

MUSKRAT EXPRESS

WILLIAMS LAKE FIELD NATURALISTS
APRIL 2019 NEWSLETTER





The newsletter for the:
Williams Lake Field Naturalists
1305A Borland Road, Williams Lake BC, V2G 5K5

Membership fees: Family (\$35), single (\$30) or student (\$10) memberships can be mailed to the above address. Please complete the membership and waiver forms available at the Nature Centre (250) 398-8532, muskratexpress@shaw.ca or the web site below. For more information about the club please contact Fred McMechan at 392-7680 or e-mail Fred_McMechan@telus.net

Williams Lake Field Naturalists Website <http://www.williamslakefieldnaturalists.ca>
Scout Island Nature Centre Website <http://www.scoutislandnaturecentre.ca>

Executive of The Williams Lake Field Naturalists: presidential Team Margaret Waring (Chairperson), Don Lawrence (Scout Island affairs) and Ordell Steen (Communications/liaison), secretary Nola Daintith, treasurer Katharine VanSpall and directors Peter Opie, Ray Hornby, Francis McCoubrey, Jean Oke, Kathie Hamm, Don Lawrence and Fred McMechan



Editors: Thanks to all of you who have contributed to this edition of the newsletter. Please expect your next edition of the newsletter in early June. It will be the last newsletter before the summer break. If you have comments, suggestions or articles for the next Muskrat Express please contact Margaret Waring (398-7724), Jim Sims (778-764-2752) or e-mail us at



muskratexpress@shaw.ca

(From Jim) This morning out west here at Tern Inn, I stepped out on the front deck while the oatmeal was simmering on the stove. I wanted an early feel for what the day was to bring, around the corner of the house I heard the yank yank call of the red-breasted Nuthatch that had just been at the feeder, a Red-naped Sapsucker was tapping slowly on the aspen in front of me, way up in the tree top a tiny Ruby-crowned Kinglet was gleaning the Aspen catkins while he sang for his girlfriend, across the lake Mother Goose was keeping her Easter eggs warm and further away the 2 Common Loons were talking about the lovely view of the mountains. What a grand day to be here at Tern Inn.



Unfortunately, there is work today as tomorrow's 7:00am deadline is fast approaching. But first a walk down the lake trail to Beaver Bay. That is now out of my system and it is time for work. It is always a treat to be able to relax for a while and to be the first to read these wonderful reports and articles. Thanks to all of you for your contributions, it continues to make my editing job much easier. Again this month, a special thanks to Chris for your reports on club programs and of course to Margaret for your lovely covers and prodding to keep me at the keyboard.

Field Trip List for 2019

The field trip list is attached to the end of the newsletter. Make sure to go over it and mark the dates for your favourite trips on your calendar today. Thanks to all of you who offered to lead our outings. There is still lots of time to add new adventures to the list. We like to have a few summer outings and the Fall is just about wide open. You can contact the Muskrats with your offerings.

Restoring the Fire Maintained Ecosystems

Another Scout Island Nature Centre evening program May 8th at 7:00 pm

Peter Holub will discuss the current status of this ecosystem and steps that are being taken to try to restore these. He will discuss challenges moving forward and roles of land managers.

Peter is an Ecosystem Restoration Specialist, Range Branch Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development; Report Wildfires: 1 800 663-5555 or *5555

Spring Yard and Garden Sale

By Margaret Waring

Our annual Spring Yard and Garden Garage Sale is almost here.

Saturday May 11th 2019. Sale time is from 9:30 AM – 1 PM

The success of the event depends on all of us. Help us advertise. Come and shop. Bring your friends and neighbours to shop too.

Helpers Thanks to those who have already offered to help. I would like confirmation of some more helpers to be sure we have enough so if you are able to contribute an hour or two for set up or clean up please let me know with a quick call or email.

On **Friday afternoon May the 10th** between 3:30 and 7 PM we unload cars and boxes and sort and set up so we are ready for the Saturday morning shoppers.

From **1 – 2 PM on Saturday afternoon** we clean up. We put tables away, pack up and take unsold items to the share shed, Salvation Army etc.

Please contact me and let me know if you are available to help. I can be reached at mewaring@hotmail.com and 250 398 7724

Donations

We need your **donations** of plants to transplant into gardens, herbs, house plants, plants from your garden that you are dividing, or that you no longer want.

We are expecting donations of a trailer with construction materials and items from some significant home downsizing. Other items to consider are garden pots and gardening supplies, outdoor and camping equipment, Bird houses and feeders, home baking, vinyl records, CDs, books, toys, candles, kitchen items, unique items of clothing and anything you find in your home or garage or yard and no longer want and think others might.

Please **deliver your donations** to Scout Island Nature House on **Friday May 10th between 4 and 7 PM.**

The money we earn is used for a bursary for a grade 12 student graduating from Lake City Secondary this spring. If we earn more than needed for the bursary the extra is donated to education programs at Scout Island.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need more information.

mewaring@hotmail.com and 250 398 7724

Your donations, help and support are greatly appreciated.



Notes from the Executive

By Ordell Steen

Principal activities of the WLFN directors during the last month and a half include preparation for the AGM on March 15 and the spring fund-raising banquet on April 5.

At the AGM, 11 directors were elected for 2019 with Nola Daintith remaining as secretary and Katharine VanSpall as treasurer. There were no nominations for president or vice president so the directors will again elect three directors to



**Executive Peter Opie, Nola Daintith, Frances McCoubrey, Ray Hornby Jean Oke, Don Lawrence, Margaret Waring, Ordell Steen
Absent Cathie Hamm & Katharine VanSpall**

serve as co-presidents for the coming year. Fred McMechan was given a life-time membership by the directors. The banquet was very successful and enjoyed by everyone we talked with. Total attendance was about 115, including children and those receiving complimentary tickets. St. Andrew's United Church volunteers again prepared a great dinner and JoAnne Wright again served her legendary desserts to much acclaim. JoAnne received the WLFN "Volunteer of the Year" award. Sheila Boehm and Steve Forseth brought compliments from City Council and the Regional District Board respectively. Chris Shepherd, who currently lives at Big Lake, gave an excellent presentation on the great diversity of primates of Asia and Southeast Asia - beautiful photographs and lots of great information. Essentially all of the primates are under threat from habitat loss, due in large part to palm oil plantations, the pet trade and other factors. Chris and his wife Loretta are very involved in conservation efforts and encourage anyone, especially those who travel to the region, to become aware of conservation needs and what they could do. Thank you to all who assisted with or attended the banquet.



JoAnne Wright Volunteer of the Year



Scout Island Nature Centre 2019 Grade 7 Earth Challenge

Between April 1st and 12th, grade 7 classes from Columneetza School came to Scout Island to participate in lessons and activities to prepare them for the April 18th Earth Challenge. At the Nature Centre classroom, students learned about the four terrestrial ecosystems found in the Cariboo-Chilcotin: dry forest, wet forest, alpine-subalpine and grasslands as well as aquatic ecosystems. They learned about plants and animals found in the ecosystems, ecological relationships between biotic (living) and abiotic (non-living) components, and



some of the threats to both ecosystems and individual species. Highlights for the students included playing the 'Ecosystem Tag' game, in which they learned about relationships between producers, consumers and decomposers, as well as getting outside to go dipping for aquatic invertebrates and go for a nature hike to the east end of Scout Island.



Busses for students to come to Scout Island were paid for by the Woodlot Education Society. A generous grant from the Williams Lake Community Forest supported the costs of the Scout Island Educators that provided the program.

Walk for Wildlife

The Walk for Wildlife held on Sunday, March 10, at the Scout Island Nature Centre was a huge success with twelve inquisitive youngsters and their parents taking part. With such a beautiful day the goal was to get the children out to look for signs of wildlife. The group started in the Nature Centre looking at a few of the common animals on the island (birds and mammals) that may be out and about at this time of the year, footprint patterns and a brief introduction to predator prey relationship (snowshoe hare/bobcat). Brainstorming for other signs such as fur, feathers, bones, nests and scat that would indicate various wildlife visiting or living on the island followed before heading outdoors. Of course we were all hoping to see the animals themselves!



For our group the walk out to Otter Point and down the Marsh Trail was quite a trip with much success. The group was able to locate the following signs of wildlife: a Goldfinch feather, woodpecker holes in a tree, crow’s nest, beaver lodge, Bullocks Oriole nest, Osprey nesting sight, mink and snowshoe hare prints. In addition to the signs the group was also able to see the following wildlife out and about: crows, raven, Red Winged Blackbirds, Song Sparrows, 2 Coots, 1 Goldeneye, Northern Flicker, Black-capped Chickadees, with the crowning glory being a chipmunk out enjoying the warm weather.

After the walk the group played a game of Fox and Hare where the children were the snowshoe hare and adults were the foxes. The youngster found their “home” before scrambling to retrieve food and take it back to their home without getting caught by a fox. This chase game produced all kinds of excitement as the snowshoe hare darted, dodged and beelined for their food and back to their hiding place!

Upon returning to the inside of the Nature Center participants’ curiosity was further piqued as they checked out the footprint ID activity center, stamped wolf prints and met the various animals living at the Nature Centre.



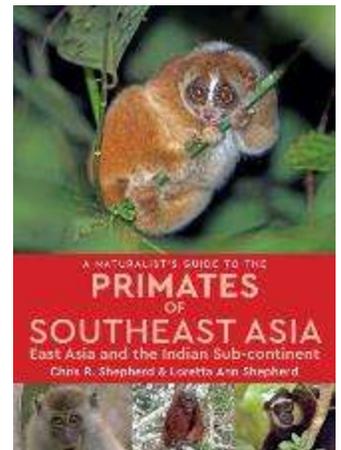
Footprint display

Register to become a Nature Kid at www.naturekidsbc.ca, pick up a form at Scout Island, or call us at Scout Island: 250-398-8532



Meet the Primates of Asia
A report on Dr. Chris R. Shepherd’s presentation at the Scout Island Banquet, April 5 2019
Chris Coates

A full 120 of the world’s 511 primate species are found in East, Southeast and South Asia, and new species and sub species are continually being described. Yet 77% of Asia’s primates are threatened – a rate second only to that of Madagascar. Dr. Chris R. Shepherd lived in Malaysia and Indonesia for 25 years, where he worked in TRAFFIC, an international wildlife trade monitoring non-government organization. He recently returned to Canada, and is the Executive Director of Monitor Conservation Research Society (Monitor). To raise awareness and educate the public, because they believe increased appreciation for wildlife is key to conservation success, he and his wife Loretta Shepherd recently published “A Naturalist’s Guide to the Primates of Southeast Asia, East Asia and the Indian Sub-continent.” At the banquet, Dr. Shepherd gave an overview of the astonishing variety of primates in Asia and their adaptations to the environment, and, without trying to be too depressing, on the threats these primates face to their continued existence.



The Javan Slow Loris, one of eight species, has the large eyes of a nocturnal hunter. Appearing to be “cute,” it is heavily traded as pets, but it has a venomous bite. Thin and scrawny looking, the Slender Loris is also a nocturnal hunter of insects, eggs, small lizards and birds.

The tiny Western Tarsier lives on vertical branches, where it is aided by suction cup-like toes on its feet. Also nocturnal, it has developed acute hearing to locate and jump on prey.

Macaques are a diverse group of partially terrestrial, partly arboreal primates, found throughout most of South, East and Southeast Asia. The Lion-tailed Macaque is found in India, where it lives in large territorial groups. Long-tailed Macaques live in groups of up to 100. Although they eat mostly fruits and flowers, like most species of macaques, males frequently yawn to display their massive canine teeth as a warning to others. Some species grow used to people, and beg for food or sometimes trash houses, which can lead to issues of human-wildlife conflict, with the macaques ultimately being the losers. The Japanese Macaque enjoys hot springs in cold weather. There are five species of Macaques endemic to the island of Sulawesi (Indonesia), one species for each peninsula. Of these, the Black-crested Macaque is jet-black, like the volcanic slopes it lives on.

The leaf-eating monkeys, (Colobines), are a diverse group, with some of the most beautiful, and most unusual species. Proboscis Monkeys use their large noses to amplify sounds if crocodiles, leopards or pythons are nearby. Their long tails help their balance when they leap across dangerous waters. They live in mangrove swamps and riverine forests and eat the tough leaves found in brackish water. Like other Colobines, lacking stomach acid, they have huge stomachs with bacteria that break down the food.

Hanuman Langurs are featured in “The Jungle Book.” They spend much of their time on the ground. In urban areas in India they sometimes become scavengers and sometimes pests. The Maroon Langur is found on the island of Borneo, where it appears to be very lazy. In fact, it must rest much of the time while bacteria digests leaves - and langurs can die if they eat too much quickly digesting fruit. They have a sophisticated vocabulary to warn of different predators.

The Golden Snub-nosed Monkey has a thick coat adapted to the snowy mountains in China, where it eats bark, lichen and cones found amongst conifers and bamboo. It is hunted by leopards, raptors (who take the young), and by humans, for food.

The White-handed Gibbon is one of the “lesser ape” species that rarely comes to the ground. With short back legs, long arms and a brachiating form of locomotion, it can easily swing from tree to tree. Pairs mate for life, and males and females sing in the morning, making a beautiful sound. These gibbons are heavily hunted for the pet trade, but the cute babies grow up to have needle like canine teeth. The massive Siamang has an inflatable throat patch that allows it to be heard 5 or 6 miles away. Their calls notify other groups of their location, so time and energy consuming conflicts can be avoided. Orangutans are the largest Asian primates. There are three species of orangutans, found only on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo. They are usually solitary, except for females which travel in groups with 7 – 8 young. They reproduce slowly. Orangutans are the only primates that build nests in the canopy each night. They are inordinately strong: one orangutan can have the strength of 7 – 8 humans. The Tapanuli Orangutan has only recently been discovered, but just as recently a Chinese-financed hydro dam has been planned that will flood this animal’s only area. There is currently a big international effort to get this project stopped. However, the greatest cause of habitat loss is the palm oil plantations that cover an ever-expanding area of Borneo and Sumatra. In these vast areas of monoculture, there is nothing for the animals to eat.



Lion Tailed Macaque



Siamang

Most primate species in Asia are threatened, listed as critically endangered, endangered, or vulnerable by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Primate populations are dwindling before we know much about them, let alone discover all the species. The main cause is habitat loss, and in many cases, this is due to rubber plantations, and especially to the palm oil plantations, which produce Indonesia’s #1 export crop. Palm oil produces more oil than other crops, and is ubiquitous in the processed food so popular in western countries. It is also widely used in plastic food containers, soap

and shampoo. China and India are becoming major consumers. Because palm oil is so valuable, corruption often follows. For example, in some cases, if a plantation is denied, an “accidental” fire will create an opening for logging companies to remove the remaining trees, and the plantation will inevitably follow. Since palm oil trees are not productive beyond approximately 17 years, more and more forests must be slashed and burned, to be replanted with still more oil palms. Another cause of deforestation is livestock farming, with forests being destroyed to make way for cattle.

Climate change is another threat, especially to highly specialized high-elevation living primate species in Asia. In a time of global warming, they can only go so high up mountains to find cooler temperatures, but there they will be competing with already established highland species.

In Indonesia, the illegal pet trade is a major threat to primates. There is no end to the cruelties suffered by these animals. Russia is an important market for illegal wildlife as pets, and just recently there was a Russian citizen arrested in Bali (Indonesia) attempting to smuggle a young orangutan out of the country in his suitcase. Small primate pets are also popular in Indonesia, where for example a Slow Loris might be found, with its teeth removed. Orangutan boxing is popular in Thailand. In countries, such as China, primates are sometimes eaten as bush meat.

What can be done to save Asia’s primates from extinction? Efforts to help them range from local to international. People rescue orangutans from the pet trade and from deforested area and take them to rescue centres, with the goal of releasing them back to the wild. Some orangutans are taught how to live in the wild, but there are only so many places to release them. There is growing global scrutiny of palm oil plantations, and the biggest companies seem to be making more effort to be environmentally conscious. They can replant forests along watersheds and edges, reduce their chemical usage, and avoid planting in important watersheds. Consumers should try and reduce the amount of palm oil they use, and ensure the products they buy use sustainably-sourced palm oil. Tourists can use their common sense by not paying to watch orangutans box or have their pictures taken with cute-looking primates on the beach. Instead, people could consider volunteering at rescue centres, or getting involved in primate conservation groups. They could help by teaching English to the staff and school students, especially those near national parks. They could also make cash donations to organisations working to reduce the illegal and unsustainable trade in wildlife, such as to Dr. Shepherd’s Monitor Conservation Research Society.

At home we can all do our best to be responsible consumers, educate ourselves about conservation issues and opportunities, and to raise awareness of the plight of Asia’s primates. Dr. Shepherd’s presentation was an excellent starting place for us.



Our View of the Night Sky: April/May 2019.

By Steve Capling

Days are warmer or promising to be so, and the nights are getting shorter.....

Planet Review

Mercury is visible in the early dawn sky until mid-May.

Venus remains low in the south-east sky before sunrise. The waning crescent moon passes close to it on May 2nd.

Mars remains visible in the south at nightfall. It is located near Aldebaran in the constellation Taurus in mid-April. The waxing crescent moon passes to the south of Mars on the evening of May 7th.

Jupiter is visible later in the evening to the south. It has a close conjunction with the waning gibbous* moon on May 20th.

Saturn continues to emerge in the dawn sky several hours after Jupiter rises. In May it switches to being visible in the late evening in the constellation Sagittarius. It has a close pass of the waning crescent moon on May 22nd.

For those wanting to know more accurate rise and set times for the Planets check out this website:

<https://www.timeanddate.com/astronomy/night/canada/williams-lake>

Moon

New Moon - May 4th, June 3rd.

Full moon - May 18th, June 17th.

Summer Solstice - June 21st.

Meteor Shower - The Eta-Aquariids

May 4 to 6. The next meteor shower is the Eta-Aquariids - which peaks in the pre-dawn sky of May 5th. Check out this web site at EarthSky for more information on the history of the Eta-Aquariids.

<https://earthsky.org/?p=158735>.

And from the American Meteor Society: <https://www.amsmeteors.org/meteor-showers/meteor-shower-calendar/>.

Evening Sky Map – courtesy of Skymaps.com.

For a printable sky chart try this web site - Skymaps.com/downloads.html - scroll down the center of the page to the download button. “May 2019: Northern Edition (PDF)”. At the end of the month it changes to show the next month’s chart.

The Skymaps chart also has a useful list of what is visible with the eye, binoculars and telescopes.

* - You'll see a waxing gibbous moon between a first quarter moon and full moon. The word gibbous comes from a root word that means hump-backed. People often see a waxing gibbous moon in the afternoon, shortly after moonrise, while it's ascending in the east as the sun is descending in the west.

Holboell's Rockcress (Arabis holboellii)

By Jim Sims (Source Ordell and Plants of Southern British Columbia

Well I see it is still early afternoon and I have all your articles edited and in place. I have some time to kill and something to share with you and it is not a bird but a flower for Jurgen and Sue. A couple of weeks ago I took this picture (left) of a lovely early spring flower, it reminded me of the early buttercup that were not out yet. I was puzzled by what it was so I referred it to Ordell. Ordell set me straight, this was not the flower, but the leaves and they have been covered with a bright yellow rust fungus. Like I was, the insects are tricked into thinking it is a



flower but they don't take pictures. The leaves are covered in sperm and eggs and flies that land on the rust help with reproductive success through a form of cross pollination. Eventually the stem or a few stems will grow from 20 to 80cm tall. With small pink or pinkish purple, varying to white. Eventually long narrow seed pods form on short stems and the pods hang downward.



The Nlaka'pmx (Thompson, Nicola Fraser) chewed the raw leaves of Holboell's Rockcress to prevent toothaches.

Member's Moment from Betty Donahue



The Young Bird Watcher

On the recent Naturalist field trip to Alkali Lake, Angus Wellburn received birding advice from Chris Hornby. It was a delight to see his enthusiasm. Kudos to his parents, Jane and Kurt, for introducing him to the world of nature at a young age.

“Member’s Moment” is an opportunity for you to share a special scene, plant, animal, bird or outdoor activity that you have enjoyed and photographed here in the Cariboo Chilcotin. A chance for you to encourage other members to get outdoors and find their own special moments close to home and perhaps share them with all of us. For each newsletter the editors will select one or two photos for inclusion in the newsletter based on the quality of the photo as well as the interesting paragraph you must provide. We will save all submitted unused moments in hopes they may find a place in a future edition. Please email your full resolution photo and paragraph to the muskratexpress@shaw.ca. A special thanks to Betty Donahue for your winning entry.

Field Trip List for 2019

There is still a lot of time for additional club field trips, if you would like to add to our list please contact Jim (778)764-2752 or muskratexpress@shaw.ca or Fred at (250)392-7680 or Fred_McMechan@telus.net Thanks to all of the volunteer leaders.

Alkali Lake (April 14th) *Too late you missed this one*

Chilanko Marsh, Tatlayoko Lake and Group Choice

Friday May 18th to May 20th (Leader Jim Sims (778) 764-2752)

Meet at Puntzi Lake Tanker Base at 9:30 am on Saturday morning (allow a minimum of 2 hours driving time from Williams Lake) or contact Jim if you want to meet him at the marsh on Friday night. This is an annual bird species count conducted on the marsh and the surrounding riparian zone. The marsh provides an opportunity to see most of the waterfowl that are summer residents on Chilcotin lakes and marshes along with a great variety of songbirds. Join us for a casual day long walk around the ponds as we search out the variety of bird species around the marsh. Following the birding you are welcome to gather at Jim's new Eagle Lake home (Tern Inn) for Saturday night. You still might want to bring a tent or camper as there is limited space available indoors even with the new home, (the sauna will be warmed up and the ice is almost off the lake). There will be a pot luck supper Saturday evening and a pancake breakfast Sunday morning. Sunday we will take a walk along the south of Martin Lake that features Spectacular views of the coast mountains an open Jack pine forest and Wild Horse meadows. On Victoria Day Monday we will make a group decision on where to spend the morning. Some of us will be going to the Bennie Cabin on Nimpo Lake on Tuesday and you are welcome to travel with us to help open the cabin.

Birding at Scout Island Nature Centre

Sunday May 26th (morning) (Leader Cathy Koot 392-4250)

Meet at Scout Island at 8:30 am. Stroll the trails to look and listen for migrant and resident birds at the Nature Centre. Expect to encounter birds of the marsh plus riparian and woodland birds.

Williams Lake River Lower Valley Birding

Sunday June 9th (morning) (Leader Phil Ranson 398-7110)

Meet at 8:00am in the Trailhead Parking Lot below Comer Street. We will carpool from there down to the lower parking lot. Join with Phil for a morning walk in the river valley. Learn some of the bird songs of the many birds that will be nesting in the valley at this time of the year. No dogs on this trip please. Plan to return to the trailhead by 11:00 to 11:30

Dry Lake, Churn Creek Protected Area – hike

Sunday, June 2 (Leader: Peter Opie 392-1440)

Meet at the Wye (parking lot by A&W) at 7:00 am to carpool. Drive to Churn Creek Protected Area to hike down from the Iron Gate Road to Dry Lake then loop to a lower pick up point for a shuttle. This moderate hike will feature grassland, vistas and rare plants. Have good shoes; bring lunch and lots of water. This will be a joint trip with the Friends of Churn Creek.

Fox Mountain Walk

Wednesday evening June 5th (Leader Ray Hornby 250-392-2271)

Join us for a walk along the trails on Fox Mountain. Good chance of viewing birds, wild flowers, and wildlife including deer, moose, bear, and fox. As well as an opportunity for great vista views of the lake. Meet at the corner of Fox Mountain Road and Teal Place (2nd road on left at top) at 6:30 pm. Bring camera and binoculars. Walk is relatively easy and dry.

Jimmy's Fox Trail

Wednesday, June 19 (Leader Peter Opie 392-1440)

Meet 6:30 pm at the Tourism Discovery Centre to arrange shuttle to Fox Mountain.

This moderate hike will follow the bike trail from Mason Road down to the TDC. Enjoy great views from the top.

We'll travel through classic dry-belt Douglas-fir forest stand structure with recent fir-beetle management. Just over 2 hours walking.

150 Mile Fuel Management in Mule Deer Winter Range

Wednesday, June 26 (Leader Peter Opie 392-1440)

Meet at Scout Island gate at 6:30 pm or the 150 Mile ballfields (0.9 km on Rideau Lake Road) at 7:00.

We will review the recent fuel management project with Forest Health Specialist, Alex Tranq. Expect discussion on wildfire risk, deer habitat, forest health, timber yield and residual fuel utilization.

Clyde Mountain Hike, Churn Creek P.A.

Sunday September 1, 2019 (Leaders: Peter Opie (392-1440) and Jim Young)

Clyde Mountain is a moderately high, flat topped ridge bordering the west side of the Fraser River in the central part of the Protected Area. It is a designated ecological reference area with no cattle grazing and great views of the Fraser River Valley. From the Empire Valley road, we will hike up onto the ridge (moderate slopes) on an old road and then enjoy a great walk along the top of the ridge (gentle to moderate slopes) through a variety of grasslands and open forests. Total walking distance will be about 6 to 8 km depending on interests of the group. A car shuttle will allow us to drive back to the starting point. Be sure to bring lots of drinking water and a lunch and wear good boots. Meet at the "Y" by the A&W at 6:30 a.m. This will be a joint trip with the Friends of Churn Creek.

Fox Mountain Area

Wednesday September 11th (Leader Ken Day)

(restoration planning, plant succession) Details to follow in the June Newsletter

Junction Sheep Range

Sunday October 20rd (Leader Fred McMechan 392-7680)

Meet at Scout Island at 8:00am. Bring a lunch, water bottle and your binoculars for this annual day long drive and hike into the park. This will be at the peak of the California Big-horned Sheep rut so look forward to seeing the sheep and perhaps you will be lucky and see or hear some head-butting.