

The Osprey

NEWSLETTER OF THE WEST KOOTENAY NATURALISTS'
ASSOCIATION



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FIELD TRIPS

Contact the field trip director for information on trips and meetings. If you do not have email, contact the field trip director for hard copy updates.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

The deadline for the next newsletter is **OCTOBER 1**. Material accepted by the Editor any time up to this date. We reserve the right to edit for space, clarity, spelling, and syntax. Major changes will be discussed with the contributor.

TRIP REPORTS

Just a Reminder

1. Common courtesy and common sense dictates that you inform the contact person to confirm your attendance at an event or 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. Do not wait until the last minute to contact if you are interested in any of our events as leaders 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 + \$2). 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 newsletter editor. The leader may delegate this, of course. The writer also has the obligation to get the report submitted BY THE DEADLINE.

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 allowed on any of our outings.

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

April 2, 2021

Evan's Creek Hike

What a lovely hike we had, albeit a very long one! The trail is pleasant as it climbs along the lake permitting many views. There are picnic tables at the Evan's Creek campsite to enjoy lunch upon arrival. A steel bridge over the falls permit a nice view of the creek which is high this time of year. The 6 of us (two groups) were all tired, sore and very pleased with ourselves when we completed the 17km hike.

- Diane White



All three Evan's Creek Hike photos by Ed & Hazel Beynon

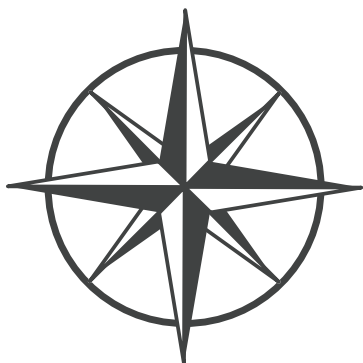
April 16, 2021

Skattebo Reach/ Dukhobor
Waterline Trail

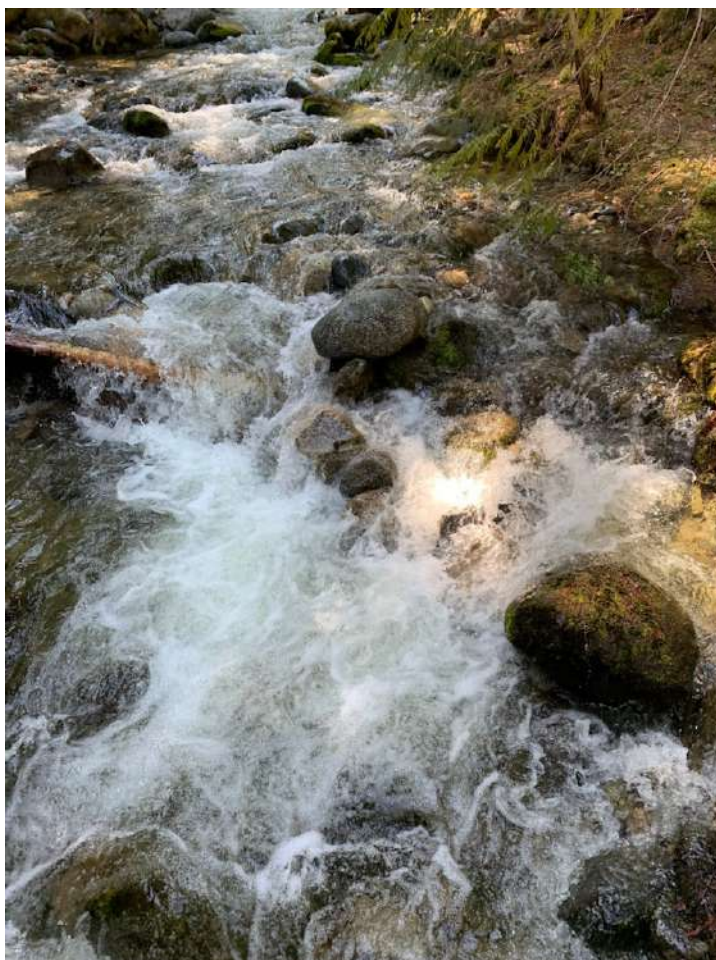
Today's trip started along the Skattebo Reach Trail, where we hiked for about 1.5 hours to the base of McPhee Creek. We sat in the sun on the point and had lunch before making the return trip. We got our cardio blast when we took the uphill route to join the Doukhobor Waterline Trail, which we then followed until it re-joined the Skattebo Trail.

There was a lot of nature to be seen, including bunches of glacier lilies, buttercups, spring beauties and even some trilliums. Many birds were chirping, and ducks and geese were seen flying over the river, as well as a bald eagle.

Eight members participated on this hike. Two groups of 4, to ensure that Covid protocols were followed. We left the Brilliant Park & Ride at 10:00 am and were back at the Brilliant Substation by about 1:45 pm. Thanks to all for a very enjoyable outing!



Skattebo Hike - Diane White



Skattebo Hike - Diane White



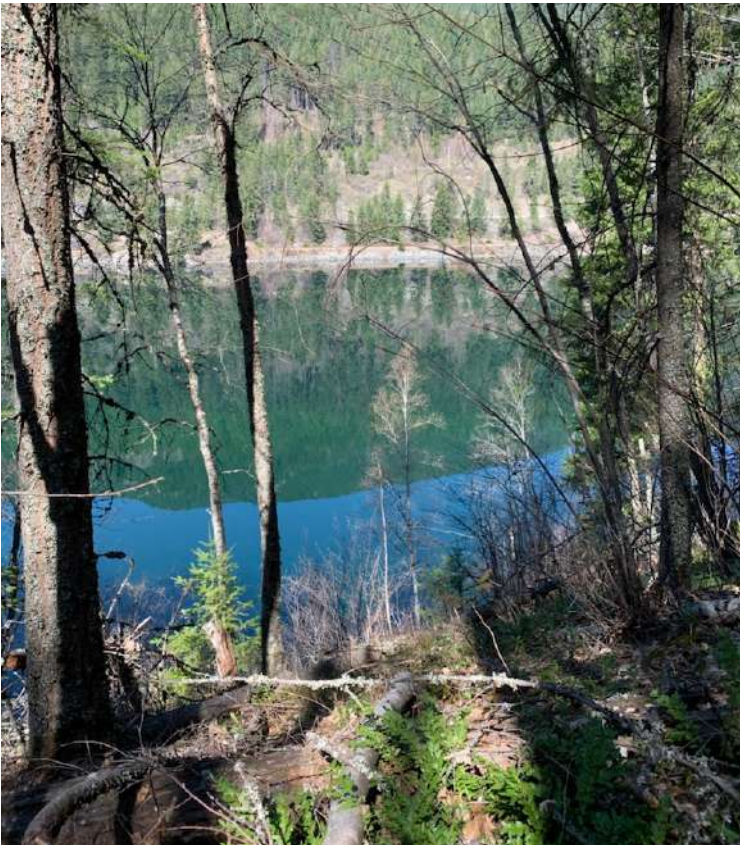
Skattebo Hike - Diane White

April 23, 2021

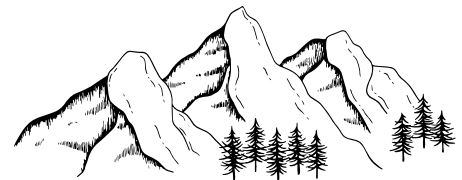
Robson Ramble Hike

Three of us met this morning to do the Robson Ramble trails. We hiked along the lower bench to the last trail that hooks left, and hiked up to the small country backroad. The road took us back into the forest which eventually led us to the top of the Lion's Head lookout. We had a leisurely lunch here and caught some lovely sun while enjoying the view, as well as two ospreys soaring above the cliffs.

Along the way we saw some bushes in bloom (maybe saskatoon?), glacier lilies and some false Solomon's seals. We were back at the trailhead shortly after 1 pm.



Skattebo Hike - Diane White



GRAY HAIRSTREAK



Strymon melinus

BY PAULA NEILSON

This pretty little butterfly that happened by my garden is a Gray Hairstreak from the family Lycaenidae, the second largest family of butterflies, known as the gossamer-winged butterflies. The hairstreaks are distinguished by hairlike markings on the underside of their wings. The Gray Hairstreak is the most common one, ranging widely in North America, from southern Canada to Central America and northwestern South America. Most other hairstreaks live in the tropics and range only as far as the southern states.



Strymon melinus can live at many elevations and in many different habitats from tropical forests to temperate woodlands and meadows, even happy in suburbia and roadsides. They are quite small, with a wingspan of 18 to 38 mm (0.75 to 1.5 inch) Note the two tails which resemble antennae and the orange spots on the hind-wings, which imitate eyes. These can encourage a predator to attack from behind and give its prey a chance to escape.

THE KOOTENAYS IN PHOTOGRAPHS



A Solitary Bee in a spring crocus at Castlegar on March 27. These bees look very similar to European Honeybees, but they nest individually as honebees do - Ed & Hazel Beynon



A series of photos of Great Blue Herons spotted at Duck Lake - Paula Neilson



I regularly visit the Munson Logging Road, accessible from Bombi Pass, to observe higher altitude birds. The Bombi summit is at 4000 ft, and there is a small beaver pond and marsh where various higher altitude breeding birds can often be observed - Wilsons and Orange-crowned Warblers, Warbling Vireos, White-crowned Sparrows, Willow Flycatchers, usually, not this year though, and Wilsons Snipe for example. A drawback is the traffic noise. If you drive up the Munson Logging Road to 6km there is a series of beaver ponds to the right and here there is no traffic. Swainsons and Hermit thrushes are calling, Fox Sparrows sing and again Wilsons and Orange-crowned Warblers and Ruby-crowned Kinglets abound. Usually there are Olive-sided ("quick three beers") Flycatchers, but I heard none this year. A spur road takes you through the beaver ponds (literally) and into a logged area at 5300 ft below False Grassy Mountain. I have pictures of some of the residents. - Peter McIver



Top: Slate-coloured Fox Sparrow - Some authorities have split the species into 4, with our representative being the Slate-coloured. This picture shows why. The coastal form, very common in the Vancouver area, is the Sooty, and looks very different - Peter McIver

Bottom: Although an everyday sight, I love the way the camera has frozen the action and allowed a new appreciation of these Rufous Hummingbirds - Peter McIver



Top Left: A pair of Mountain Bluebirds checking out a place to nest on the nestbox trail near the airport.

Top Right: Male Mountain Bluebird on a wire.

Bottom: A curious Pileated Woodpecker

- All three photos by Paula Neilson



Left: A Common Yellowthroat spotted from the kayak at the Slocan Pools - Paula Neilson
Right: Red Crossbill - Ed & Hazel Beynon



A Peregrine Falcon enjoying her lunch on May 17 in the Selkirk College/Oxbow Area - Peter McIver

