



Delta Naturalists Society

Volume 38 No. 5

May 2024

Delta Nats Web site - <https://deltanaturalists.org/>

Delta Nats Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/DeltaNats>

Delta Nats Nature Notes - <https://deltanaturalists.org/nature-resources/nature-notes/>

Tuesday May 7

Social with refreshments 7:00 PM

General Meeting 7:30

Speaker at 8:00

All Saints Anglican Church at 4755 Arthur Ave., Ladner



INSIDE ... and more -

Gardening for biodiversity with native plants

Delta Naturalists Casual Birding Schedule

DNS Executive April Meeting Report

NATURE NOTES 2024

Essay: A Perennial Wildflower Meadow

THE READING NOOK

The Last Pages

GARDENING FOR BIODIVERSITY WITH NATIVE PLANTS

This presentation by Jill Fraser will explore how we can transform our properties into pollinator-friendly landscapes that help promote biodiversity in our region. We will learn about pollinator-plant relationships and how to select plants best suited for your space. If you have ever wondered about the benefits of growing native plants, this is a presentation you will not want to miss.



Growing up on Vancouver Island, Jill's passion for native plants has been guided by her deep love of local ecology. She is a Certified Horticultural Technician who also holds a BA in Environmental Studies and Anthropology from the University of Victoria.

She has been able to combine her passion and knowledge of native plants at Satinflower Nurseries, where she coordinates plant and seed orders and community projects in Metchosin. She also helps to manage the nursery's native seed field in Cobble Hill.

Satinflower Nurseries aims to inspire and empower people to restore and conserve nature by providing native plants, seeds, education, and expertise. The nursery is specialized in the restoration and ecology of Garry oak ecosystems and meadowscaping.



Fireweed



Photo credits Satinflower Nurseries

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Bill Macaulay, Surrey

UPCOMING DNS PRESENTATIONS

DNS Meeting – May	Satinflower Nurseries - Gardening with Native Plants for Biodiversity
DNS Meeting – June	David Simon - Hummingbirds in Ecuador
	David Hoar - Haida Gwaii
	Chris McVittie - Adventures on the Northern BC Coast



Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Queen Elizabeth Park, April 30, Terrance Carr

TUESDAY MAY 7 - HYBRID MEETING/PRESENTATION INFO

From: Nicki Brockamp <nbrockamp@telus.net>

Hello members – this email is further to Elizabeth's teaser about Tuesday's presentation. Please review this email (and attachments) for information regarding next Tuesday's meeting:

- Social time: both online and in person starts at **7pm** – coffee and sweets will be available in the church – please bring a mug and a suggested **\$2 donation** to help defray costs
- Business meeting: starts at **7:30pm**. Meeting agenda – attached / Minutes from April meeting - attached
- Presentation starts at **8pm** with the presenter on ZOOM. See attached poster created by Geof. The full title of the presentation by Jill Fraser of Satinflower Nurseries in Saanich - "Gardening for Biodiversity with Native Plants" will focus on how we can transform our properties into pollinator-friendly landscapes that help promote biodiversity. Jill will be on ZOOM, but an in-person component will be at the church. More info on our website here: <https://deltanaturalists.org/activities/meetings/#upcoming-meetings>
- Zoom details:
 - Topic: Delta Naturalists' Zoom Meeting & Presentation**
 - Time: May 7, 2024 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)*
 - Join Zoom Meeting*
 - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86525391827?pwd=RzJxbDJlQTZacEhuaWhpYU5JcXh3Zz09>
 - Meeting ID: 865 2539 1827*
 - Passcode: 450026*
- Financials – attached.

Hello Naturalists!

We are dearly in need of volunteers for our upcoming community events. Our next event is the Vancouver Landfill School Days and Open House, June 7th, and 8th. Any amount of time you can give is appreciated. Thank you to those who have signed up!

Our presence at community events is to educate the public, and from what we see going on out there, we have an important job to do.

Please find attached the sign-up sheet and thank you!

DELTA NATURALISTS CASUAL BIRDING SCHEDULE

Delta Nature Casual Birders is a group of people who like watching birds, mostly around Boundary Bay and within the Fraser Delta. Anyone with a similar interest is welcome to join us. Grant Edwards has offered to lead some Saturday outings for Delta Naturalist members. Upcoming DNCB Outings are listed on [website](#).

To sign up for future DNCB outings go to [the signup form](#) and put an x by your name. <https://tinyurl.com/dncb-signup>

The person with double x by their name will be the contact for that outing. Their phone number is on the signup sheet.

To keep the groups small, some people will go on Tuesday, and some will go on Wednesday. Participants should be members of the Delta Naturalists Society or a BC Nature affiliated club. Participants on Saturday should be Delta Naturalists members.

The meeting times vary and are listed. Reports of previous outings are on the [blog](#). Photos can be found [here](#). Driving directions to some can be found <https://deltanaturalists.org/activities/outings-and-events/#maps-and-directions>
For more information email Terry Carr at terrancecarr@gmail.com

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY OUTINGS (SEE BELOW FOR SATURDAY OUTINGS)

May 7 & 8: Joe Brown Park, 5381 125A St, Surrey.

Meet at 8 am. There should be enough room to park below the traffic circle on 125A St.

May 14 & 15: Campbell Valley Regional Park (16th Ave entrance) 20290 16th Ave, Langley.

Meet at 8 am in the parking lot on the south side of 16th Ave.

May 21 & 22: Ladner Harbour Park, 4905 Mcneelys Way, Ladner (off River Rd).

Meet at 8 am in the parking lot by the caretaker's residence.

May 28 & 29: UBC Botanical Garden in Vancouver.

The Garden and parking lot open at 10. We can do some birding on Old Marine Drive and in the garden parking lot before they open. Meet at 9 am at the end of Old Marine Drive below the garden (free parking). Or park in the garden parking lot when it opens at 10. Some

may want to meet at the garden at 10.

You access Old Marine Drive by turning left before the Garden (when approaching from the south). See **Old Marine Dr Lookout** on Google Maps.

Admission: Adults \$11, Seniors \$9. Parking in the garden parking lot is \$1.50 per hour or \$6 all day.

June 4 & 5: Colony Farm Regional Park, Colony Farm Rd, Port Coquitlam.

Meet at 9 am at the Community Gardens parking lot. From Port Mann Bridge take the exit to Hwy 7 east (Lougheed Hwy).

June 11 & 12: Sturgeon Slough, Pitt Meadows (on the road to Pitt Lake).

Meet at 9 am. Park on Rannie/Neaves Rd after it crosses Sturgeon Slough (before Swanaset Golf Course).

The address for Swanaset Golf Course is 16651 Rannie Rd, Pitt Meadows.

June 18 & 19: Jackman Wetlands in Langley

Meet at 8 am in the disc golf parking lot is on the west side of 272nd St between 16th Ave & 8th Ave.

Raptors Knoll Disc Golf Park, 1111 272 St, Langley (across from Langley Transfer Station).

June 25 & 26: Tsawwassen Ferry Causeway & Reifel

Meet at 8 am on the ferry causeway (small parking area on the right just before the end of the causeway).

Meet at 9 am at Reifel Bird Sanctuary. You do need to book parking. There will be a group booking for Delta Nats – just say that you are part of the group booking. There is an admission charge unless you have a Reifel membership.

SATURDAY OUTINGS**May 4: Serpentine Fen**

Meet at 8 am in the parking lot on King George Blvd by the bridge over the Serpentine River. We will not use the gated parking lot behind Art Knapps.

May 11: Iona Beach Regional Park in Richmond (via Templeton St & Ferguson Rd). Meet at 8 am by the washrooms.

May 18: Delta Nature Reserve

Meet at 8 am at the Planet Ice parking lot, 10388 Nordel Court, North Delta.

Colony Farm Regional Park. Colony Farm Rd, Port Coquitlam.

Meet at 8 am at the Community Gardens parking lot. From Port Mann Bridge take the exit to Hwy 7 east (Lougheed Hwy).

June 1: Sturgeon Slough, Pitt Meadows (on the road to Pitt Lake).

Meet at 8 am. Park on Rannie/Neaves Rd after it crosses Sturgeon Slough (before Swanese Golf Course).

The address for Swanese Golf Course is 16651 Rannie Rd, Pitt Meadows



Mallard – Queen Elizabeth Park, April 30 Terrance Carr

DELTA NATURALISTS SOCIETY
presents

GARDENING FOR BIODIVERSITY

WITH NATURAL PLANTS

with Jill Fraser Horticultural Technician

At the Delta Naturalists Society's
General Meeting on Tuesday 7th May 2024
at 7pm at All Saints Anglican Church
4755 Arthur Drive, Ladner and on Zoom



If any Member has any questions relating to Zoom please contact Jack MacDonald at jacksonmacd@gmail.com 

If any member has any questions relating to ZOOM, please contact Jack MacDonald at
jacksonmacd@gmail.com



Black-margined Flower Fly, Queen Elizabeth Park, April 30, Terrance Carr

DNS Executive Meeting Report, April 17, 2024

In Attendance: All executive (Syd, Jim, David, Nicki, Elizabeth, and Joe); Display Coordinator Joni joined us at 3:30pm

1. Review of 'Action Items' from previous (Jan. 19) meeting: All action items had been addressed except for printing new member name tags. Name tags with more legible print will be printed for all members and 50 protective sleeves will be provided. Nicki paused completion of her guidelines for "DNS Website Changes - Information Flow" but will now complete her draft for review by Exec.

2. Financial and Membership. Our finances are in good shape. DNS now has 150 members.

3. Communications with members – The executive discussed the adequacy of our communication with members in response to a recent expression of concern from a member. The conclusion, given that we employ several communication platforms, was that our communication is pretty good. There's always room for improvement, though, and we appreciate member feedback. Audrey will be asked to highlight newsletter items in her covering email when she sends out the newsletter.

4. Membership waiver form- The waiver is a liability issue to protect our BCN insurance and Team Leaders and is now on-line. Participants in outside events need to have signed a waiver. A sign-in sheet with a built-in waiver is recommended for events, outings, and meetings. Subjects need to provide their consent to be photographed.

5. Recruiting New Executive Candidates – There's still six months to go before our fall AGM but it was deemed prudent to start this discussion sooner rather than later. Syd reiterated that he will resigning as President, effective this October. All other executive members indicated a willingness to run for an executive position again. There was some discussion about other members that we might encourage to stand for election to the executive.

6. Display – Display Coordinator Joni joined the meeting, by invitation, at 3:30pm and reported on her progress updating the display as well as the UBC Biomedical Visualization & Communication project invitation. DNS has accepted UBC's invitation and will submit a draft "problem/opportunity" for the program students to focus on. The challenge we plan to offer is how to reach out to younger individuals through technology.

7. Photo Contest – A DNS member recently suggested that DNS organize and hold a photo contest for the public and students. The executive was enthusiastic about the potential of this idea. They will confer with the proponent further about it.

8. Next meeting: Thursday, May 30th

NATURE NOTES 2024

<https://deltanaturalists.org/nature-resources/nature-notes/>

- January - Something fishy goin' on here - Marg Cuthbert - Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society - online Jan. 23 In print Jan. 25
- February - Biodiversity Conservation - David Hoar, DNS - online Feb. 28
- March - Innovative Tidal Marsh Restoration at Sturgeon Bank – Chantelle Abma - Ducks Unlimited. Online March 26. In print March 28
- April - City Nature Challenge - Terry Carr, DNS – online April 25
- May - Light Pollution & Migration - Nicki Brockamp, DNS

NATURE NOTES can be found in the **DELTA OPTIMIST**, online and in print as noted above.



Handkerchief Tree, Queen Elizabeth Park, April 30 Terrance Carr

A PERENNIAL WILDFLOWER MEADOW

Boudi Van Oldenborgh

Ever expanding urban and monoculture farm landscapes all over the planet are suffering severe loss of ecosystems, biodiversity, and species. Our species, homo sapiens, need to do something about it.

In Delta good things are already happening. Trees for Tomorrow plan for a 40% tree coverage. Tsawwassen, Ladner and North Delta are well below this. Delta Farm and Wildlife Trust is providing help for migrating waterfowl, creating essential hedgerow and grass set asides.

In urban areas, birds, butterflies, pollinating bees, and insects are not particularly impressed by large areas of blacktop, concrete, buildings, and small areas of mowed grass.

Creating a wildflower meadow can be tricky. Much depends on choice of (bulk) seed, location, soil condition, date and method of

seeding, and weather. Once established, the many advantages become self evident.

Further advantages are the quite low level of preparation effort. Scarifying the grass and subsequent monitoring and maintenance would not be difficult.

If you are lucky enough to have a backyard, why not put in a test patch first, then expand? Why not then be really courageous, and be the first on your block to start on your front lawn?

After the initial outrage dies down, it would not be a surprise to find “hey, why not” from neighbours down the street.

The potential for us to contribute to a better tomorrow is huge!

Boudi Van Oldenborgh





LEARN TO BIRD IN RICHMOND – INTERMEDIATE BIRDER

Enhance birdwatching skills by identifying various birds using identification tricks and tips shared by expert birders from Birds Canada. This intermediate-friendly session covers the migratory birds passing through Richmond while connecting with fellow birding enthusiasts.

May 4 @ 10:00 am - 2:00 pm PDT

Terra Nova Community Garden 2631 Westminster Hwy, Richmond

May 5 @ 10:00 am - 2:00 pm PDT

Richmond Nature Park 11851 Westminster Hwy, Richmond

May 6 @ 10:00 am - 2:00 pm PDT

Terra Nova Community Garden 2631 Westminster Hwy, Richmond

Taking Flight: Greater Vancouver Bird Celebration Opening Event – Van Dusen Gardens (Floral Hall)

May 10 @ 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm PDT

Van Dusen Botanical Garden 5251 Oak St, Vancouver

This free event includes fun activities facilitated by local bird-related organizations, birding tours in the garden, engaging speakers, and amazing prizes. Learn about all the exciting Greater Vancouver Bird Celebrations programs from May 10-May 26. This event is for all ages, novice, and experienced birders alike. Speakers: Bird Fact and Fiction – With Rob Butler [...]

Birding by Ear with Justin Peter

Learning to identify birds by their vocalizations can add an entirely new dimension to our enjoyment of the outdoors. However, it can be a daunting undertaking. In this **webinar** Justin will share some approaches to confidently identifying birds by their calls. Join Justin for this **free webinar** on **May 16th at 4:00 PM PST**. Registration [...]

Bird and Insect Walk on the BC Bird Trail (Iona Beach Regional Park)

May 18 @ 10:00 am – 12:00 pm PDT

Iona Beach Regional Park 900 Ferguson Rd, Richmond

Practice the identification of birds that feed on aerial insects and learn more about ways to monitor insects and birds during a walk at Iona Beach Regional Park. You will have a chance to participate in our monitoring projects! Dress for the weather. Meet at the Iona Beach Public Washrooms. Register with David by email: [...]



Photo by Michael Poole



Dunlin – City Nature Challenge, April 27, Centennial Beach, Bruce Taylor

GOOD NEWS from FIX THE NEWS

A Small roundup of Good News for People and the Planet

Global life expectancy has increased, especially in Africa

Over the past three decades, global life expectancy has increased by 6.2 years, due to reductions in leading killers like chronic respiratory diseases, stroke, and cancer. Eastern sub-Saharan Africa had the largest net increase, gaining 10.7 years, followed by South Asia, with 7.8 years, thanks to steep declines in deaths from diarrhoeal diseases. [IHME](#)

Ghana's free high school policy is working

In 2017, Ghana made high school free for all students following an election campaign, and over the next four years the country spent \$392 million on implementing the policy. It worked. For both girls and boys, the policy increased the completion of senior high school by 14.9%. [The Conversation](#)



Removing cost barriers helps girls get a secondary education. *Credit: Stephan Bachenheimer*

Democracy wins in Senegal

More on what might be the best world politics story of 2024 so far. Despite attempted delays and imprisonments by the former president, Senegal pulled off a free and fair election and a peaceful transfer of power to Bassirou Diomaye Faye. The victory was secured by young voters, indicating the rise of a new political class that will play a key role in democratic trends. [Vox](#) “2024 is the biggest global election year in history and the future of democracy is on every ballot.”

Rwanda is on track to light up every household

Over the past 15 years, Rwanda has significantly increased its electricity access from 6% in 2009 to 75% as of March 2024. It is one of the fastest expansions in the world and is thanks in part to investment in renewables and off-grid solutions like solar home systems. The country has also connected 100% of healthcare centres and 84% of schools and small businesses. [World Bank](#)

Nepal achieves unprecedented decline in poverty

National household survey data from the Nepal Living Standard Survey 2022/23 shows a large decline in poverty, from 25% to just 3.6% between 2011 and 2023 (using the 2011 National Poverty Line). The prosperity gap and inequality also decreased over the same period. [World Bank](#)

More good news you did not hear about

India plans to transition [from a minimum wage to a living wage](#) by 2025 to ensure all basic needs are met. How Jamaica [halved its debt](#) in just 10 years. The Netherlands has upgraded prison healthcare to address [mental health](#) disorders. [Kenya](#) has increased access to electricity from 5% to 71% in the past 25 years. An historic victory for the protection of [civil rights activists](#) in Colombia. [Kosovo](#) rolls out the HPV vaccine. The incredible story of how Egypt won its battle against [Hepatitis C](#). A new rapid diagnostic test to ramp up the fight against [cholera](#). Early childhood interventions have benefited [14 million mothers and children](#) in Senegal through education and nutrition services. Western Australia has extended its provision of [free period products](#) to public primary schools. Find out more about the [legislative reforms](#) that made Spain a pioneer in combating gender violence.

Credit: Alejandro Navarro Bustamante

Good news for the planet

The US just prioritised conservation on a tenth of its land

The Department of the Interior has introduced a rule prioritizing conservation, recreation, and renewable energy over traditional resource extraction on public lands, representing a seismic shift in the management of roughly 245 million acres of public property, one-tenth of the nation's land mass. [WaPo](#)

Suspension of Chinook salmon fishing in Yukon River

Canada and Alaska have agreed to a seven-year moratorium on fishing Chinook salmon in the Yukon River. Last year only 15,000 fish reached Canadian spawning waters; the new agreement has a target of 71,000 Canadian-origin fish reaching their spawning grounds each year for the next seven years. [CBC](#)

Paris is officially a cycle city

A recent survey has found that cyclists now outnumber motorists for trips from the outskirts of Paris to the city centre, a huge change from just five years ago. The revolution is thanks to an increase in cycleways and numerous anti-motoring measures, including the closure of some major roads to motorists. [Forbes](#)

EPA sets limit for ‘forever chemicals’ in drinking water

The EPA has set new drinking water standards to reduce exposure to PFAS, a group of human-made chemicals that can increase the risk of cancer and other health conditions. It is the first time a drinking water standard has been set for a new contaminant since 1996 and is expected to reduce PFAS exposure in drinking water for about 100 million people. [Washington Post](#)

South Africa bans captive breeding of lions and rhinos

The controversial practice of breeding lions and rhinos in captivity has finally been banned in South Africa, following more than a decade of advocacy. The move will also end the commercial exploitation of lions, including ‘canned’ hunts, which release tame big cats into small enclosures for hunting. [Bloomberg](#)

A 50-year project to restore the wetlands of the California coastline

The South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project will restore over 15,000 acres of tidal wetlands after 150 years of commercial salt production. Since 2003 the project has recovered over 3,000 acres of shoreline, while keeping some of the man-made salt ponds to support the ducks and shorebirds that rely on them. [Reasons to be Cheerful](#)



Chipping Sparrow in Grant Edwards' pear tree in Ladner



Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch behind Tim Hortons in Delta

Grant Edwards

THE READING NOOK

The purpose of **THE READING NOOK** is to share titles of interesting books. If you have a favourite book, or one recently read that others might enjoy, please share it with us with a note on the subject and why you enjoyed reading it. Please send to the editor at makemusichappen@gmail.com

Ten Birds That Changed the World by Stephen Moss

For the whole of human history, we have lived alongside birds. We have hunted and domesticated them for food; venerated them in our mythologies, religions, and rituals; exploited them for their natural resources; and have been inspired by them for our music, art, and poetry.

In *Ten birds That changed the World*, naturalist and author Stephen Moss tells the gripping story of this long and intimate relationship through key species from all seven of the world's continents. From Odin's faithful raven companions to Darwin's finches, and from the wild turkey of the Americas to the emperor penguin as potent symbol of the climate crisis, this is a fascinating, eye-opening, and endlessly engaging work of natural history.

Recommended by Terry Carr

A World on the Wing by Scott Weidensaul

I am reading this book which was given to me. It is a must read for birders. I have been wondering if I have come lately to this and you folks have read it long ago or if it is new to you. If it is new to you, I highly recommend it as a very readable report on the state of bird migration worldwide.

Recommended by Brian Avent



DNS Executive

Syd Barber	President, BCN Rep.
Jim Kneesch	Treasurer/ DNS Facebook Master
Joe Stephenson	Secretary
Nicki Brockamp	Vice President / Communications Co-ordinator
Elizabeth Perrin	Director at Large / Speaker Co-ordinator
David Hoar	Director at Large/Audio Visual Support

DNS Support Volunteers

Ken Borrie	Web Manager
Terrance Carr	Outings Co-ordinator
Audrey Coutts	Newsletter Editor makemusichappen@gmail.com
Anita Den Dikken	Environment Co-ordinator
Geof Hacker	DNS Poster Artist & Historian
Debbi Hlady	Backyard Birding Co-ordinator
Jack MacDonald	Audio Visual Support
Chris McVittie	MetroVan Parks Co-ordinator
Anne Murray	Chair, Biodiversity Committee
Jonathan Mwenifumbo	Membership Co-Ordinator
James Ronback	Environmental Watch Dog Jim.Ronback@gmail.com
Joni Wright	Display Co-ordinator
Volunteers?	Social Committee

Birds and Biodiversity Conservation	Chair Anne Murray, Glen Bodie, Nicki Brockamp
Strategy team	Terry Carr, David Hoar, Chris McVittie
Delta Nats' website:	https://deltanaturalists.org/

Wildlife Rescue	604-526-7275
Canadian Wildlife Services	604-666-0143
Rare Bird Sightings	bcbirdergirl@gmail.com
	https://bcbirdalert.blogspot.com/p/vancouver-and-fraser-valley.html

Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary	604-946-6980
OWL (Orphaned Wildlife Rehab)	604-946-3171
Wildlife Violation Report	1-800-663-9453
Fisheries and Oceans HOT LINE	604-666-3500
Delta Farmland & Wildlife Trust	604-940-3392
http://www.deltafarmland.ca/	Bird Studies Canada
http://www.birdsonthebay.ca/	BC Breeding Bird Atlas
https://www.bcnature.ca/about/	

THE LAST PAGES

Debbi Hlady in London

Plant life for beauty, fragrance, food, and medicine - all our essential needs - both spiritual/mental/physical well-being! People forget the air we breath comes from plants - they are not just a source of food!

Birds here in London are fewer in species diversity then in our metro Vancouver area. The ebird reviewer I met here online mentioned that over twenty species of “exotic ducks/geese” live in ponds, (St James to Hyde parks), that surround palace grounds brought in for previous kings!

Some migrants arriving - saw swifts and swallows above Serpentine Channel, Hyde Park. I think I am up 50 species here in the past 3 days!



St. James Park, east of buckingham Palace, with Mute Swan



This Museum was established in the church used by (and in recognition of) John Tradescant 1570 - England's first great gardener, botanist, plant collector. The new King Charles III was a Royal supporter!



Garden Museum south of Big Ben.

England's garden history is displayed here at a newly established Garden Museum at Lambeth Palace/St Mary's Church - circa 1086!! Plant diversity = bird life.