

Saturday, February 16, 2019:

Snowshoe to Andromeda cabin -- Seven members and two guests drove up Highway 3 to the Bonanza area. There had been considerable new snow during the past few days so parking was limited but the leaders had shoveled out room for one vehicle and the other vehicle had high clearance with all wheel drive. The main lot was filled with snowmobile trucks. From the parking lot we took a short trail through the woods to connect with the main road again. We then followed this road. It was easy going due to being packed by the snowmobiles, to a trail on our right which took us down to the Orion Lakes. This trail is not used by snowmobiles so snowshoeing was much slower going from this point on. We crossed over the ice, which had a deep snow cover, and made our way up to the Andromeda Cabin, a small steeply sloped A-frame. We soon had a fire going and ate our lunch in the cabin. Then we took turns making a trail along the side of the lake and through the woods back to the parking area. During the snowshoe we walked through some sections of old growth forest. We saw many snowshoe hare tracks and some lynx, squirrel and ermine tracks. Birds seen and/or heard were white-winged crossbills singing in the tall spruce trees, pine siskins, pine grosbeaks, red-breasted nuthatches, and mountain chickadees. Photographers were: Ed, Hazel and Alison. Leaders were Hazel and Ed Beynon.

Hazel & Ed Beynon





Wednesday February 27 2019:

Cross Country Ski Trip to the Clough Wildlife Sanctuary on the Slocan Valley Rail Trail -- Four of us (3 members and a guest) met at 10 am at the Lemon Creek trailhead of the Slocan Valley Rail Trail. It was very cold and the snow on the rail trail hard and fast. We donned our warmest mitts and hats and headed off in search of the majestic trumpeter swans. It didn't take us long to find them! The stops and photo ops were frequent as we kick-n-glided north, finally arriving at a high bench about a kilometre past the Clough Wildlife Sanctuary sign in about an hour and a half. We ate our sandwiches quickly, while trying not to remove gloves, resulting in the need to retrieve from under the bench water bottles and plastic bags that eluded freezing fingers. The return was swift, stopping only to admire a few swans very close to shore and to marvel at the ancient pit house sites along the trail. We arrived back at the cars about 1:15 pm, warmed by the camaraderie and the sighting of so many wonderful birds: trumpeter swans, bald eagle, heron, Canada Geese, ducks and smaller birds I did not recognize. (We needed Ed and Hazel for that). Total distance about 9 kilometres. Bird photos by Diane White.

Alison Etter



left to right: Alison, Kim, Irme and Diane (photo thanks to Kim's long reach)

Bald Eagle

Heron in flight



Trumpeter Swans

Saturday, March 2, 2019:

Ski to Moose Meadows—It was a bright sunny day, with some fresh, dry snow covering the snowmobile tracks, as six WKNats and one guest skied 3 kilometres along a forestry road then made their way down to Moose Meadow. The good snow conditions, and nobody with boot problems made this trip much easier than the same one last year. We skied along the edge of Moose Meadow, left our skis at the base of the short hill, then hiked up to the "Moose Is Loose" cabin. The cabin was in good shape and we soon had a nice fire going to help keep us warm as we ate our lunch. The return trip took somewhat less time as much of it was gradual downhill. The beauty of the snow on the trees, the sparkles on the snow, and the shadows on Moose Meadow made it a perfect, picturesque outing. Wildlife tracks seen were—snowshoe hares, lynx, ermine, mice, grouse and moose. Birds seen and/or heard were white winged crossbills, pine siskins and mountain chickadees. Leaders were:

Ed & Hazel Beynon



Photos by Hazel or Ed Beynon



Photo by Diane White

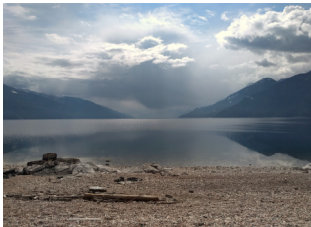


Photo by Alison Etter

Sunday, March 31, 2019:

Today was a great first hike of the season! Fifteen people, twelve WKNA members and three guests caught the 9:40am ferry and hiked the Pilot Bay Trail to Boomers Landing. The weather forecast threatened rain, but we did not encounter a drop while we hiked or lunched on Boomers Landing beach. Michael McMann gave an inspiring talk on several species of pine, lodge pole, white and ponderosa, we also saw hemlock, spruce and fir, including balsam fir. Marilyn Miller told us how to remember the different number of needles on pine trees to distinguish them apart. We spied several yew trees and it was remarked by David Cunningham that one of the specimens was the biggest he had encountered. We saw a flock of Common Mergansers at the view point and some Red Crossbills high up in the branches of a pine, feasting on pine cones. After returning to the parking area we drove to the lighthouse, as some members had never seen it. Ten of us climbed the short trail and a few people climbed to the top of the lighthouse to see the storm approaching. We got back to our cars just in time before it started raining, although it did not last long. A nice start to a promising season of hikes to come!

Respectfully submitted, Diane White



Boomers Landing



Storm coming



Photos by Diane White

Saturday, April 20, 2019:

Doukhobor Waterline Trail -- Twelve Naturalists completed the Waterline/Skattebo Reach Hike. The group met at the Brilliant Bridge Park and Ride at 10:00 am, and carpooled to the Switchyard parking area. By 10:15 the Nats were underway along the Skattebo Reach Trail. At 11:00 the hikers branched off onto the Doukhobor Waterline Trail, and crossed the upper bridge on Little McPhee Creek. The group turned due north down McPhee Canyon Trail at 11:30, connecting with the Skattebo Reach Trail fifteen minutes later. They continued over the bridge on Big McPhee Creek and ate lunch at the creek mouth on Kootenay River. Along the hike Nats were rewarded by a beautiful sunny day with magnificent displays of wild flowers. The avalanche lilies and spring beauty were at their peak. The trillium were large and in full blossom. Birds were heard and a few were seen from the trails. The Spring melt was very evident with both Little McPhee and Big McPhee Creeks full of turbulent melt water. The waterfall on Little McPhee was dramatic. The return hike was along the Skattebo Reach Trail back to the vehicles at the Switchyard. Total time was 4 hours. Total distance was 6.5 k. Elevation gain/loss was 100 m. A special "Thank You" to Bert and Sue Port for clearing the trails.

Al & Pat Sheppard

Wednesday, May 1, 2019:

Brilliant Overlook -- Five intrepid hikers arrived promptly just before 9:00 am on May 1 at the Brilliant Park and Ride to brave the predicted elements for an ascent of Brilliant Overlook: Ed and Hazel Beynton, Ed Townrow, Marilyn Miller and myself, Alison Etter (leader and trip reporter). Said elements thankfully failed to materialize, other than a wee shower that lasted no longer than it took to don raincoats. Spring Beauties, Glacier Lillies, Shooting Stars and a myriad of other colourful distractions slowed the ascent, but by 11:00, we were atop the overlook. Too early for lunch, but what the heck - we were hungry. Marilyn showed us The Vice - which I didn't know existed, and after lunch, led by Ed and Hazel, we continued on to the microwave tower and down the trail which turned into a road, which turned into a short-cut bushwhack (which is when we encountered the wee shower, and Ed B. encountered a few ticks). Back to the cars by about 2:00 - a bit tired but basking in the awesome scenery, fulfilling day and wonderful company. [No photo credits submitted]

Alison Etter



One of the distractions



The hikers



The view

Saturday, May 4, 2019:

Mel Deanna Trail – Spring was breaking out in many shades of green as 13 Nats and 3 guests hiked the Mel Deanna Trail. We were fortunate to have a mix of sun and cloud. Our goal was to look at wildflowers. At the trail head, we were greeted by the bright white of Saskatoon blossoms. We soon found narrow-leaved desert parsley, paintbrush, arnica, kinnikinnik [best palindrome ever] and Oregon grape on the open hill-top. As we moved into the forest, we saw Hooker's fairy bells, and trillium. The latter were mostly pink to maroon indicating they were aging. Glacier lilies were over on the exposed sites and still blooming in shaded areas. We spotted a few fungi, but didn't identify them. We rested at the shelter at the north end of the ponds and ate lunch at the shelter at the south end. All in all a pleasant spring hike.

Julia Roberts



Mel DeAnna 2nd shelter



Champion Ponds



Paintbrush

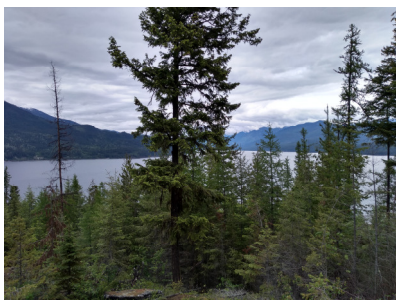


Trillium

Saturday, May 18, 2019:

Kootenay Lake Village Procter Trails -- The day was cloudy and slightly cool, although some of us were perspiring on the way up the trails, the beautiful views of Kootenay Lake made it all worthwhile. Four ladies made the journey and had a great time hiking, chatting and taking pictures along the way. The trails lead through some forests where skunk cabbage grew profusely beside a creek. Although it has a strong aroma, it does make for beautiful pictures! The trails are well maintained and at each lookout there is a bench and table to enjoy the views. We saw the ferry coming along the lake at a distance and noted several boaters out enjoying the day. Hikers can chose any distance, today we went the 3.6 km to Lookout 5 which offered views of the mouth of the main lake at the West Arm, across from Balfour and Queens Bay. Thanks to our leader who offered us a tour of her home afterward, which we enjoyed. [No photo credits submitted]

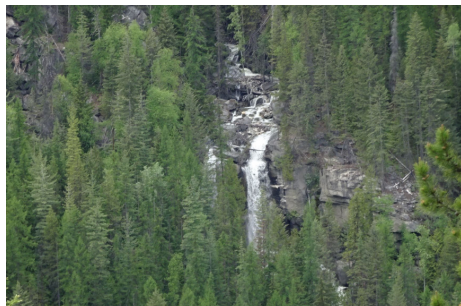
Respectfully submitted, Diane White



Wednesday, May 22, 2019:

Flower walk -- It was a pleasant Spring day, the birds were singing and the flowers were blooming. Our group, which included nine WKnats and one guest, started the walk from the Selkirk Paving road near Fairview. The first part followed a gravel road and then we were into the forest following old overgrown roads. Once we reached some rocky open areas the flowers were magnificent. Some flowers of note were many dwarf yellow monkey flowers, a saxifrage called buttercup suksdorfia, naked broomrape which is parasitic on the saxifrage, thousands of death camas, Douglas's brodiaea, sarsaparilla, and queen's cup. Some of the birds seen/heard include black-headed grosbeak, dusky flycatcher, yellow warbler, red crossbill, western tanager, lazuli bunting, and warbling vireo. We ate lunch at a rock outcropping with a good view of the Columbia River valley looking towards Trail. After lunch, four members of the group decided to return to the cars while the other six continued hiking up to the top of the bluff to get a view of China Creek Falls. Photo credits: "Photos of China Ck Falls" and "Dwarf Monkey Flowers" by Hazel and Ed. Thanks to Scott Wilson for "Hiking up through the flowers" and "Looking south towards Trail".

Hazel & Ed Beynon



****JUST A REMINDER ****

1. **Common courtesy and common sense** dictates that you inform the contact person to confirm your attendance at an event on the program, AND THAT YOU CONTACT TO CANCEL if you later find that you cannot attend. Nothing is written in stone and changes may have to be made from time to time, due to weather conditions or personal reasons. We would not want you to miss out on a single chance to enjoy our environment! **Don't wait until the last minute** to contact if you are interested in any of our events.....leader may have already left, especially if camping or long distances are involved.
2. **The leader of an outing is responsible for:**
 - ✓ Getting the appropriate waiver form signed by every person attending. *There are TWO waivers – one for all attendees and one for guests (one-day membership + \$1). Print/photocopy the guest waiver beforehand and keep extra copies just in case. Forward member waiver/sign-out sheets to Diane White, and day membership forms and accompanying dollars to Paula Neilson, immediately.*
 - ✓ Making sure that no one is left behind with car trouble at the parking area, especially in winter.
 - ✓ Arranging to have the trip report forwarded to the Editor. The leader may delegate this, of course. The writer also has the obligation to get the report submitted in time.
3. Make it a policy with the entire group to keep the person behind you in sight. If your follower on the trail is lagging. Slow your pace to keep that person in sight. If everyone in the group continually checks to make sure they can see the person behind them, it is impossible for anyone to get into serious trouble. If you split into groups, do not allow any one person to 'take off' by him/herself.
4. **NO PETS** are allowed on any of our outings.

Do you have any suggestions for outings, speakers, projects, improvements to the Club? Contact a member of the Executive!