

# CHILLIWACK FIELD NATURALISTS

May – 2017



Interim Editor: [Janne Perrin](#)

## MEETINGS

### 1. Tuesday, March 21, 2017 AGM

Eddie Gardner, a Stó:lō Elder from the Skwah First Nation in Chilliwack B.C., is elder-in-residence with University of the Fraser Valley. Eddie informed us about the health risks and the threat to wild salmon posed by net-pen fish farms.

### 2. Tuesday, April 18, 2017

Five students from BCIT reported results of a comparative study of Wells Sanctuary and Camp Slough, two Nature Trust of BC properties. CFN has stewarded Camp Slough since 1994. Results showed five species of small mammals at Camp Slough, 791 fish and still lots of blackberries.

## FIELD TRIPS

### 1. Great Blue Heron Reserve March 26, 2017

Six CFN members joined EFV Nature Kids at the



Great Blue Heron Nature Reserve for a talk by Metis leader, Joe Smith, on edible and

medicinal plants. Big thank you to Alena McIlroy, EFV Nature Kids leader, for welcoming us. Joe made a tea from plants in his garden and Alena provided cottonwood buds, which were added to olive oil to make a soothing rub for aching joints and muscles. After the talk we 6 walked to the heronry to observe about 100 nesting herons. We ended our day over lunch and coffee in the Rotary Reception Building. *Thank you to Janet Pollock for leading, the write-up & photo.*

### 2. Mill Lake, April 15, 2017



On a blustery Easter Saturday, 4-CFN members walked the periphery of Mill Lake Park in Abbotsford. Observed were an active bushtit nest,

many Myrtle-form yellow-rumped warblers, lots of diving and dabbling ducks plus a bald eagle flying over. Two more joined the group later then went to lunch at 7-Oaks food court. *Thank you to Paulina Selles for leading & for the photo.*

3. **Stein Valley April 30, 2017** – Instead of going to the Stein, leader Joachim and 3-CFN members, after crossing on the cable ferry, drove along the west side of the Fraser from Lytton to Lillooet.

They saw a flock of mountain bluebirds & wild roaming

horses with their young foals. They were fortunate to observe some climbing mountain goats and on the way back, plenty of mule deer along the east side of the Fraser, and more snow-capped mountain peaks of the Stein towering over the Fraser canyon. *Thank you to Joachim Boge for leading, the write-up & for the photo.*



## THIS AND THAT

### 1. **Camp Slough Wildlife Area Study** -

Lauryn Williams, Leila Riahi, Katie Piper, Stephanie Holmes and Amelia Mackowia are the BCIT students from the [Fish, Wildlife & Recreation Program](#) who presented at our April Meeting. Student Sasha Lavigne the 6<sup>th</sup> team member, sent regrets.

2. **Fish Found** - The BCIT students found 61 Salish Suckers at the [Wells Sanctuary](#) and 4 more native species. At Camp slough they found 6 species with the bulk being 3-spine sticklebacks that can tolerate the low oxygen water of the Hope Slough.

3. **Field Trips** - This coming year your executive is coordinating speakers and field trips. On May 6 it's Camp Slough as follow-up the BCIT study. A local school class is studying tracks so we may see some of their activities too. After Dennis St. John's butterfly presentation, we go June 2<sup>nd</sup> to the Skagit, a prime butterfly area. Dennis and Al Grass, an expert in natural history from the Langley Club, lead.

4. **Robertson School NatureKids Talk** –18 enthusiastic students learned about schoolyard birds on April 25. After examining feathers and photos, a walk revealed 2-pairs of wood ducks, a male mallard, a crow, a robin, a chickadee and a house finch.

5. **Field Trip coordinator and HH editor needed.** Contact [Helen](#) or [Janne](#).