

NATURE BAY NEWS

Newsletter of the Salmon Arm Bay Nature Enhancement Society
PO Box 27, Salmon Arm, B.C. Canada V1E 4N2

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Spring
2015

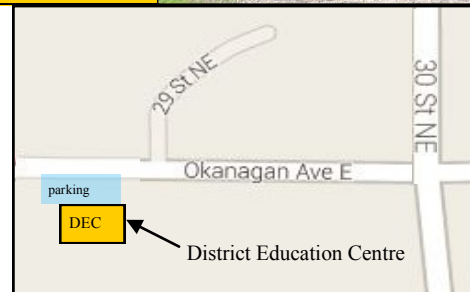


PLEASE JOIN US

SABNES AGM

7: 00 pm Friday, May 22nd

At the District Education Centre (DEC)
110-2960 Okanagan Ave S.E.



There will be a short business meeting followed by a

Video Slide and Presentation by Frank Ritcey *"Keeping safe on both sides of the glass"*

Frank is the Provincial WildSafeBC Coordinator. The presentation will be a combination of slides and videos that he has taken over the years to help people understand how they and the animals they watch/photograph can be kept safe from one another.

Refreshments will be served before the presentation.

Twenty Young Naturalists were busy looking for insects on the foreshore on Sunday, April 26th. Dr. Art Borkent, a local entomologist, had set up a table with microscopes, magnifiers and nets. He invited the young scientists to look for creatures in the pond water and then showed them many fascinating aspects of these insects. The children asked questions and spent the sunny afternoon with their families exploring the foreshore trail.

Three generations of the Brighthouse family joined in. Tom Brighthouse, his daughter, Dr. Ruth Brighthouse and grandson Ryon Ready were fascinated with Dr. Borkent's amazing knowledge about insects in our bay.

Aidan Sparks will be our summer student at the Nature Centre this year. **Ryon Ready** will work as a part-time summer student host, allowing us to keep the Nature Centre open through the Spring/Summer Period commencing June 3rd.



Excited Young Naturalists on the Foreshore

A Spring Saunter on the Foreshore

In the afternoon of Sunday April 26th the sun came out in full and enticed Judith and me to take an impromptu walk. Peter Jannick Park offered its usual magnificent views of the lake and wide expanse of wetlands for birding.



A lone male yellow-headed blackbird, perched on a distant bird-box and apparently unsuccessful in attracting a mate croaked his yet hopeful mating call. He was echoed by numerous red-winged blackbirds. Closer to us atop another birdhouse were a pair of tree swallows sporting their glossy blue and white attire. Looking towards the wharf, but much closer, were mallards with young. A male Canvasback and a male Northern Shoveler fed in the fertile reed



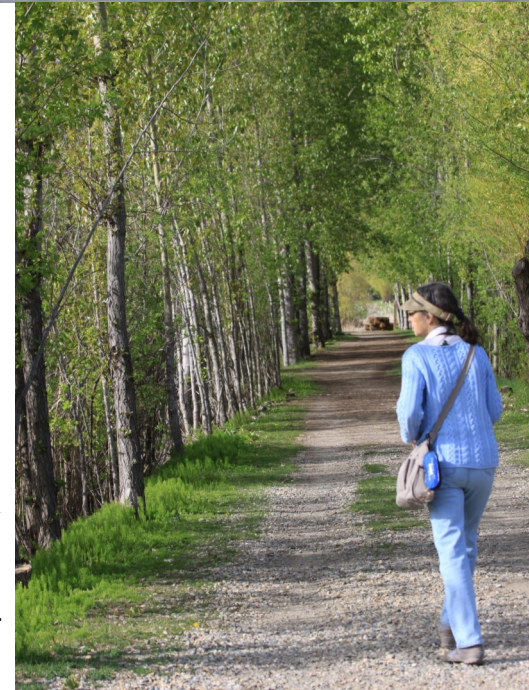
beds.

As we exited the park a rush of white-crowned sparrows flitted among the trees. One of them kindly posed for the camera.



Second Beaver Lodge

Along the foreshore trail bright sunlight streamed from over the Fly Hills and set alight the sea of cattail heads on the wetlands. We passed the two beaver lodges on the left as we walked along the willow-lined “tunnel” – a majestic and as yet *un-beavered* spectacle!

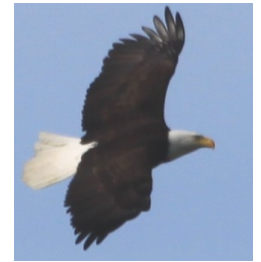


On Thursday May 7, **Leif Saba** and **Ariana Sholinder** ventured out to Christmas Island to do the annual Ring-billed gull nest count (only nests containing at least one egg are counted). They came up with **530** about 10% less than last year's count of **600**.

On the way to Christmas Island, I pointed out the willow and cottonwood cuttings, protected in their wire cages, that SABNES volunteers, myself included, had planted the day before. We paused on the recently constructed bridge to observe a statuesque Great Blue Heron in a bed of long grasses. The day was unusually quiet, whereas the previous day at this same spot there had been the pervasive sounds of hundreds of Ring-billed Gulls shrieking and wheeling at the far end of the island. As we crossed the bridge and followed the path, the reason became apparent.



An Osprey hovered not far overhead and a Bald Eagle circled in more leisurely fashion. On the small pond were a few Canada Geese on the far edge, and in the centre, oblivious to all around, a male Northern Shoveler was swinging its large spatulate bill as it inched forward. Closer to us a male Bufflehead reared up and flew a few metres to join a male Green-winged Teal dabbling nearby.



As we passed the pond and approached the lake, a small colony of Ring-billed Gulls had taken refuge on the opposite shore. Nearby in the lake was a single Grebe taking interest in a nearby buoy—as a possible mate? As we turned right, following the periphery of the island, a young Killdeer

emerged from the rocky shore, rushing ahead of us if we got too close. The Osprey had landed in a tree and we mused if it would find a nest-mate and settle on the as yet unused



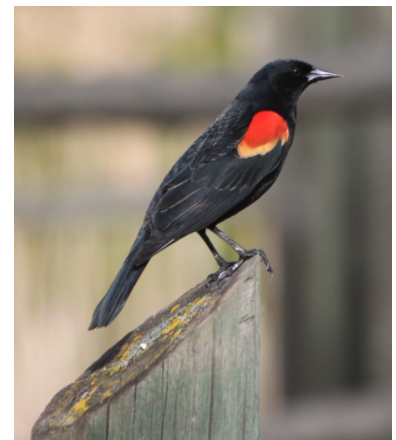
Osprey platform near the bridge.

Upon our return along the foreshore trail, we walked on the boardwalk past the main Beaver pond and lodge. The extensive area of cattails was in the process of being carved up by numerous Redwing Blackbirds, one of which obliged us for a photo. As we returned to the trail, we spotted a warbler flitting between two willows. After demurring at length, we thought it to be one of the Yellow-rumped variety.



We passed others (all without dogs, but often with children), sharing with us the peace, sun, fresh air, views and wildlife. We passed a couple whose young children quietly photographed birds and made notes. Where else could one find such treasures so close to home?

Article and photos by **Geoff Benson**



Elected Directors

Janet Aitken, President;
Geoff Benson, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor;
Ed Dahl; Hanne MacKay; Gale-Paule Davison ;
Mike Saul; Gary Lomax

Appointed Directors

Pat Mearns, **Shuswap Naturalists Club** ;
Councillor Ken Jamieson, **City of Salmon Arm**;
FishNGame : No Representative
James Cowling, **Downtown Improvement Assn**

Non-voting Directors

Georgia McLeod, Secretary
Tom Brighthouse, Advisor

We greatly appreciate the financial and service support from the following companies:

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GRANTING AGENCIES

City of Salmon Arm
Salmon Arm Rotary Club
Shuswap Community Foundation
Salmar Community Association

Annual Membership Fees *

Individual.....	\$ 15
Family.....	\$ 25
Sustaining Individual.....	\$ 50
Sustaining Family.....	\$ 100
Life Membership.....	\$ 500

Corporate or Organization

1-4 Employees....	\$ 50
5-10 Employees.....	\$ 100
+ 10 Employees.....	\$ 150
Life Membership.....	\$ 2,500

* All but \$5 is tax-deductible

Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail Address _____

Amount Paid: _____ Date : _____

I would like to help with trail clean-up and maintenance

Nature Bay Society (SABNES) is a Charitable Organization. Most of the Annual Fee is tax-deductible.

Receipts for Income Tax purposes will be issued

Nature Bay Society, P.O. Box 27, Salmon Arm, BC V1E 4N2

Website : www.sabnes.org

Email:- sabnes.org@gmail.com

Volunteers Helping on the Lake and Foreshore



Hanne and Doug MacKay and grandson Ben went out in Salmon Arm Bay in early April to scrub the buoys and refresh the labelling. Tom Brighthouse commented that the buoys in the bay marking off the sensitive nesting areas have made a difference in limiting watercraft entering the wetland. **SABNES** appreciates the public's cooperation in this regard. We are all rewarded when we see the Western Grebes dancing on the water in late May.

Hanne MacKay

Kim Fulton, a former school principal from Armstrong, kindly spearheaded a small party of **SABNES** members to plant willow and cottonwood cuttings on Christmas Island and on both sides of the trail connecting the Island to the foreshore. He is shown here on the left with willing hands, **Jim Hoskins** and **Geoff Benson**.

Photo:- **Janet Aitken**



Thanks to an alert from **Sarah Weaver**, **SABNES** learned that the sign at the end of the Kime trail to alert boaters away from nesting areas, had become detached from the Osprey Pole. Shown here affecting a speedy solution are stalwarts **Ed Dahl** and **Ken Stengler**, along with groundlings **Janet Aitken** and **Mike Saul**.

Photo:- **Sarah Weaver**

SABNES is entrusted with the protection of the wildlife of the Salmon Arm Bay. It is a responsibility the Salmon Arm Bay Nature Enhancement Society take very seriously. We would like to believe the entire community of Salmon Arm is working together to see that kayaks, boats, paddle boards and canoes stay outside the white buoys in order to protect the nesting Grebes and other water fowl. Most dog owners are very aware of the need to keep dogs out of this area all year round, but especially during the critical nesting period from April to August. We want to take this opportunity to thank our many volunteers who year after year maintain our trail. We appreciate the hours of your time that goes into trimming the trees, shrubs and grass. All the trail users appreciate your efforts. Thanks to each and everyone of you!

We do have openings on our Board of Directors so if you would like to be an active member, please give one of us a call or e-mail us at sabnes.org@gmail.com

SABNES Board of Directors