



Lillooet Naturalist Society – Update June 29, 2009

- The BC Wildlife Federation were in town June 23rd and 24th and worked with Cayoose Elementary School and created a **wetland**. Jacquie Rasmussen represented the Lillooet Naturalists as one of the supporting partners on that project. It was, and will be, a great educational experience. Jacquie will be providing more news on that and look for a write up in next week's Bridge River Lillooet News.
- We had another successful day on the **bluebird trail** Sunday, checking all the boxes and cleaning and repairing as needed. Lots of Tree swallows and Mountain bluebird families coming along. Of note there were two boxes that Mountain chickadees had decided to call home. Lovely to see their little nests too. Chris Galliazo remains the lead on that project and she'll let us know when she is planning the next outing, likely in about a month's time.
- Greg Smith led a great trip to the **Churn Creek** protected area in late June. Fifteen naturalists joined him as well as expert Ordell Steen from the Friends of Churn Creek protected area. Greg and the group plan to provide a report on their trip in the autumn and you will be invited. We hope to combine that presentation with a visit from Chris Harris to Lillooet. Chris is the author of a book all about the Grasslands. Some of the funds raised on the trip were put towards a membership to the Friends of Churn Creek Protected Area and a donation to that group. We just received a thank you letter of acknowledgement from them for that.
- Randy Moody, who is an expert in **Whitebark Pine**, hopes to do some work in our area this summer. He is working with the Lillooet Tribal Council and the timeline is late July for a week or so at this point. He will let us know when his dates are confirmed and you will be invited to join him on a field trip. We also hope to host a talk by Randy about his work during that time as well.
- **Research** on the Coastal tailed frog and the Mule deer are ongoing this season. We will optimistically host an educational session on those projects in the autumn.
- The **Restoration Project** is in full swing at the Powerhouse. Kim North is the project coordinator and she has hired some staff, Colleen Jacob, Bonnie Michell, Toby Mueller and Jacquie Rasmussen to add to the previous staff of program restoration biologist Odin Scholtz and the crew. The restoration project has an advisory group that includes Jeff O'Kelly from the naturalist society board and representatives from Cayoose Creek band as well as the district and other partners. As part of her role Jacquie is working on a newsletter scheduled for late July so watch for that. An invitation for their **Visioning Session** July 15th has been sent out.
- Ian and others have been recording **breeding bird** evidence for our area. There are also some folks from the Lower Mainland that are entering data.
- I am on the **BC BAT (bat action team) group** and there is tremendous concern across North America about white-nosed syndrome and the high mortality in bats in the northeastern US. I have asked MJ to post a link to the latest article on our website. I invited all the BC BAT experts to have their meeting here in Lillooet but, sadly, they chose the Okanagan to meet inthis year.
- The **BC Nature camp** planned for September here is fully booked and going ahead as planned - lots of interest in that from across the province.
- We are sponsoring one applicant, Kaley Shields from Shalalth, for the **Sustainable Learning for Leadership** trip this summer. So she will be joining the educational rafting trip down the Fraser River.
- We have sold out on our **Hiking Guides**. There are a few copies for sale at the library and in local outlets. If people would like to volunteer to do some work on the next edition, let me know.
- Please do check our website for more updates and current events over the summer,