

Enews January 2010

Conservation News

“Building a Culture that Sustains Land” March 18–20, Naramata, BC.

Join BC’s land trusts, naturalists, stewardship, conservation and land use organizations & agencies in this foremost Land Trust and Stewardship Seminar Series, hosted by the Land Trust Alliance of BC. This three day event includes site visits to protected areas, including Skaha Bluffs, restored riparian areas and other Okanagan cultural sites. Plus local experts, Harold Baumbrough and Mike Sarrell, will give fascinating presentations on snakes, fire and other features of BC’s incredible biodiversity. In addition to a full day workshop by renowned North American fundraiser Kim Klein, there are another 15 seminars about protecting BC’s biodiversity and carbon storing forests and grasslands for healthy communities and a healthy climate. Thanks to the Real Estate Foundation and the Islands Trust Fund, we are pleased to be able to provide travel subsidies to member organizations. This event is open to all, plus a ride sharing connection service will be available. Please contact us at 250–538–0112 or email info@landtrustalliance.bc.ca. The program and registration is at www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca. Pre–registration discounts are available until March 1.



The Race to Save Madrona Farm gets 60–Day Extension. TLC The Land Conservancy has been successful in negotiating an extension for the fundraising campaign to protect Madrona Farm. The new deadline of March 14 will allow TLC the critical time needed to raise the remaining \$730,000 needed to save the farm. Most recently, Ed Johnson, Chair of the Farmlands Trust, issued a personal challenge to match anyone willing to donate \$200,000. To date, \$930,000 has been donated towards this goal. More information at <http://blog.conservancy.bc.ca/2010/01/the-land-conservancy-negotiates-60-day-extension-for-madrona-farm/>. You can donate through TLC at www.thelandconservancy or through Madrona Farm at www.madronafarm.com

Comox Valley Land Trust enters 2nd decade. In 1999, a small group of concerned citizens banded together to form the Comox Valley Land Trust, dedicated to protecting the Comox Valley’s heritage of land and resources through conservation measures. Today, the CVLT is 10 years old. If you are interested in contributing to the organization’s initiatives, drop in to see executive director Jack Minard at the office upstairs at 5–478 Fifth St. or contact CVLT at 250–331–0670 or info@cvlandtrust.org.

Launch of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity. The United Nations declared 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) to highlight the crucial role that biodiversity plays in supporting all life on Earth, including our own. The RCEN Biodiversity Caucus will use this opportunity to engage Canadian civil society on key biodiversity issues through education, public awareness and participatory policy processes. In honour of the International Year, biodiversity has also been chosen as the theme for the RCEN 2010 Annual Conference on the Environment. For more information, visit <http://www.cen-rce.org/eng/index.html>

The Center for Biological Diversity – Successes in 2009. Working through science, law, and media to secure a future for all species hovering on the brink of extinction, in 2009 the organization secured more than 40 million acres of critical habitat for species including the Canada lynx, Alaskan sea otter, and green sturgeon; stopped uranium mining on one million acres near the Grand Canyon; put an end to the killing of wolves in the Great Lakes; and won a proposal for 128 million acres of habitat for the polar bear. <http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/>

Action Items

LTABC calls for nominations for the Conservation Volunteer of the Year! Deadline February 26th, 2010. Each year a committee of the LTABC board selects a recipient for the Conservation Volunteer of the Year Award. Nominations are accepted for outstanding work in the areas of stewardship, conservation, and environmental education or outreach. If you would like to give a volunteer a boost and public recognition, through this award, go to our website or contact info@landtrustalliance.bc.ca to receive the Conservation Volunteer of the Year Award Nomination Form.

Help Save the Flathead Valley. As biologically rich as the Okavango Delta or the Serengeti in Africa; home to a free-flowing river, and unmatched in North America for the variety, completeness and density of its carnivore species like grizzly bears, it is a magical place never settled by humans – but now threatened by an ineffective land use plan that allows coal-bed methane drilling, coal-mining, and gold-mining. It is also adjacent to Glacier National Park in the US and Waterton Lakes National Park in Alberta, which are already protected. Flathead Wild is working to create a national park in the lower one-third of Flathead River Valley and a Wildlife Management Area in the rest of the valley, but there's one missing piece – the lack of a strong, loud, persistence voice arguing for its preservation. To help, visit www.flathead.ca and click on “Act Now”

Environment Canada seeking input into Species at Risk Act (SARA). Environment Canada is seeking comments from the public on the proposed addition of species to the Species at Risk Act (SARA). You are invited to contact EC directly online or through staff listed below. Detailed information on the listing process is presented in “Consultation on Amending the List of Species under the Species at Risk Act – Terrestrial Species,” available on the SARA Public Registry at: https://www.registrelp-sararegistry.gc.ca/document/default_e.cfm?documentID=1920 Here you will also find an electronic form for submitting your comments. **Deadline for comments March 1st, 2010.** For any questions, contact Kira Furman, Consultation Analyst, Canadian Wildlife Service, (604) 940-4700, Kira.furman@ec.gc.ca or Coral deShield, Head, Program and Planning Coordination, Canadian Wildlife Service, (604) 940-4700, Coral.deshield@ec.gc.ca

Invitation to list your environmental initiatives in new CB Green Directory. The West Kootenay EcoSociety, together with Wildsight and Columbia Basin Trust have launched an online environmental directory – the CB Green Directory. This directory lists professionals, businesses, groups, organizations, communities, and local or regional governments with initiatives, resources, products or services that promote environmental sustainability, social and ecological responsibility, and local resiliency within the communities of the Columbia Basin Watershed. You can self list at <http://www.cbgreen.ca> or contact the West Kootenay EcoSociety for assistance. Contact Mona Southron at earthmeandyou@yahoo.ca for information.

Call for nominations for BC's top Endangered Rivers. Each year, the Endangered Rivers List is compiled by ORC. The list receives significant media attention, highlighting the rivers and issues that are most important to British Columbians. To

view the 2009 Endangered Rivers List, visit the ORC Web site at www.orcbc.ca. **Deadline for 2010 submissions is March 6th, 2010.** Please submit one or two paragraphs describing the river in your region and the issues that are impacting the health of the waterway. Send your submissions to Mark Angelo, ORC Rivers Chair mangelo@bcit.ca

Upcoming Events

New Alien Invasive Grass in BC Jan. 19, 7:30pm, Swan Lake Nature House, Victoria. Jamie Fenneman introduces a new alien invasive grass that he recently discovered near Cowichan Lake. Learn about its spread and how to recognize this species. Admission free.

Unique Habitats, Unique Challenges Jan 19–20, Delta Airport Hotel, Richmond. IPCBC's 5th anniversary celebration and public forum. Topics include aquatics, unique habitat challenges, practical solutions, and collaboration for success. <http://www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca/news-and-events/296-unique-habitats-unique-challenges>

Owl Prowl Jan 23, 7–8:30 pm Mill Hill Regional Park, Langford. Join a CRD Regional Parks interpreter for a guided night walk and chance see an owl. Wear warm clothing. Meet at the information kiosk in the parking lot off Atkins Avenue. No fee, though pre-registration required by Friday, January 22 –space is limited. CRD Parks 250-478-3344 www.crd.bc.ca/parks

The Native Plant Study Group's "Gardening with Nature" Jan 21, 7 pm, UVic, McLaurin Bldg, Rm D116, Victoria. Join Abe Lloyd and learn how to garden with native plants by observing First Peoples past and present practices. From transplanting lilies, to pruning crabapples, and even tilling and weeding garden beds, you will learn how to integrate Aboriginal plant management to create beautiful wild edible gardens. Non-member drop-in fee: \$3. More info: <http://www.NPSG.ca>

Garry Oak Ecosystems Colloquium Feb 4, Pacific Forestry Centre, 506 West Burnside Rd, Victoria. Attend short presentations by researchers of Garry oak ecosystems. Excellent networking event with the latest news on habitat restoration, rare species, land management, achievements, and conservation collaborations. Admission free. Pre-register with GOERT info@goert.ca

Climate Action Best Practices with Guy Dauncey Feb 4, 1–4:30 pm, Royal Roads University, Victoria. What are the world's governments doing to tackle climate change? This course will offer you a guided tour of best practices for governments in the areas of transport, building, energy, farming, food, carbon pricing, and community engagement. \$55. To register <http://www.royalroads.ca/continuing-studies/CYGLEL1802-Y09.htm>

Habitat Acquisition Trust Gala Dinner Feb 25, 7 pm at the historic McMorran's Beach House, Victoria. Highlights for the evening will include special guest speaker Ben Parfitt, award-winning environmental journalist and author, McMorran's buffet dinner, and silent auction. It's a Green Tie event. Tickets \$60 for members, \$70 non-members. Contact hatmail@hat.bc.ca

9th Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference. Feb 25–27, Winnipeg, Manitoba <http://www.pcsc.ca/>

February is National Bird Feeding Month <http://www.birdfeeding.org/nbfm.html>

Land Trust Alliance of BC Seminar Series. March 18 – 20, Naramata, BC. This year's event starts with full day workshop – "Fundraising in Uncertain Times", with

internationally renowned Kim Klein! Or – take a tour and hike to the Skaha Bluffs and learn about how this multi-partner conservation deal was made, or see the innovative restoration work removing dykes on the Okanagan River, or join the First Nation's land trust to experience protected desert lands also in an almost pristine state. See the full program including 15 additional seminars on conservation and stewardship tools and methods, www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca.

Western Aquatic Plant Management Society (WAPMS) Conference March 28–31, Sheraton Seattle Hotel, Seattle, Washington. For registration and call for posters, visit: http://www.wapms.org/wapms_conference.htm

Fraser Assembly May 26 – 27, 2010, Merritt Civic Centre, Merritt. The Fraser Salmon and Watersheds Program invites you to join us for the sixth meeting of the Fraser Assembly. The target audience for the Assembly typically includes representatives from all four orders of government (federal, provincial, First Nations, and local) as well as non-government organizations, stewardship groups, academia, industry and private sectors. For more information contact Erin Vieira, Program Coordinator, Fraser Salmon and Watersheds Program, Email: evieira@fraserbasin.bc.ca, Phone: 250-314-9660. Websites www.fswp.ca and www.thinksalmon.com

Take Part in the Great Backyard Bird Count Feb 12–15, everywhere. Last year over 93,600 checklists were submitted online by citizen scientists of all skill levels, helping researchers at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society learn more about bird population trends and winter distributions. <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc>

Association of Field Ornithologists 2010 Annual Meeting Aug 12–14, Weber State University, Ogden, Utah. The 2010 conference will feature two days of contributed scientific papers, posters, and symposia with numerous field trips will showcase western specialties from alpine tundra to desert canyons. To learn more about the conference, visit <http://conferences.weber.edu/AFO2010/> to learn more about the conference

Resources

Managing BC's Forests for a Cooler Planet. The CCPA-BC has released a new study by researcher Ben Parfitt: Managing BC's Forests for a Cooler Planet: Carbon Storage, Sustainable Jobs and Conservation. Co-publishers include both forestry unions and environmental organizations. The 61-page document can be downloaded at <http://www.policyalternatives.ca/publications/reports/managing-bcs-forests-cooler-planet>

Up in Smoke – Why Biomass Wood Energy is not the Answer, by George Wuerthner <http://counterpunch.org/wuerthner01122010.html>

SeaDoc Society is looking for Environmental Educators and Concerned Citizens. Wondering what cutting edge science has to say about building healthy ecosystems for humans and wildlife? Take the SeaDoc Society's free month-long e-course on designing healthy coastal ecosystems. The 10-part e-course is delivered by email every three days. For more information or to register go to <http://www.seadocsociety.org/courses/topten>

Zero Carbon – Canada's Climate Blog <http://www.zerocarboncanada.ca/>

Our Backyard. An online newsletter on the natural environment in Saanich. To subscribe, contact Darren Copley, Darren.copley@saanich.ca

After Copenhagen

- "While leaders failed to make history, people around the world did – Avaaz.org" http://www.avaaz.org/en/after_copenhagen
- Guy Dauncy's post-Copenhagen blog <http://www.blog.earthfuture.com/>
- What Was Agreed At Copenhagen: And What Was Left Out, by Jonathan Watts. <http://www.countercurrents.org/watts191209.htm>
- Copenhagen – the Real Story. Jan 19, 7 pm–9:30 pm, BCGEU, 2994 Douglas St, Victoria. Joan Russow PhD is speaking about her experiences at the Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change. Come and hear what really happened. Free admission, donations accepted.

Invasive Plants Research Database. The BC Invasive Plant Research Database is active online and fully searchable! Learn who has done what research where in BC! <http://www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca/resources/invasive-plant-research-database>

Carters Professional Corporation. Highlights of this issue include: Recommended Changes to Encourage Charitable Giving; Tax Court Denies Leveraged Donation Tax Credit; CRA on Specified Gift and 10-Year Gift; Countdown to the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act; Tax Court Decision in Art Donation Case. <http://www.carters.ca/pub/update/charity/09/dec09.pdf>

Volunteer Canada Give a Day. Get a Disney Day. Volunteer Canada is excited to announce that beginning January 1, 2010, volunteers who sign up to volunteer for a day with a participating charitable or not-for-profit organization will receive a one day pass to a Walt Disney World or Disneyland theme park, free. Canadian organizations can register as a participating organization for free on www.govolunteer.ca, while Canadian volunteers can register on www.DisneyParks.ca

Gaia College Winter/Spring Registration. Registrations are now underway. Courses include Organic Master Gardener; Plant Knowledge for Organic Gardeners; Organic Soil Management; Growing Food in the City. All course details and registration information at <http://www.gaiacollege.ca/classroom-programs.html>

Environment Canada CESI new bi-monthly newsletter. The first issue of Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators (CESI) initiative entitled "Environmental Trends," is now available. "When is a Trend a Trend?": how Environment Canada determines trends in air quality; "Regional and Site Level Data": CESI's more than 15 years of trend data that can be accessed at the site, facility and basin level. Please send any topic areas you would like to see covered in this newsletter at indicateurs-indicators@ec.gc.ca.

Avian Conservation and Ecology <http://www.ace-eco.org/vol4/iss2/art6/>

Living Forest Communities is a community development model that accomplishes two goals. Primarily, to establish and maintain sustainable natural forest ecosystems in perpetuity through land conservation and ecosystem-based forestry. Secondly, the creation of attractive, "light-on-the-land" residential hamlets modeled after traditional European towns. <http://www.livingforestcommunities.com/elkington/>

Funding Deadlines

Baillie Fund. Funding available for Canadian Bird Research and Conservation Projects for Bird Research and Preservation for the 2010 grant cycle. Since 1978, the Baillie Fund has provided grants totalling \$598,000 to 523 bird research and conservation projects across Canada. Priority will be given to well-designed projects that engage the skills and enthusiasm of amateur naturalists and volunteers to help us understand, appreciate, and conserve Canadian birds in their natural environments. Deadlines: **Applications for**

Small Grants deadline January 15, 2010. Applications for the James L. Baillie Student Award for Field Research, administered by the Society of Canadian Ornithologists deadline February 15, 2010. For more information go to <http://www.birdscanada.org/about/jlbmf/index.jsp> or contact the Baillie Fund Secretary at ahagy@birdscanada.org or 1-888-448-2473 ext. 166.

Mountain Equipment Co-op Community Contributions. Applications for Land Acquisition, Capacity Building, Research, Advocacy & Education, Access & Activity are accepted twice a year. **Application deadline is March 10.** If you have questions, email community@mec.ca or phone 1-866-632-3863. Grant information and application at http://www.mec.ca/Main/content_text.jsp;jsessionid=ccB4JH7HBs45LzndMhQgYXfb51h8PqkvdP1tyDZVRFXvKVhGJSvq!944777677?FOLDER%3C%3Efolder_id=1408474396038943&FOLDER%3C%3EbrowsePath=1408474396038943&bmUID=1233615783594

Jobs

NCC-Shell Conservation Internship Program. This partnership between the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) and Shell Canada is to provide university/college students with practical experience in conservation, working in the field on NCC sites throughout BC. The positions are full-time for 16 weeks, May 10-Aug 27, 2010, at \$18/hour. Job description at http://www.conservationinterns.ca/apply/2010 SCIP_BC_MO.pdf Applications should email a cover letter and CV to: Director of Land Stewardship, BC Region, bcstewardship@natureconservancy.ca. Reference position title "Monitoring Tech Intern" in e-mail subject line. Closing date January 29, 2010.

Canada Summer Jobs. A Government of Canada initiative that provides funding to help employers create summer job opportunities for students, and is designed to focus on local priorities, while achieving tangible results for both students and their communities. Canada Summer Jobs is focused on encouraging not-for-profit organizations, public-sector employers and small businesses with 50 or fewer employees to create jobs that not only meet their needs, but also benefit students looking to gain work experiences. The application period for Canada Summer Jobs 2010 will be from February 1 to February 26, 2010. For more information call 1-800-935-5555 (TTY: 1-800-926-9105) or visit <http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/epb/yi/yep/programs/scpp.shtml>

LTABC Enews is a monthly on-line bulletin bringing our members news, resources & events which address conservation, stewardship, habitat protection and climate change in BC

If you have conservation news or events to submit for an upcoming Enews, email us at info@landtrustalliance.bc.ca