

PGNC AGM 2015 – Executive's Report

Overview of 2014

It has been an exciting year for the Prince George Naturalists Club (PGNC), bringing new developments not only for the Hudson's Bay Wetland project, but for the Club as a society. The official logo was designed and completed in April which gives the Club a recognizable and appealing graphic that coincides with our objectives.

In June, a "Planning for the Future" meeting was held inviting all members to attend, and eagerly they did. Valuable feedback regarding new field trips or topics for presentations was provided during group brainstorming and open table discussion. This allowed members the opportunity to help maintain and steer the Club towards an organization that they would continue to be invested in and enthusiastic about. From this meeting sprouted the presentation nights now scheduled every third Thursday of the month at the Exploration Place from August to May.

Among the annual trip favourites were the Long-billed Curlew viewing, Shelley Lagoons shorebirds, and the Swan Count. During the summer, an urban tree walk through Fort George Park took place and beekeeping tours at UNBC were held. An impromptu garter snake viewing brought out 19 people! Events such as these, hosted by Club members, are vital and always encouraged. The BC Wildlife Federation held its Wetlandkeeper's course over 3 days in which 17 people participated for free. Those who attended learned about wetland restoration, vegetation surveys, aquatic invertebrates and birding and received a Wetlandkeeper certificate upon completion of the course.

The first annual Wine & Cheese Social night was hosted at the Spruce City Wildlife building drawing in 43 attendees! Specimens kindly borrowed from UNBC and Club members were on display along with maps of the Hudson's Bay Wetland. Nature photo slideshows and trivia took place with donated prizes from Books & Company, Spruce Capital Feeds, Surplus Herby's, The Wild Life and Wholesale Sports. Naturalists mingled with other naturalists and new members were welcomed.

A full list of 2014 events is available on the blog.

Hudson's Bay Wetland

The project continues to gain steam as it receives new grants and progresses towards the completion of Phase I and enters Phase II. During the city wide cleanup on April, 27 people helped to remove garbage and debris from the Hudson's Bay Wetland. The completion of the accessible observation deck and nature trail in October on the south side of the Hudson's Bay Wetland was and continues to be a huge success – a wedding even took place on it! Construction of the deck was completed by volunteers from the PGNC, Caledonia Ramblers and Prince George Singles Activity Group. Interpretive signs have been installed at the observation deck allowing visitors to identify flora and fauna they may see in the wetland.

What to Look Forward to

All registered members for the 2015/2016 year will have received a new membership card, which will come in handy once some new membership benefits are available, stay tuned. Spring and summer field trips are planned, including the upcoming trip to Vanderhoof to visit the Nechako White Sturgeon Conservation Centre and also view the Trumpeter Swans. In the fall, the Executive will be working on the second annual Social as well as the new presentation series.

In 2016, the PGNC will be hosting BC Nature's Fall General Meeting (FGM). The planning committee for the FGM has been meeting once a month and hopes to accommodate over 200 naturalists as they attend the four day conference and participate in various events.

Last year the membership grew to 71 which is rather thrilling for the Club as it moves towards its goal of 100 members for the Club's 50th anniversary in 2019. We hope to continue to engage the old and attract the new members alike through field trips and educational events, while fostering an appreciation and awareness of nature in our region.

Final Notes

On the second Wednesday of every month, the Executive meets at the Spruce City Wildlife Association building, and all members are welcome and encouraged to attend these meetings. Again, the Club is grateful to the Exploration Place for its support by providing a meeting space for presentations and events along with complementary coffee and tea.

Every bit of progress made in the past year is accredited to our volunteers. We appreciate that these invaluable members carry on contributing both their time and sweat to the Club's projects and events!

Respectfully submitted,

Shanelle Marshall, President
Heather Meier, Vice President
Clive Keen, Immediate Past President
Anne Hogan, Secretary
Sandra Kinsey, Treasurer
Sara Sparks, BC Nature Director
Doug Wilson, Director
Sandra Hepburn, Director
Carol Fairhurst, Director
Allan Carson, Director
Alice Lee, Director