



the Wetlander

Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area



Our Mission

We exist to manage the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area, a 17,000 acre wetland of international significance, for conservation and natural species diversity through active habitat and wildlife management, research, education and public support.

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Spreading the word...

Spring 2009

The CVWMA traveled to the Calgary Outdoor Adventure and Travel Show on March 28th and 29th. It is Canada's largest outdoor adventure & travel show, attracting over 15,000 visitors to the Calgary Show alone. There were over 200 exhibitors from a wide variety of recreational pursuits: paddle sports and scuba diving options to a comprehensive camping showcase and travel destinations pavilion. Our new banner displays looked very professional, showcasing amazing photos of the wetland and the educational and recreation opportunities at the CVWMA.

We will be displaying information on the CVWMA at the following shows and events, so please come and visit!

Creston Home and Garden Show
April 17th & 18th

**Wings Over the Rockies
Bird Festival**
May 4th-10th (Invermere)

Cranbrook Childrens' Festival
May 9th

Creston Valley Blossom Festival
May 16th & 17th



Anne at the Calgary Show Trade Show booth

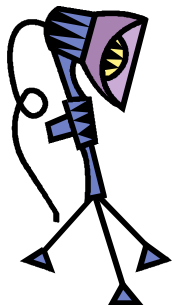
BC Hydro Continues Financial Support



BC Hydro has been a financial supporter of the CVWMA since 1998. BC Hydro's annual contribution supports its long-term goal by helping to offset the impacts of their operations in the region. Doug Johnson (left), Environment & Social Issues Manager at BC Hydro presented Richard Dalon (right), CEO of CVWMA with a cheque for \$379,978 for 2009.

Send questions and comments to...wetlander@crestonwildlife.ca

Donor in the Spotlight



This one goes out to you!!!

The CVWMA exists today because of supporters who share a commitment for wetland conservation – and who demonstrate that commitment through donations of funds and services and many other efforts.

Individual, foundation and corporate dollars are matched with on-site projects. In 2008 project partners made it possible for us to repair the Wildlife Interpretive Centre; build a new walkway to and around the Wildlife Interpretive Centre; upgrade aging water control structures; conduct the operation and maintenance of the habitat and facilities; hire seasonal staff for field maintenance, gift shop and naturalist positions; provide programs for thousands of visitors and school children; and more.

The public supports us in a variety of ways. Seasonally, many become members and participate in our educational programs. Over 40,000 households in the Kootenays received the 2009 Wetland Excursions Program

Guide in their mailbox this April, inviting them to visit and support their local wetland.

Many donate in response to our year-end appeal. These dollars go to work right away for habitat management and to connect people to the wetland and wildlife.

Over 40 volunteers contribute hundreds of hours engaging and assisting visitors at the Wildlife Interpretive Centre, promoting the CVWMA at Creston's Fall Fair and Home and Garden Show and labeling, sealing and stuffing thousands of Wetlander Newsletters into envelopes. Visitors are the backbone, helping to spread the word about the CVWMA.

We rely upon the critical support of those that share our commitment to wetland conservation. For 2009 please continue to give the CVWMA your gift of support. Become a member, make a donation, participate in a program at the Wildlife Interpretation Centre, adopt an a species at risk and remember the CVWMA in your planned giving. Your support helps us grow.

Anne de Jager - Director of Development, CVWMA

The First Signs of Spring - Wildlife Sightings

From Marc-Andre Beaucher



These Tundra Swans were seen on Duck Lake on March 26th. There were close to 1000 individuals on the lake at this time. These are some of the most impressive numbers we have seen in years.



A pair of Barrow's Goldeneyes was seen in Corn Creek on March 27th. Barrow's Goldeneyes are a less common sight in the wetland than the more abundant Common Goldeneye. The females of each species can be differentiated by the color of their beaks. The bright orange beak of the female Barrow's Goldeneye is a distinguishing feature.

Wildlife Interpretation Centre

The Centre Hours for 2009 are as follows:

May 12 – October 10
Tuesday – Saturday
9 am - 4 pm

Enjoy all that the Centre has to offer...

Join our Naturalists on a guided canoe tour
Experience our programs and events
View our educational displays & play in our science lab
Shop in our science and nature gift shop

Wetland Experiences for Schools



Elementary School

This year, we are celebrating the weird behaviours and body parts of birds! Programs investigate form and function, classification, breeding and brooding behaviors and ecology of birds. These curriculum-based, hands-on excursions are a dramatic way to end a great year of classroom science.

PRIMARY: BIRDS AND BEAKS

INTERMEDIATE: BONES, BEHAVIOURS & BARF!

Nocturnal Adventures and Canoe Tours

Overnight discovery adventures and one hour guided canoe tours for grades 4-7 are also available.



To register your class for the elementary programs, call (250) 402 6906 or email gcooper@crestonwildlife.ca

Stewardship Program

The Stewardship Program is for high school students & community groups interested in hands-on habitat enhancement activities such as removing invasive species, erecting & monitoring nesting boxes and shore-line cleanups.

To register your class for the high school program, call (250) 402 6905 or email chaegele@crestonwildlife.ca

Summer Youth Programs

Jr. Naturalists

Week long, investigative summer science programs designed for those who like exploring, collecting, creating and generally frolicking about in our wetland playground.

CURIOUS CATERPILLARS are ages 6 & 7

Sessions: July 13-17 or July 27-31

Time: 9 am to 1 pm **Cost:** \$47 or \$40 for Members

WASCALLY WEASELS are ages 8 & 9

Sessions: July 13-17 or July 27-31

Time: 9 am to 3 pm **Cost:** \$66 or \$60 for Members

SNICKERING SNIPES are ages 10 & 11

Session: July 20-24...with a sleepover on Thursday!

Time: 9 am to 3 pm **Cost:** \$98 or \$90 for Members



Chickadee Time

An invitation to bring your little chickadees, ages 3-5 years, on six Naturalist-led outings of discovery and fun.

Session: Tuesdays from May 19 to June 23

Times: 10 am to 11:30 am or 1 pm to 2:30 pm

Cost: \$35 or Family Membership

NEW!! Bundles Hiking Club

A fall walking time for parents and babies, birth to one year. Enjoy the sights and sounds of fall migration as you hike a flat top wetland trail. The hike is one-hour and baby is in a front or back carrier of your choice.

Session: Wednesdays from September 9 to October 7

Time: 1 pm to 2:30 pm **Cost:** \$20

Special Events at the Wildlife Interpretation Centre

Please visit our website at www.crestonwildlife.ca for more details on the events



Family Bird-a-Thon - May 30

Time: 9 am to Noon Cost: Free

Morning Chorus Hike & Breakfast - Saturdays in June

Time: 7:30 am to 10 am Cost: \$10 per person, Members Free

Pruning Workshop - June 6

Time: 10 am to Noon Cost: \$10 per person

Dads and Tads Sleepover - June 20

Time: Sat 7 pm to Sun 10 am Cost: \$20 per person

Sunrise Paddle - July 11 and August 1

Time: 7 am to 9 am Cost: \$10 per person, Members Free

Night Quest - July 25

Time: Come any time between 7 pm and 10 pm Cost: Free

Fields and Flashlights - August 15

Time: 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm Cost: \$2 per person

Fall Spa Walk - September 26

Time: 1 pm to 4 pm Cost: \$15 per person, \$10 Members

BC River's Day Paddle - September 27

Time: Meet at 10 am Cost: Free. No registration required.

Must be experienced and bring your own canoe or kayak

International Exposure!

The Wetland Link International (WLI) program is a global network of wetland education centres and is run by the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT), a leading UK conservation organization, whose purpose is to save wetlands and their wildlife and raise awareness of the issues that affect their survival. The WLI network embraces wetland nature reserves with a wide range of visitor facilities services, projects and programs. The CVWMA recently became a member of WLI; our profile and photos can be viewed at www.wwt.org.uk.

The Ministry of Environment Korea, WWT, and UNDP/GEF Korea Wetland Project recently produced a publication of Ramsar Sites of the World book in support of the goals of the Ramsar Convention on wetlands. This publication shows exemplary conservation practices of 17 Ramsar sites around the world: South Korea, Mali, China, India, Iran, Japan, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden, the UK, Brazil, Canada, the USA, Australia and New Zealand. The CVWMA is the one and only wetland site highlighted in Canada. To download a pdf version of the book, go to <http://koreawetland.org/en/sub05.asp>.

Conferences

All Conferences are held at the Wildlife Interpretation Centre. Please visit the website provided for more info.

Columbia Mountains Institute Researchers' Meeting and AGM

May 7-8

www.cmiae.org

Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee Conference

June 24

www.IGBOnline.org

National Training Course for Canadian Ramsar Site Managers

October 5-8

Presented by the Centre for Environmental
Stewardship and Conservation (www.ceschabitat.ca)
in cooperation with the CVWMA

Osprey Camera

In 2007, a camera was installed on an Osprey nest in the wetland. From April until August we captured some amazing footage of courtship rituals, eggs hatching and the feeding of live fish to the young. We have put the camera up again this year. The live stream of the camera image will be on our website, along with some footage from the 2007 season. We will also have the live image broadcast at the Interpretation Centre and the Creston Library. Please check our website details.

Thanks to Angus Glass of the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program, Robert Lawson of Kootenay Wireless, Jerry Helens of Creston Tree Service and Carmela Wishlow for their support and time on the project.



Osprey coming in for a landing with a fish in its talons.

Long-time Authority Board Member Retires

Stephen Bullock is retiring from our Authority Board after 16 years of service. We would like to extend our appreciation for his dedication, hard work and perseverance.

As Chair of the Board for most of those years, Stephen always rose to the challenge, offering his time, knowledge and support to the staff and other Board members.

Thank you Stephen for your passion and commitment to this wetland and organization. You will be missed.

Annual Volunteer Recruitment Party

When: Wednesday, May 20th at 5 pm

Where: Wildlife Interpretation Centre

What: Dinner – Spaghetti feast
Plus!! Presentation by Dr. Michael Proctor on Grizzly Bear Research

Why: Find out about our different opportunities whether you are a current or prospective volunteer

Please **RSVP** to
adejager@crestonwildlife.ca
or (250) 402 6904

Quiz...all about butterflies!

(...answers on page 6)

Which one is in the correct order?

a caterpillar, butterfly, egg, pupa **b** egg, pupa, caterpillar, butterfly **c** egg, caterpillar, pupa, butterfly **d** pupa, egg, butterfly, caterpillar

What body part does a butterfly use to taste?

a palps **b** antennae **c** legs **d** all of the above

What are butterfly wings made of?

a feathers **b** scales **c** freckles **d** mica

All butterflies make a cocoon.

a true **b** false

What is a staple food for adult butterflies?

a nectar **b** flower petals **c** leaves **d** pollen

What is the purpose of the eye-spots on a butterfly's wings?

a to frighten predators **b** to help the butterfly to see predators **c** to camouflage the butterfly **d** they serve no purpose



Mandate Review Update

The Mandate Review process is still ongoing. Currently, it is in the hands of the provincial government. With the upcoming provincial election in May, it looks like the process may be put on hold until the new government is elected. We are still hopeful that this process will provide us with solutions for a stable and clear future direction from which to proceed. We will keep you updated.

The Answers...from quiz on page 5

Butterflies begin life as an **egg**. Females typically lay hundreds of eggs on the appropriate food plant for the next stage in metamorphosis, the **caterpillar**. All caterpillars of BC butterflies shed their skin four times as they increase their size. The final shedding of the caterpillar skin reveals a resting stage called the **pupa** or chrysalis. The pupa splits to allow the adult **butterfly** to emerge.

A butterfly's **antennae**, **palps** (mouthparts) and **legs** are studded with taste receptors.

Butterflies are characterized by **scale covered** wings. The coloration of butterfly wings is created by minute scales. These scales are pigmented with melanins that give them blacks and browns, but blues, greens, reds and iridescence are usually created not by pigments but the microstructure of the scales.

If the pupa or chrysalis is enclosed in silk, the silk is called a **cocoon**. But most butterflies, unlike most moths, **do not spin a cocoon**. Some butterflies do spin a thin silk belt or "girdle" to support the pupa.

Nectar is the staple of an adult butterfly's diet. Flowering plants produce nectar that insects want to eat. In exchange, the insects spread the flowers' pollen, allowing plant life to reproduce. Caterpillars have a more voracious appetite and eat leaves, seeds and flower parts.

The colouring plays an important part in the self-defence of the butterfly. The eye-spots are a familiar pattern on the wings, mimicking the eyes of a larger animal, **frightening smaller predators away**. Butterflies that are coloured bright red or bright yellow are usually poisonous or at least taste bad to the predator. And, many flashy butterflies have dull coloured undersides that help them to hide from the predators. With wings closed, they are barely noticeable.

New Bridges along Beaver Boulevard



A number of years ago, busy beavers dismantled their namesake trail, Beaver Boulevard. Keen to block up the canoe route, the beavers gathered mud from the creek banks on either side of the Beaver Boulevard footbridge. This excavation work uncut the footbridge footings, toppling the bridge. For many years, this fun, winding toe trail has been unused, waiting for a new connecting bridge to be built. This spring we are celebrating the installation of two new foot bridges, bringing Beaver Boulevard back into the Marsh Trail Loop system. This trail is an important section of the loop, creating a safe walking route back to the Wildlife Centre, keeping students and public off of West Creston Rd. Volunteers will be actively grooming and preparing the trail for opening in mid May.



New bridge connection to the Wildlife Centre

Reach us @:

Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area

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