



# THE OSPREY

Newsletter of the  
West Kootenay Naturalists' Association

1054 Bridgeview Cr, Castlegar BC V1N 4L1  
vol 35, no 3 November 2008 -- February, 2009



Photo by 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 '09/'10: Sept – Nelson, Oct -- potluck always in Robson Hall, 6 pm. BYO dishes, cutlery, etc, Nov – Trail, Jan – Castlegar, February dinner – Trail, March -- Nelson, April – Robson, May -- Castlegar. 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 2009-10

### ELECTED:

PRESIDENT	Brent Hancock	250-304-6840
VICE-PRESIDENT	Arnold By	250-368-3068
PAST PRESIDENT	Dr 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	Sharon Lelliott	250-365-1161
		<a href="mailto:g-slelliott@shaw.ca">g-slelliott@shaw.ca</a>

### APPOINTED:

AREA REPRESENTATIVES:		
CASTLEGAR/SLOCAN VALLEY	Marg Webster	250-365-2572
	Mary Martin	250-365-3827
TRAIL & AREA	Pamella Wik	250-368-3378
NELSON/SALMO/KASLO	Bill Bennetts	250-352-9834
SUNSHINE COMMITTEE	Pamella Wik	250-368-3385
BC NATURE EDUCATION CHAIR	Joan Snyder	250-226-0012
BC NATURE DIRECTOR (WKNA)	<b>vacant</b>	
BC NATURE KOOTENAY COORDINATOR	Brenda Balaam	250-368-9677
ARCHIVIST	Mary Martin	250-365-3827
NEWSLETTER EDITOR }	Margo Saunders	250-693-2229
JUMBO WILD CONTACT }		
<a href="mailto:penandpaddle@lycos.com">penandpaddle@lycos.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
PUBLIC RELATIONS/MEDIA	Sharon Lelliott	<a href="mailto:g-slelliott@shaw.ca">g-slelliott@shaw.ca</a>

### SECTION CONTACTS AND COMMITTEE HEADS:

BIRDING, ENERGY	Ed Beynon	250-365-7806
CONSERVATION	Shirley Coffin	250-364-0339
		<a href="mailto:slcoffin@shaw.ca">slcoffin@shaw.ca</a>
BIRD COUNTS: Bird Studies Canada, WKNA, Christmas and Summer	Too many to list here -- contact Peter McIver for complete list	250-365-1191
		<a href="mailto:petermciver@hotmail.com">petermciver@hotmail.com</a>
BLUEBIRDS	Gary Lelliott	250-365-1161
BUTTERFLIES	Rita Wege	250-359-7234
INJURED BIRDS/ANIMALS	Carol Pettigrew (birds)	250-365-3701
	Helen Jameson, Blewett (animals)	250-352-2356
INVASIVE PLANTS	Carolyn Amantea	250-368-5365
RIVERS DAY (National)	Brenda Balaam (Trail area)	250-368-9677
RIVERS DAY (Provincial)	Pamella Wik (Trail area)	250-368-3378
STURGEON	Robert Fox (Area Recovery Rep)	250-368-6659
VIOLIN LAKE STAKEHOLDERS	Dorothy Beetstra	250-368-9716
WEBSITE, KOOTENAY REGIONAL	Kevin MacAskill	250-825-2245
	Arnold By	250-368-3068
YOUNG NATURALISTS	Linda Szymkowiak (Rossland, Trail)	250-362-7107

# 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 2009 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:

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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 2011 Single membership* (prize value \$30)  
Your membership must be paid BY January 10, 2010

## **\*\*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 waiver form signed by every person attending, and forwarding this form to Webb Webster 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.

# President's Report Annual General Meeting

April 27, 2009

The past three years have been both a work-in-progress and at times quite challenging. The Executive worked hard to keep our club on an even keel and moving forward. We developed a WKNA Code of Conduct and we added many new members with the total membership now of over 90 people. Our Club Director, Len Dunsford, felt that he had remained in this position for an appropriate term and he resigned this year to give other members a chance to fill his position. It has not yet been filled. Our Regional Director, Brenda Balaam, has become quite ill in recent weeks and this has left a gap in Regional activities and meetings. We hope that she will recover soon. We gained a new and active Conservation Chair when Shirley Coffin volunteered for the position this winter. Sharon Lelliott has been stalwart in keeping the club functioning at many levels and she is a keystone member of the Executive and the WKNA in general. Linda Szymkowiak has faithfully continued to prepare comprehensive minutes of all our meetings and our Executive meetings, as well as provide us with many ideas of activities to pursue as a club. Felicity Ross has been running our email network with great enthusiasm and Arnold By has continued to keep our website interesting and up-to-date. Web Webster's Field Trip Committee has provided a variety of excellent outings for us while Michael McMann has single-handedly continued to organize, publicize and provide a lively and interesting Speaker Series throughout the year. Rita Wege is now our Butterfly Committee Chair and she has arranged several butterfly outings with Jon Shepard as trip leader for this spring. Margo Saunders' continued work as Editor of *The Osprey* has been extremely important not only in providing information to club members, but in the promotion of WKNA to the public.

Some of the activities that the club participated in included the annual CBC and spring bird counts organized and reported by Peter McIver which continue to be very popular activities for club members. The picnic following the spring bird count at Peter's place on the Slocan River was certainly a highlight for those birders who attended. Pamela Wik headed up a Columbia River cleanup in Trail on Rivers Day that became so popular with the public that after the first year the other Trail organizations became involved and more-or-less took over the event in subsequent years. For two years we took on the project of pulling/cutting the invasive Purple Loosestrife in Bird Creek Marsh on the Kootenay River. These were very enjoyable outings and the Invasive Plant Council provided us with a \$250 honorarium for our work. Of course we did not eliminate the plants from the marsh, but hopefully we slowed down their reproduction for those two years.

One of the major highlights for our club this past year was the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary banquet celebration (actually we are in our 37<sup>th</sup> year) that was organized by Pat Thomson and her committee and held on March 27<sup>th</sup>. About 80 people attended and we were honored to have Bill Merilees (who was very instrumental in the startup of our club). Bill came all the way from Nanaimo to be our guest speaker. He described some of the amazing history of our club and gave us some ideas for projects to pursue such as publishing a history of the WKNA and pulling together members recorded data from the past on bird sightings, flowers observed and other historical information. It was a most enjoyable event and it gave us some time to pause and reflect on the past and on our future as a club.

A lively and beneficial planning session for the Executive and a few keen club members was held at my home on April 19<sup>th</sup>. The session was facilitated by Vince Salvo, who managed to keep us on topic most of the time. Lots of great ideas and activities which centered on education, outings and conservation were brought to bear on our organization. We decided that our mission statement would be the same as our parent organization, BC Nature:

## TO KNOW NATURE AND TO KEEP IT WORTH KNOWING

After an interesting SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) Analysis and discussion, we retired to an opulent potluck with a wee nip of homemade and Selkirk College wines. If you are interested in learning more about the work we did and hope to do in the future, and are interested in participating in some way, let me know and I will provide you with a copy of the report that Vince prepared for our use in planning WKNA's future goals, objectives and activities. The executive would welcome your ideas and participation.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you for your support over the past three years in club activities and the efforts that many of you have made to keep things running as smoothly as possible (such as coffee and cookies for meetings). I especially want to thank the Executive team for helping to make the past three years of my presidency both memorable and enjoyable. I look forward to the productive and exciting future that you and our new president will bring to the WKNA.

Thank You.

**Joan Snyder, President**  
**WKNA**

**Deadline for submissions for the next newsletter is December 16, 2009**

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 7</b>	Leaders' Choice hike	Hazel & Ed Beynon 250-365-7806
<b>Saturday November 14</b>	Hike at Sproule Creek	John Golik 250-359-7278 Nell Plotnikoff 250-359-7406
<b>Saturday November 21</b>	Leader's Choice of venue and whether a hike, snowshoe, etc	Len Dunsford 250-354-4325
<b>Saturday November 28</b>	<b>**NEW**</b> Winter Range Assessment	Dennis Holden 250-365-2715
<b>Monday November 30</b>	General Meeting & Presentation -- Trail Seniors" Centre	

### DECEMBER

<b>Saturday December 5</b>	Snowshoe – leaders' choice of venue	Erik & Margaret Knudsgaard 250-362-9572
<b>Saturday December 12</b>	Hike or snowshoe the Mel DeAnna Trail	SW Webster 250-365-2572
<b>Saturday December 19</b>	Ski Slokan Valley Rail Trail – portion TBA	John Golik 250-359-7278 Nell Plotnikoff 250-359-7406
<b>Wednesday December 30</b>	Moonlight ski and New Year's social. Bring refreshments, snacks to share, and, if you wish, party favours!	SW Webster 250-365-2572

### JANUARY

<b>Saturday January 9 (?)</b>	Winter Bird Count	See P 2 for contact info; watch for notices
<b>Saturday January 16</b>	Ski/snowshoe – venue TBA	Ed & Hazel Beynon 250-365-7806
<b>Saturday January 23</b>	Snowshoe @ Kokanee Creek Park	Lynda Stevens 250-359-7439
<b>Monday January 25</b>	General Meeting & Presentation – Castlegar Selkirk College, Rm K-11	
<b>Friday January 29</b>	Moonlight ski. Bring refreshments, and snacks to share	SW Webster 250-365-2572
<b>Saturday January 30</b>	Snowshoe to Red Dog cabin	John Golik 250-359-7278 Nell Plotnikoff 250-359-7406

### FEBRUARY

<b>Saturday February 6</b>	Ski or snowshoe – venue TBA	Ed & Hazel Beynon 250-365-7806
<b>Saturday February 13</b>	Snowshoe Plewman Cabin loop	Harvey Pitman 250-368-6691
<b>Saturday February 20</b>	Ski Burlington Northern rail trail	Alan McCuaig / Diane White 250-825-2226 / -4178
<b>Friday February 26</b>	Annual Banquet – Trail venue. Purchase tickets BEFORE February 20. Full details at January meeting	
<b>Saturday February 27</b>	<b>**BONUS**</b> Moonlight ski. Bring refreshments, and snacks to share	SW Webster 250-365-2572

**CHECK OUT OUR CLUB WEBSITES**  
[www.kootenaynaturalists.org](http://www.kootenaynaturalists.org)

<http://www.columbiariver.ca/wkna/>  
(powered and funded by Sharpwit Consulting "Virtual Community")

## In Memory of Jack Hollington May 1913 – August 2009



As long time friends of Jack Hollington, we have been asked to write a few lines of what we had learned of his long and interesting life. This is what he told Chuck. When he lived in Trail, he was employed by the C.M & S. Co.(now Teck) as a Steel Fabricator. Later he was employed by the CPR when it was a coal burning railroad, as a Brakeman or Switchman, then becoming Conductor. Then he switched to passenger trains (KVR) still as Conductor. His travels took him to Victoria where his two aunts lived and there he became acquainted with Madge and they later married (April 1938) and lived in Nelson.

It was with the West Kootenay Naturalists' Association, of which the Hollingtons and Streets were founding members, that we met Jack, and we were fortunate to have joined. Madge was the ardent 'birder' and Jack was the photographer. Although he was meticulous in keeping notes, he still had time for his endless jokes and was not remiss at 'fooling around'! His wife also knew the names of the beautiful wildflowers, so his camera was always in demand. If he couldn't remember the name of a bird or flower, he was quick to call it anything that came to mind. He delighted in preying on unsuspecting new-comers with that innocent look of absolute knowledge.

He also surpassed us at hiking and he was always first to reach a destination. We supposed we were quite good at this ourselves, but he could always beat us 'by a mile'! In his backpack, he carried the makings of a campfire and usually had one well-lit on our arrival. One night in Creston he made the mother of all campfires! Chuck and Madge had gone to an outdoor theatre of sorts, but Jack and I stayed back to have a cozy fire waiting for their return. So Jack gets out his preparations all set to use his handy campfire lighter. WHOOSH!! Up went the flames. We were amazed at the height! Unknown to us, the whole area around us was crispy dry! Luckily our camper was near and I got the wine bucket (which was usually used for other purposes), and quickly got water to squelch the blaze. Later on, just a mention of that fire (which we never let him forget) would bring that infectious smile

The six of us, with our three campers, visited many places in B.C and Alberta. We left our vehicles parked and would go on day hikes, leaving early in the day and arriving back in late afternoon. In all that time I never heard Jack say an unkind word about anybody, was always there when needed to lift a helping hand, and was a true naturalist and a gentleman.

Compiled by Clare and Chuck Rommerdahl  
Photos supplied by daughter Jeanne (Hollington) Morton



## TRIP REPORTS

### **Saturday, May 2, 2009:**

Searching for the Himalayan Balsam Plant – We did not find our Policeman's Helmet Plant (Himalayan Balsam/Touch-me-not) as we were too early in the season. But, the eleven keen Nats that walked the 19.8 km railbed from Rosslund to Warfield were not disappointed, as we saw a stunning array of trilliums [pl: trillia?], mostly in flower. The soft greens on the leafing deciduous trees were a delight. Also, to challenge our senses was a group of Yellow Arums, all in bloom. It was a grand outing.

**Pat Thomson**

### **Saturday, May 9, 2009:**

We begin our hikes now at the gate, which saves about 5 km of bland and tedious walking. We immediately noticed the flowers in bloom and the rushing water. We enjoyed a pleasant jaunt to Cambridge Lake, where we saw a cow and calf moose! We did not make it to Violin Lake because the snow on the road was getting just too slushy, so we had our lunch at a road junction, in the sunshine, then part of the group followed the road up and back to merge with the rest, close to the gate.

**Margo Saunders**

### **Saturday May 30, 2009:**

Nine Nats set out to hike the Kootenay-Columbia trail above Rosslund on what was a clear and sunny day, with not a single cloud above us. On our way to the top of the mountain, we saw many wild flowers including arnica, larkspur, biscuit root and shooting stars. Upon reaching the top we took a rest and enjoyed the view of Happy Valley, the surrounding mountains and plentiful penstamons during their height of beauty. We then decided to go back the way we came, take a circular route around the mountain and ascend the south side. The south side being quite exposed and with the noonday heat upon us, we were forced to take brief siestas within the small shade oasis dotting the hillside. When we reached the top (again) we had our lunches and were entertained by western tiger swallowtails engaged in a courtship dance, and by the lyricism of what Pamella insists was the little known 'northern note taster'. We then made our way back to our cars for the end of a very pleasant hike.

**Erik Greavison**

### **Saturday, June 20, 2009:**

On June 20, twelve NATS enjoyed an easy walk-about on the Champion Flats. We stopped for a few minutes to check out a waterline being worked on by USCC volunteers at a proposed picnic site, complete with tables, fire pits and an outhouse -- a perfect rest stop on future hikes! Then we continued on, around an old Doukhobor cemetery and down to the Champion Creek bridge, where we ate our lunches. Back across the flats and, shortly after noon, we were at our cars by the gate. Thanks to a friend, Poul Hendriksen, for showing us the new part of the trail.



**Nell Plotnikoff**

### **Saturday, June 27, 2009:**

Thirteen Nats took part in the hike from Mud Lake to Ben Shaw cabin. It was a beautiful day, with a nice breeze to keep the bugs at bay. There were a lot of flowers and a few birds were seen. We finished with a pleasant lunch at the Viking Centre.

**SW Webster**

### **Saturday, July 4, 2009:**

Pot Hill hike: It was a great day for a walk in the sub alpine forest. The sky was clear, the weather warm and there was a bit of a breeze to keep the bugs away. A moisture haze was in the distance but views to Castlegar and beyond the Keenleyside Dam, up the Slocan Valley, and south of Genelle to Granite Mountain were good. Flowers seen were ball-headed waterleaf, red berry honeysuckle, arnica, lupine, shooting star, long-flowered bluebell, stonecrop, avalanche lily, western anemone, sulphur buckwheat, spring beauty and many others. The forest road wasn't as bad as advertised as it had been graded since the recce and the deep ruts removed. Ten Nats made the trip.

**Ed Beynon**

### **Saturday, July 11, 2009:**

Five Nats met in the Safeway parking lot. The scheduled event was to visit the Brooklyn Bridge (Natural Arch) across Arrow Lake from Deer Park. On our drive to Deer Park, we encountered some mountain sheep on the side of the road. We put in the canoes on the beach below Dennis Holden's property. The crossing took approximately 25 minutes with a slight crosswind. We hiked up the trail to the Arch without mishap. Photos were taken when we arrived below the Arch. During our lunch, we were joined by a friendly lizard. After a rest, we descended back to the beach and canoes. We had

refreshments and chat in the modern and comfortable log cabin which Dennis built himself. The canoes were loaded and we returned to Castlegar at 5 pm. Along the way, we spotted a blue heron in a lagoon near the Hugh Keenleyside Dam.

Mary Martin



Photos by Margo Saunders: Natural Arch from below; view from Smallwood Creek trail; Nats at same

**Saturday, July 18, 2009:**

Ten Nats met at the Beasley Fire Station to be led by John Golik two km up the Smallwood Creek logging road, then on to Garrity Road three more km., to the well-marked trailhead. The well-maintained trail was originally built (in one day) by an 'on-standby' Forest Service suppression crew. The gentle uphill trail through the woods (approx. 1.7 km.) ends at a viewpoint overlooking the Kootenay River valley. A sign beside the trailhead sign notes that the Nelson Cycling club utilizes and maintains the trails in this area. A lazy grouse by the side of the road was the only wildlife seen on the trip. Several birds were heard chirping, including a house wren and a hermit thrush. A pleasant hike became exotic as we stopped numerous times to pick and eat large ripe huckleberries!! It was a hot day, but cool in the trees, and a welcome breeze greeted us at the viewpoint. And what a view! The city of Nelson, Ymir Mtn., the Bonnington Range, Slocan Ridge, Cora Linn Dam, the BC Hydro Canal project, Mt. Sentinel, the Pass Creek valley, the Glade Ferry, and maybe even Red Mtn. in Rossland!! There are a few 'mossies' lower on the trail, so take your repellent, and be sure to have water. On the return drive down the road, we stopped to locate the Queen Victoria mine and met a deluge of Creston rockhounds!

Pat Gibson

**Saturday, July 25, 2009:**

The road up Idaho Peak was drivable on Saturday even though there was a bit of snow. People had been driving through it, so there was a pretty good track. One of the vehicles in our party was a Toyota Yaris (smallest Toyota) and it sailed right through. Some wood debris was evident, but some kind soul had pushed much of it to the side. The only obstacle was a big log lying along the bank of one of the upper switch backs. Smaller vehicles could just get by it without slipping off the road and rolling down the bank. On the way down we passed a huge diesel pickup with a big camper on their way up. Not something I'd try taking past the log.

The group I was with went up to paint the flowers. As I mentioned, they were fabulous, especially the lupines. That whole south face was a riot of colour. Only a few early ones like the anemones were done. Everybody, and that includes butterflies, hummingbirds, tourists and our group of painters, had a wonderful time oohing and aahing at such beauty.

Black clouds threatened as the day wore on, and when the rumbles started we headed back to our cars and down. When we were nearly down, the electric storm hit with a vengeance. One crash sounded like it was just above us.

We stopped in Silverton for a coffee and looking back at the mountain we saw smoke wiggling up among the trees perhaps a third of the way down the mountain. We reported it, but someone else had already noticed it and a chopped had already been up to take a look.

[And as an added note:] As for the eagle, we spotted the adults in a snag when we canoed the Slocan River on July 5. A big new nest was in the crotch of a cottonwood not far away. The nest is located on the downstream end of an island owned by the Nixon family and is not far upstream from Perry Siding. At this point we do not know how many young there are. There used to be another active nest closer to Slocan City, but we have not been over to that side of the river (very wide at this point) to determine if it is still occupied.

Shirl Bayer

Two Nats, at a canoe camp in Valhalla Prov Park, were unaware that the trip had been cancelled due to an avalanche. We were warned about the log, and were assured that the avalanche had been cleared (it was, and very well). About 4k up, there is a large clear-cut on both sides of the valley through which the road passes, and the snow at 9.5k precluded cars from progressing further. We had a lovely time, anyway, admiring the profusion of flowers along the road, and took a leisurely tour of Sandon. It never ceases to amaze that businesses depending on tourists for their very survival are closed on weekends!

Margo Saunders

**Saturday, August 1, 2009:**

One Subaru was all it took to get the five attending Nats to Orion Lakes and back. Orion Lakes were beautiful with many mosquitoes in attendance. We didn't stay long there. Next, we bushwacked to a viewpoint high on a cliff overlooking the large bridge over Paulson Creek on Highway 3 towards Christina Lake. The views were great and so were the huckleberries. Lunch was enjoyed from a high roadside vantage point, and for dessert we hiked into another cliff, affording great views down Highway 3 towards the west. Special birds seen or heard were Olive-side Flycatcher, Three-toed woodpecker and gray jays.

Ed Beynon

**Sunday, August 9, 2009:**

Seven NATS enjoyed a cool walk on a hot day, along Kokanee Creek trails. We started out from the Visitors' Centre at the Kokanee Creek Campground, continuing along Canyon Trail to a many-staired viewing structure overlooking the creek. We returned to the highway via the Pine Trail, crossed over the highway into the campground area and found some picnic tables along the lake where we enjoyed our lunches and relaxed in the refreshing breeze. We followed the

lakeshore trail and alongside the spawning channels. According to a worker there, the kokanee are already bunching up near the channel opening, readying for their upstream adventure; the spawning is a "must-see" from about mid-August to near the end of September! Then, several of us took a side discovery walk further up in the wooded area where, someone told us, were the remains of a former homestead. We found some beautiful old, stone walls and a partial concrete stairwell -- with a notice that there was a bees' nest under the steps, so we didn't venture down! We continued for a short distance along an old road and found ourselves back at that viewing structure. This trail (new to us) is quite wide and not too long; we think it'll be good for snowshoeing in the winter.

**Nell Plotnikoff**

**Saturday, August 15, 2009:**

Five Nats took part in a pleasant hike on a pleasant day (not too warm). We followed the Westside Loop of the Sproule Creek trail to a point where we came within a hundred yards of the new logging road. Then we scrambled up to this road and followed it upwards for about 1 km, until we arrived at the point where it crosses the East Fork trail. We found a lunch spot nearby and paused for a nutrition break. After lunch, we headed down the East Fork trail to its junction with the main Sproule Creek trail, and thence, back to our vehicles. Along the way, we supplemented our lunch with a few huckleberries. Not much in the way of wildlife sightings, but an enjoyable hike nonetheless.

**Bill Bennetts**

**Missing reports: May 16 (swapped with May 2), May 23, June 14**

## Butterfly Report for 2009

Five butterfly outings were scheduled and 3 took place. Jon Shepard was away for the June outing and the July outing unfortunately was cancelled due to a slide on the road to Idaho Peak. Next year I will continue to organize these outings but they will not be scheduled ahead of time as it is necessary to have warm, sunny weather to see butterflies and this can't be planned. If you want to know about the outings please make sure I have your name on my email list ([rwege@telus.net](mailto:rwege@telus.net)). If you don't have email please phone me at 359-7234 and I will call and let you know about the outings. I am hoping to give 4 days notice before each outing.

**Butterflies observed in the Pend d'Orielle with Jon Shepard on Friday May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009**

1. Sheridan's Hairstreak *Callophrys sheridanii*; 2. Western Spring Azure *Celastrina echo*; 3. Silvery Blue *Glaucopteryx lygdamus*; 4. Sara Orangetip *Anthocharis sara*; 5. Cabbage White *Pieris rapae*; 6. California Tortoiseshell *Nymphalis californica*; 7. Satyr Comma/Anglewing *Polygonia satyrus*; 8. Western Elfin *Incisalia iroides* (Brown Elfin *Callophrys augustinus* in Kaufman Field Guide); 9. Western Pine Elfin *Incisalia eryphon* (*Callophrys eryphon* in Kaufman Field Guide); 10. Two-banded Checkered-Skipper *Pyrgus ruralis*

Jon & Sigrid returned on May fourth and saw two additional species: 11. Grey Hairstreak *Strymon melinus*; 12. Persius Duskywing *Erynnis persius*

**Butterflies observed in the Pend d'Oreille with Jon Shepard on Monday May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

1. Common Alpine *Erebia epipsodea*; 2. Western Spring Azure *Celastrina echo*; 3. Silvery Blue *Glaucopteryx lygdamus*; 4. Dreamy Duskywing *Erynnis icelus*; 5. Satyr Anglewing/Comma *Polygonia satyrus*; 6. Anicia Checkerspot *Euphydryas anicia*; 7. Sara Orangetip *Anthocharis sara*; 8. Western Elfin *Incisalia iroides*; 9. Western Pine Elfin *Incisalia eryphon*; 10. Common Ringlet *Coenonympha California*; 11. Two-banded Checkered Skipper *Pyrgus ruralis*; 12. Roadside Skipper *Amblyscirtes vialis*; 13. California Tortoiseshell *Nymphalis californica*; 14. Zephyr Anglewing/Comma *Polygonia zephyrus*; 15. Mourning Cloak *Nymphalis antiopa*; 16. Green Comma *Polygonia faunus*; 17. Gray Hairstreak *Strymon melinus*; 18. Pale Swallowtail *Papilio eurymedon*.

Jon Shepard & Avery Bartell drove through on the Pend d'Oreille River road to Nelway. About a half mile beyond where we were this morning, they recorded two additional species: 19. Mylitta Crescent *Pyciodes mylitta*; 20. Clouded Sulphur *Colias philodice*.

**Butterfly Outing with Jon Shepard at his home in Sproule Creek on Friday September 11, 2009**

Although we had a sunny morning, the only butterflies we saw were the ever abundant Cabbage White *Pieris rapae*. We expected to see Common Woodnymph *Cercyonis pegala*, Green Comma *Polygonia faunus* and Clouded Sulphur *Colias philodice*. We did enjoy looking at Jon's extensive butterfly collection and we reviewed the common butterflies in the West Kootenay area. Jon and Sigrid served us delicious mint teas and treats. It was a very enjoyable experience.....**Rita Wege**

## Rivers Day Clean-up



Congratulations Naturalists and partners! You cleared 7,500 lbs of steel out of the river and off the banks, based on figures passed on by Columbia Recycling. Karen Holden contacted Ernie's Towing and got them to help pulling scrap metal out of the Columbia River around the downtown Trail promenade. Shirley Coffin was our Trail area rep and **on-site photographer** on scrap metal clean-up day. We thank Columbia Canoe & Kayak, and Borderline Boater members Bert Port, Jim Wood, Doug Pinkerton, and Chris Ryman as well as Ernie's Towing driver Chase, for their efforts.

Michael McMann

## Coming Presentations

Our Presentations Chair has been very busy arranging for informative and entertaining shows and has done a superlative job this season! The line-up is as follows:

October 26, at Robson Hall – Potluck & presentation: “**Magic of Mexico**” by Gloria and Pedro Maigler. A sample of the flora and fauna of this colourful country, from two former residents.

November 30, in the Trail Seniors' Centre – “**Bathurst Inlet: Arctic Oasis**” by Lesley Anderton. A recent trip to the Arctic inlet in Nunuvut netted some impressive images of barren landscapes and spectacular wildlife.

January 25, at Selkirk College, Room K-11, Castlegar: “**Assiniboine River Canoe Trip**” by Margo Saunders. Includes the road trip to and from, two wetland preserves, Writing-on-Stone Prov Park, and more. About 10% of over 2,600 photos.

February 26, in the Trail Seniors' Centre – the Annual Banquet and a presenter TBA. Info on this and tix at January meeting.

March 30, at Selkirk College, Nelson (room # TBA on the whiteboard at the entrance) – “**Threatened Honeybees**” by Lynn Wetcott. This contract biologist is on the front lines of the latest research into the fungus, mites and natural predators affecting honeybees and honey production throughout North America.

April 26, at Robson Hall – Potluck, AGM and presentation: “**Harlequin Ducks in the Kootenays**” by Marlene Machmer, a contract biologist gathering data throughout Kootenay rivers where this unique duck lives, to establish the baseline population before commercial rafting licenses are granted.

May 31, at Selkirk College, Room K-11, Castlegar: “**Hummingbirds of the Kootenays**” by Gary Lelliott, a longtime Nat that has been banding hummingbirds in the West Kootenays for many years and shares some of his images and data of this beautiful little bird.

## Parting Thought

In the 1980's Fernando Notlebohm, a bird specialist, was stuck by the fact that songbirds sing new songs each season. He examined their brains and found that every year, during the season when birds do most of their singing, they grew new brain cells in the area responsible for song learning.

--from Norman Doidge's "The Brain that Changes Itself"  
--submitted by Pat Thomson