362-3302
<b>Monday November 29</b>	General meeting and presentation. Trail venue	See page 2

### DECEMBER

<b>Saturday December 4</b>	Dove Hill & Elk trail	Beynon's 250-365-7806
<b>Saturday December 11</b>	X/c ski or hike Slocan Valley rail trail	Nell Plotnikoff 250-359-7406 John Golik 250-359-7278
<b>Saturday December 18</b>	Miral Heights trail	Knudsgaard's 250-362-9572
<b>Tuesday December 21</b>	Moonlight ski. **Lunar eclipse! Bring goodies to share and your own libations	Webb Webster 250-365-2572

### JANUARY

<b>Saturday January 8</b>	Snowshoe to Red Dog cabin. Moderate.	Nell Plotnikoff 250-359-7406 John Golik 250-359-7278
<b>Saturday January 15</b>	Snowshoe – Leader's choice	Edward Davies 362-7727
<b>Tuesday January 18</b>	Moonlight ski. Bring goodies to share and your own libations	Webb Webster 250-365-2572
<b>Saturday January 22</b>	Ski to Andromeda cabin	Hazel & Ed Beynon 250-365-7806
<b>Saturday January 29</b>	Snowshoe – Leader's choice, Nelson area	Lynda Stevens 250-359-7439
<b>Monday January 31</b>	General meeting and presentation. Castlegar venue	See page 2

### FEBRUARY

<b>Saturday February 5</b>	Snowshoe to Griz cabin	Beynon's 250-365-7806
<b>Saturday February 12</b>	Snowshoe Nancy Greene Lake circuit	Margo Saunders 250-693-2229
<b>Thursday February 17</b>	Moonlight ski. Bring goodies to share and your own libations	Webb Webster 250-365-2572
<b>Saturday February 19</b>	Ski/snowshoe Smallwood Creek trail	Nell Plotnikoff 250-359-7406 John Golik 250-359-7278
<b>Friday February 25</b>	Annual Banquet. Castlegar venue TBA at January general meeting. Tickets must be purchased <i>by February 18</i> .	Esther Brown 250-368-3663
<b>Saturday February 26</b>	Ski Burlington Northern rail trail	Diane White 250-825-4178 Alan McCuaig 250-825-2226