

Prince George Naturalist Club

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2012 AGM

This report covers the first year of the revitalized Prince George Naturalists Club. Our first formal meeting was held at UNBC on January 27, 2011. 54 families or individuals signed up for Club membership over the year, and many additional people who have not as yet formally joined the Club have asked to be kept informed of developments: the email list for events and information includes 140 individuals in total. This indicates a strong support for a local naturalists organization, and bodes well for the future.

The Club has had a reasonably busy year, with a number of field trips, presentations, participation in events sponsored by other clubs, and invitations to members to provide their views and input on a range of topics.

Club activities since the last AGM included the following:

- March 5: Co-sponsored presentation on a historic 1973 canoe and kayak trip down the Nahanni River.
- March 24: Presentation on Caribou recovery.
- April 5: Workshop on identifying trees and shrubs in winter.
- April 30 & May 14: Trip leaders' workshops.
- May 19: Presentations on wildlife photography.
- May 21: Photography trip to Rosebud Mountain.
- June 2: Presentation on sturgeon recovery.
- June 4: Guided tour of the Ancient Forest.
- July 23: Field trip to Goodsir Nature Park.
- August 20: Field trip in Moores Meadow to learn about fungi.
- August 25: Field trip and presentation on invasive weeds in various locations in Carrie Jane Gray Park.
- September: Spirituality and Mother Nature event in Forests for the World.
- October 1: Rainforest Eco Tour and Wildlife Discovery Tour at Crescent Spur-Robson Valley.
- October 21: Participation in UNBC Fish & Wildlife Calendar contest and Exhibition.
- December 18: Christmas Bird Count.
- Jan 15, 2012: Swan Count.
- Feb 5, 2012: Livingstone Springs snowshoe trip.
- Feb 11, 2012: Greenway snowshoe trip.

During the year, the club published a new edition of the Checklist of North-Central BC Birds: an essential tool for local and visiting bird enthusiasts.

In addition, members were informed of interesting wildlife observations, both directly through email and through the optional ncnbird listserv, and were kept informed of campaigns in connection with environmentally related issues. While there was no formal debate on most such themes, members were encouraged to respond as individuals.

A vote was, however, taken in order to transmit the membership's position regarding BC Nature's proposal to confine domestic cats indoors (15 in favour, 5 against). In December the Club also joined with local residents at Ferguson Lake to provide input to the City of Prince George to ensure that 64 hectares around the Nature Reserve were not clearcut for fire suppression purposes at the expense of a sensitive wildlife area.

A project to be completed in 2012 concerned building and mounting duck nest boxes in Eskers Park. Other such projects, to involve club members in practical activities, were sought.

Electronic communications expanded through Facebook and Flickr.

Special thanks go out to all the presenters and field trip leaders who made the Club's resurgence year a success.

*Clive Keen, Sandra Kinsey, Anne Hogan, Carol Fairhurst
Events Planning Committee*

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