

Lillooet Naturalist Society – President's report to AGM 2017

- Our **AGM** was held in January for the general membership and the work of the Society over the rest of the year was done by the directors on email and at directors' meetings. The current executive is Vivian B-J, Secretary Chris Galliazzo, Treasurer Greg Smith and directors-at-large Simon Warhurst, Robin Strong and Kevin Aitken. There is a vacancy for one other director if you are interested.
- Judy Bodaly assists with the membership duties and MJ Oakes keeps our website up to date – thank you and thank you!
- Sales of the **Lillooet Hiking Guide, Canyon to Alpine** continue to help fund our activities. Clearing trails and enjoying hikes were part of our activities. Thanks to all of you who keep the trails in good shape.
- S7i'sken visit January 9th at the kind invitation of elder Bill Machell, which was enjoyed by our group, and we met with First Nation leaders in 2016 to continue to build our relationships and keep communication strong.
- We participate on the local **Chamber of Commerce** and support activities led by **Splitrock** Environmental, **LRISS** (Invasive Species) as well as **LAFS** (local Agriculture and Food Society). We are a member of the '**Coast to Cascades Grizzly Bear**' recovery initiative
- We participate in the BC "**Got Bats?**" project and will be assisting with a mist netting course planned for Lillooet in July 2017 led by Dr. Cori Lausen.
- The **Walking with Smolts** event, in which buses of school children come to the Lower Spawning Channel to tour educational booths along a natural history walk, was a success again this year.
- Chris Galliazzo is the coordinator for the **Bluebird Box Trail** project and led expeditions again this year.
- **LORCA** (Lillooet Off Road Cycling Association) held their AGM and continue their outreach and activities. LORCA initially formed under the umbrella of LNS – they are now their own Society.
- Beautiful outing to the alpine in September to plant over 2,000 **Whitebark pine** seedlings – great volunteer effort led by Randy Moody and Kim North.
- The local radio and newspaper continue to provide positive PR for our organization. We joined the Love Lillooet campaign and have a site on their website promoting all good things Lillooet.
- The **webcam on the Osprey nest at the Old Bridge** was operational and we enjoyed watching that virtual nest as well as two other Osprey nests 'live' over the season.
- We supported a number of applications for funding in the Bridge and Seton watersheds in 2016 including work on **Bats, Whitebark Pine, Fishers, Tailed Frog, Spotted owl restoration, a wetland survey, Invasive Species control** and **restoration work** along the **Seton corridor**. Maintenance work continues to be done at the Powerhouse site, "**Sat'atqwa7**".
- **Nature Conservancy of Canada** will be completing their FWCP funded year's work in March – they have been creating a map to overview and look for properties for acquisition for conservation purposes in our area.
- We wrote to our MP Jati regarding reinstating **passenger rail service**, cc various, and brought it to the Liberal MLA for Small Business during her visit here - positive responses received but no action.
- **Public presentations on natural history** were held including one on Grizzly bears by MFLNRO and slide shows on New Zealand by Hans Meyer and Antarctica by Ken Wright.
- At member's requests we conveyed out concerns about timber harvest plans at Burkholder and have been informed that 'recreational values' will be taken into account.
- Members conveyed concerns about the **Sturgeon** fishery here and we have partnered with the local Conservation officer and anglers to complete a tagging and enumeration project to assist in establishing a baseline population of these amazing prehistoric fish. A conservation message will be a large part of the project for local and visiting fishers.
- Our 17th annual **Christmas bird count** was held in Lillooet in December. Counts also took place in the Hat Creek Valley and the Yalakom.
- BC Nature held their fall meetings in Prince George in 2016 – two of us from Lillooet attended.
- The **BC Nature AGM** is coming up May 4 – 6, 2017. We are planning a February meeting with the field trip leaders and other volunteers. Let Vivian, Judy Bodaly, Chris Galliazzo or Eleanor Wright know if you would like to be one of the volunteers. Also, registration is open www.lillooetnaturalistsociety.org/agm and Lillooet members are welcome to register and partake of the outings, meetings and presentations.

Submitted by Vivian Birch-Jones, January, 2017