

The Log

Winter 2000

FRIENDS OF ECOLOGICAL RESERVES NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A Warden is a Warden is a Steward?

by Lynne Milnes

As an avid reader and sometime writer I believe language is very important. Call me old fashioned, but I have problems with contemporary vernacular. Buzz phrases such as "Let's be proactive... do lunch...not go there" etc. make me cringe. So it was with slight dismay that I learned that the Parks Branch is considering changing the term "wardens" to "stewards", as part of the restructuring to include Ecological Reserves within parks.

The Warden Program was initiated in 1980 based on the existing Provincial Warden Program of Archaeological Sites and the National Trust Warden Program in England. In both cases management was maintained through volunteer observation and record keeping. Enforcement was left to the government. Wardens were not conservation officers nor were they scientists per se, but often local

naturalists, with extensive knowledge of the local flora and fauna and a keen commitment to conservation in their community.

"Warden" is defined in my Oxford dictionary as someone who "keeps and protects", "guards", and "administers". "Steward" on the other hand is defined as "a person in trust of another person's property" and "someone who hands out drinks on an airplane". The word "steward" is being bantered about today among conservation administrators e.g. "stewardship", "stewards" of the land etc, but I fear it is this moment's buzz word and likely to be subject to misinterpretation in the future. In our effort within the last year to reach out to our Ecological Reserves wardens we have heard their need for transportation assistance, maps, signs, but no one has mentioned requiring a name change.

As the founder of the Warden Program I admit my bias, which is why I am asking all wardens – past and present – what do you think? Does it matter? Will stewards seize the day? Let me know and I will pass on your remarks to the Parks Branch.

At this time of year it is important to thank all our members, sponsors and donors who keep this little group chugging along. To all our volunteers past and present who contribute their

valuable time – from our accountant Diana to our busy board members (when are meetings ever convenient?), our assistant Nichola, Penn who picks up our mail, Tom who updates our mailing list and our editor Tom, back on board to help with this newsletter. We say thank you for all your efforts in supporting Ecological Reserves throughout British Columbia. ■

Inside ...

Friends Scholarship Doubled – Winner Goes On to Oxford	2
Letters	3
Spring Camas – Spring Lecture	3
Ecological Reserves – Haida Gwaii/ Queen Charlotter Islands	4
Ecological Reserves – Smithers Area	6
Race Rocks Marine Protected Area Announcement	8
Annual General Meeting	9
Thank You to Our 2000 Donors	9
Requests for Funding Research	9
Meadowlark	10
Websites of Interest	12

The Log

Winter 2000

The Log is published twice a year by the Friends of Ecological Reserves to promote the establishment, management and maintenance of Ecological Reserves in British Columbia. The Log is distributed to members, volunteer wardens, affiliates, supporters, government, friends and the enquiring public.

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Friends.

Articles for publication are invited.

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Lynne Milnes

Rosamund Pojar

Mary Rannie

Lucy Stefanyk

Thanks to all!

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Individual: \$20, Family/Institutions: \$25

Students/Seniors: \$15

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Friends Scholarship Doubled – Winner Goes On to Oxford

by Lynne Milnes

The year 2000 recipient of the Vicky Husband \$1000 Scholarship, sponsored by the Friends of Ecological Reserves and chosen by recommendation from the Environmental Studies Faculty at the University of Victoria, is Elizabeth Ferguson. Originally from Saskatchewan, Elizabeth, a multi-linguist (she speaks German, French, Spanish and English) volunteered for Canada World Youth in Cuba during 1998-1999 working in a daycare center, and at the Sierra Club of BC in Victoria where she worked on displays about climate change. She plans to return to Cuba this December to bring needed equipment to the daycare before returning to U of Vic to finish her degree with a directed study concerning an Inventory of Environmental Indicators for the University. Elizabeth is also the winner of a Rotary Scholarship, which will take her to Oxford University next year. She is applying for a Masters of Science in Environmental Change and Management. Congratulations Elizabeth!

At a lunch to honor Ms. Ferguson, it was announced that an anonymous donor had enhanced the scholarship so that there could be more than one recipient. Nancy Turner, Elizabeth's supervisor said there was no lack of qualified students and Paul West, the Dean of Environmental Studies applauded the Friends pointing out that our modest contribution is the biggest scholarship within the Environmental Studies Faculty. ■



Left to right: Vicky Husband, Paul West, Lynne Milnes, Elizabeth Ferguson and Nancy Turner.

LETTERS

Dennis Horwood – Warden Skeena River ER #63

Being an eco-reserve warden on the north coast has its difficulties. Three reserves, Gingietl Creek, Williams Creek, and Skeena River all have water barriers. In order to reach these, you need either chest waders or jet boats. Also, the reserves are spread out and require 5–6 hours of driving time just to reach Gingietl Creek, located on the Nass River. Williams Creek Reserve is located near the end of a long logging road, which has been gated on all but one time when I went to check on the reserve. It is also difficult to coordinate visiting times with park staff since I work similar hours to most park staff.

FER Replies:

Parks staff have been consulted regarding this ER proposal and they are reviewing whether signage is necessary for this remote area. The parks staff pointed out that there are many reserves in the northwest without wardens. The following list are currently overseen by Parks staff and could use a warden:

ER #46 Sikanni Chief River ER #47 Parker Lake
ER #50 Cecil Lake ER #62 Fort Nelson River
ER #80 Smith River

If there is anyone reading this newsletter who would like to become an Ecological Reserve warden in the northwest contact:

BC Parks – Skeena District
Bag 2000 Dease Lake V0C1L0
(250) 771-4591

Patrick Williston

I would like to contribute more meaningfully to the Friends and have spoken with Rosamund Pojar about becoming a Reserve Warden. I am also very thankful to the Friends for the trip to Texada Island in 1999. The work that the Janszen's and I completed there has greatly enhanced our understanding of moonworts in BC. I hope to return next year, as I am continuing to develop an illustrated flora of the moonworts of British Columbia.

Susan Danese

I live in a little village in the Apennine Mountains of Italy. Our precious resource is a wetland at the base of our village – which is a constant struggle to protect. We watch your progress and await Friends news.

Susan is a long time supporter of the friends – and our most distant! Thanks for your continued support! ■



Our wetland – the Marsh of Montenaro

Spring Camas – Spring Lecture

Brenda Beckwith, will be presenting this year at the Friends Annual General Meeting. Brenda came to Victoria to study with Nancy Turner, Environmental Studies, Uvic in 1997. She is a Ph.D. candidate in Biology, though says she spends 99% of her time in Environmental Studies. Her Ph.D. research involves the cultural landscape reconstruction of the Greater Victoria Region, focusing on the Indigenous landscape management for the edible blue camas. Victoria was known for “its excellent camas districts” and First Nations came from all over to harvest and trade camas bulbs from Victoria. The bulbs were a major carbohydrate in the diet and probably one of the most sought after and intensively managed resources in this area. The Indigenous use of fire would have been a regular, if not annual, occurrence on the landscape.

Known for her contributions to introducing fire back into the Garry oak prairies, Brenda will discuss Indigenous management and how it was used to promote and maintain a high productivity of root vegetables, specifically camas, in the vast prairies and meadows that once covered the Greater Victoria Region. Her lecture highlights how these landscapes have changed since contact with increasing urbanization, degradation and Indigenous management suppression. Lecture at 6pm, February 23rd at University of Victoria Classroom Building C116. ■

“Some arrangements should be made as soon as possible with the native Tribes for the purchase of their lands... I would also strongly recommend, equally as a measure of justice, and from a regard to the future peace of the colony, that Indians Fisher[ie]s, Village Sit[e]s and Fields, should be reserved for their benefit and fully secured to them by law.”

– James Douglas, Fort Victoria, 3 Sept. 1849.

Ecological Reserves – Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte Islands

by Lucy Stefanyk – Warden - Naikoon
Area Supervisor BC Parks, Skeena
District

On the Queen Charlotte Islands, BC Parks manages five ecological reserves. Each is unique in nature and protects significant conservation values. The following descriptions of the reserves will provide the reader with a better understanding of what is protected in each, and what BC Parks is doing to ensure the state of perpetuity of these special places.

Reserve #10 – Rose Spit (170ha)



Rose Spit is perhaps one of the best known reserves of the Queen Charlottes due to its status as the largest spit formation in BC and its characteristic swoop that elongates into Dixon Entrance. This is a continuously expanding landmass – the process of accretion, influenced by prevailing winds and tidal currents, adds to the spit formation each year. Rose Spit encompasses spectacular sand dunes and protects a unique dune ecosystem in addition to forest, meadow and driftwood plant communities. Recreational driving on

the dunes has decreased dramatically due to public awareness of the sensitivity of the dunes and the closures of local off-road driving clubs. BC Parks will continue to display interpretive material regarding the importance and sensitivity of the dunes throughout Naikoon Provincial Park.

Reserve #9 – Tow Hill (514 ha)



This reserve captures a segment of North Beach, one of the longest stretches of beach in BC. It's foreshore slopes gently into Dixon Entrance, while the backshore is characterized by a series of dunes and ancient beach forms. Inland moor bogs create a supportive environment for the diverse moss species that reside here in vast blankets. An interpretive program run by the BC Parks visitor center this past season educated visitors to this area about the special and important conservation values contained at this location.

Reserve #45 – Vladimir J. Krajina (9,834 ha)



This ecological reserve, named after Dr. Vladimir Krajina, who was an instrumental force in making ecological reserves a provincial government program, protects rare genetic resources and outstanding biological phenomena in a remote coastal setting. It captures a piece of the west slope of the Queen Charlotte Range to 825 m in elevation and envelopes a fjord, 60 km of shoreline and two large islands. Protected here is a virgin littoral environment, lowland Sitka spruce forest, rare mosses, endemic birds and mammals, four species of spawning salmon and seabird colonies. Hippa Island supports large nesting colonies of ancient murrelets and Cassin's auklets. Raccoons that were introduced to Graham Island in the 1940s have effected some of their nesting bird colonies. Annually, BC Parks conducts a monitoring program on Hippa Island to ensure that no raccoons have translocated from the mainland. At present, the Hippa Island nesting bird colonies remain free of raccoon predation.



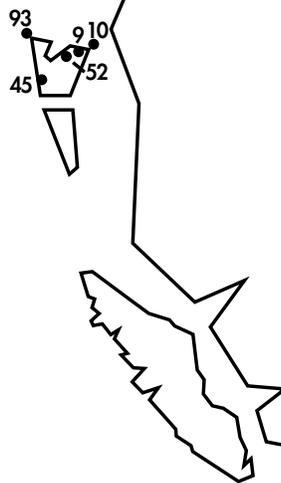
Reserve #52 – Drizzle Lake (837 ha)

This reserve, on the southwestern edge of the Argonaut Plain, encompasses an undisturbed lake and bog ecosystems. The lake and its inlet stream contain populations of the 3-spined stickleback, fish that are of great scientific interest. In particular, Dr. Tom Reimchen's studies of the stickleback at this reserve have contributed invaluable research information to the scientific community. A large and diverse year-round assemblage

of aquatic birds also utilize this site. BC Parks will continue to support research efforts at this location. ■

Reserve #93 – Lepas Bay (3.6 ha)

This reserve envelopes a small oval-shaped island near the head of Lepas Bay at the far northwest corner of Graham Island. It is a low island with a steep and rocky shoreline and cliffs that are present on the seaward side. This is an important location for the preservation of nesting seabirds, primarily petrels and their habitat. Here can be found fork-tailed storm-petrels and Leach's storm-petrels, as well as Cassin's auklets. This island is one of eight storm-petrel nesting sites in BC and may be the largest mixed species petrel site in the province. BC Parks conducts site visits to this remote island whenever possible and will be continuing to monitor the area for signs of raccoons. To date, no raccoons have been found on the island. Liaison with sport fishing lodges in the vicinity will also continue to ensure that visitors to the area surrounding Lepas Bay are aware of its purpose and importance.



Storage Space Needed

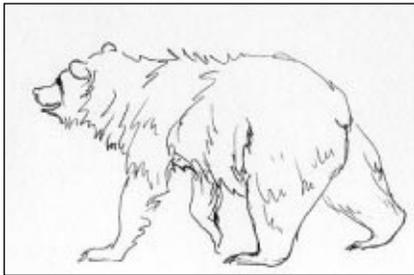
The Friends have 15 file size boxes needing storage in Victoria. If you have a space available, and could keep these boxes safe and dry please let us know! You can contact us at 598-1567 or ecoreserves@hotmail.com.

Ecological Reserves – Smithers Area

Warden - Rosamund Pojar

Reserve # 73 – Torkelsen Lake

This reserve was set aside to retain a northern bog-forest complex for research and educational purposes. The reserve is located north of Torkelsen Lake alongside the road which runs between Smithers and the Native village of Fort Babine on Babine Lake. The reserve consists of a mosaic of sparsely treed black spruce bog, dense coniferous forest, and open shrubby willow communities. There are also some open sedge marshes along the creek which forms the northwest boundary.



The only boundary that is signed is the one bordering the road. The condition of the reserve and the signs are checked, on average, once a year by the warden. The other boundaries are presumed to be intact and the warden has requested that the staff in the District office of the Ministry of Forests advise of any activities taking place that might impact the reserve. We (warden and local naturalists) have visited the site quite a few times over the years, both in summer and winter. We have made inventories of birds, mammals, some dragonflies, and vascular plants. Interesting plants include cloudberry (*Rubus chamaemorus*) and Lapland buttercup (*Ranunculus lapponicus*). Beaver are very active along the creek and there

is abundant sign of moose using the area. Bear and wolves also frequent parts of the reserve.

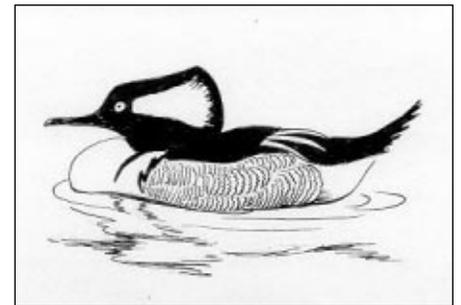
There do not appear to be any management issues of pressing concern. It would be good to have the whole boundary surveyed and clearly marked because it is impossible to see if there is any damage to the backside of the reserve, except in winter.

Reserve # 81 – Morice River

This reserve is located on the west side of the Morice River, 24km south of Houston. It was set aside to preserve, for research purposes, forest ecosystems representative of the western portion of the Sub-Boreal Spruce zone. The vegetation was originally mature mixed forest: spruce, aspen and cottonwood in the lower portions near the river; lodgepole pine, subalpine fir and spruce on the flatter upland areas. Most of the reserve was burned in May 1983. In August 1983, permanent research plots were established throughout the reserve by the Research Section of the Ministry of Forests, Prince Rupert Region. These plots were monitored almost every year for the first 10 years and less frequently thereafter to study succession after fire. The reserve is now extremely difficult to move around in due to a combination of fallen dead trees and very thick regeneration of pine, spruce and aspen. Consequently, researchers have had some difficulty in relocating their plots and could not find some in 2000. Attempts to locate these plots will be made again in 2001.

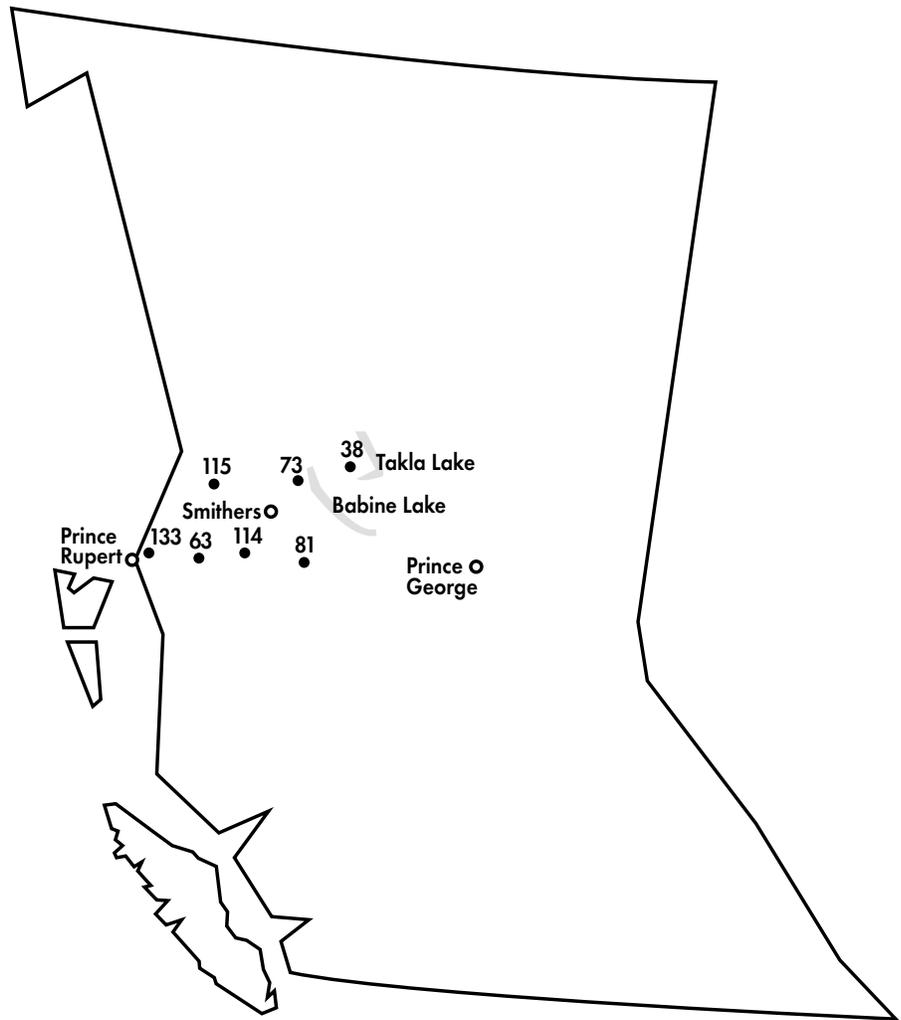
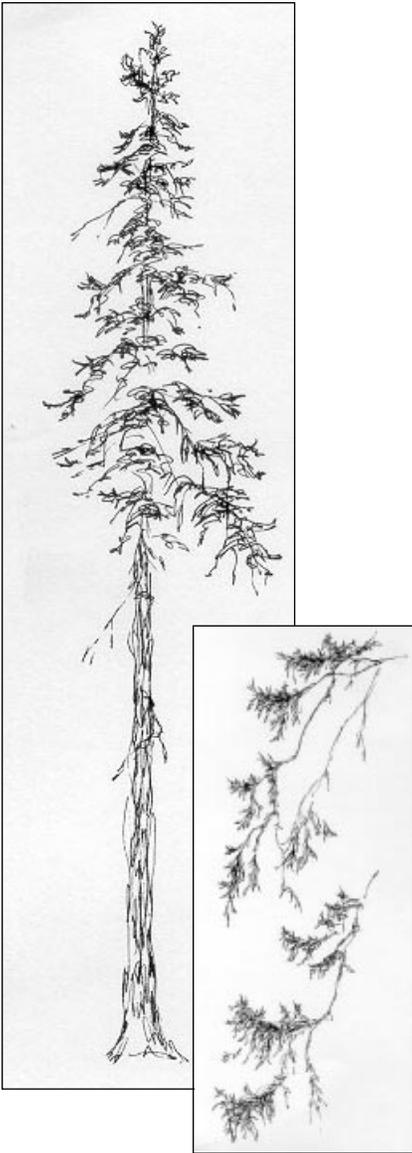
Access to the reserve is via the Morice River road and a logging road that crosses the Morice River. The southern and part of the western

boundary were signed in the early years after the fire. Also a sign was placed on the boundary bordering the river so that it was visible to people using the river. The access by land has become more difficult as the surrounding area has now regenerated and the original logging skid roads are becoming closed over. This is probably good for the reserve, although it makes it more difficult to check to see if the signs are still up. There was also a great deal of windfall on the boundaries that made access into the reserve more difficult.



Visits to the reserve during the first 10–15 years after the fire indicated very heavy use of the area by deer, moose and bear as the understory vegetation came back very lush. Inventories of bird and mammal use were made at that time, but there have not been any recent attempt to monitor these groups. There should be!





Canyon Creek Bog

This is a new ecological reserve. Access is very easy as the reserve is situated along the main road leading east from Smithers to Babine Lake. The vegetation is a wetland complex: shrub fen, white spruce-black spruce swamp, black spruce-sphagnum bog containing many interesting plant species. We will try to do a full inventory of the species (especially plants, birds and mammals) in year 2001.

Currently there are no signs indicating that this is a reserve. Signs should be erected as soon as possible.

OTHER RESERVES

#133 – Gamble Creek

North coastal forest/bog complex and occurrence of amabilis fir near northern limit of its range.

#63 – Skeena River Floodplain Islands

Located near the mouth of the Exchamsiks River. On these floodplain islands the effect of high tide is nil; thus the growth of cottonwood and Sitka spruce trees is still good.

#115 – Gingietl Creek

Undisturbed watershed in virgin coastal western hemlock forest.

#114 – Williams Creek

Outstanding terraced bogs and representative coastal western hemlock.

#38 – Takla Lake

Considered to be the northerly limit of Douglas-fir. Genetically this population is one of the most frost resistant for its species. ■

Artist : Peggy Frank

Race Rocks Marine Protected Area Announcement

Xwayen, Race Rocks, Ecological Reserve, Marine Protected Area (MPA), all refer to the same beautiful, bountiful ocean-island sanctuary given special status this fall. On Thursday morning, September 14, 2000, many of the people who gave their time and expertise to the Race Rocks Advisory Board, including former FER president Cheryl Borris (Mary Rannie attended in her stead), gathered for a calm-sea Zodiac trip and announcement ceremony. Federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Herb Dhaliwal, Joan Sawicki from BC's Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, Stewart Walker, Director of Lester B. Pearson College, Tom Sampson from the Coast Salish Sea Council and Sabine Jessen, CPAWS were among the dignitaries. An official announcement simultaneously broadcast on a fabulous website(www.racerocks.com) announced the creation of this MPA, Canada's first under the authority of DFO and first in a national network of MPAs.

Protection of Race Rocks rich biodiversity will be a challenging pilot project in co-management on many levels: Pearson, First Nations, CRD, BC Parks and DFO. During the ceremony a moving Salish prayer was sung by Tom Sampson, a refreshing spiritual contrast to the bureaucratic tone surrounding it. Joan Sawicki's bang-on remarks gave credit to Pearson students intensely involved with stewardship of Race Rocks. They reminded us that we must think and act as an ecosystem would and indeed, that Race Rocks could prove an important test of land/marine cooperation. It is a conservation pledge, less to do with managing an Ecological Reserve/Marine Protected Area than about managing ourselves.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Ecological Reserves will be held on February 23, 2001.

The meeting will be preceded by a lecture by Brenda Beckwith on her research of fire, and Indigenous propagation of camas in coastal grasslands.

Lecture: 6:00 pm
AGM: 8:00 pm
Place: Classroom Building, Room C118.

The FER Board is looking for new members. Nominations can be made by contacting us: ecoreserves@hotmail.com or Lynne at (250) 598-1567.

Thank You to Our 2000 Donors

Katherine Beamish	Jeanine Lucas
Jocelyn Braithwaite	James MacIntyre
Paul Breen	Dr. Cortland McKenzie
A A Buchanan	Norma Morton
Joyce & Stan Buxey	Daryl Calder & Marianne Nahm
Ernest Carson	Tilman & F Mae Nahm
Lesley & Joan Cartwright	Ann Nolte
Marilyn Chechic	Deiter & Netty Overhoff
Darlene Choquette	Douglas & Evelyn Pielou
Brian & Linda Emenson	Cathy Riley
Joyce Folbigg	Jean Strachen
Sharon Godkin	E I Whittaker
Joan Heriot	J A & M L Wisnia
Marianne Hildes	Audrey Woodward
Louise Irwin	Robert & Lynda Would
Jeannie Kemp	Vancouver Foundation
Jean King	The Friends have several donors
Diana Knowles	who wish to remain anonymous; we
	appreciate their continued support.

Donations & Bequests

The Friends of Ecological Reserves relies on the support of members and friends to carry out their work. Individuals can make donations or bequests to our address. Tax receipts are issued for donations of \$20 or more.
(Charitable BIN#118914597RR)

REQUESTS FOR FUNDING FOR RESEARCH

The Friends welcomes applications for funding to support biological and ecological research projects related to ecological reserves in British Columbia. The application should include:

- title of research project
- name of applicant(s)
- mailing address of applicant
- institutional (college or university) affiliation
- a brief description of the research and its relationship to ecological reserves in BC
- any other pertinent details
- two letters of reference supporting the project

Financial information should include:

- total budget required for project, with an indication of contributions from other sources
- amount requested from FER

Note: If the project is a multi-year proposal, provide an indication of how the project is to be supported/funded through its duration.

Applications will be judged on the merit of the project, the financial viability of the project and the financial need of the applicant. Research grants are generally between \$500-\$2000. As a condition of award, applicants will be asked to submit a report on the research findings and may be required to present a public lecture on their research. Applications for funding for 2001/2002 should be received by April 1, 2001.

Send applications to:
The Friends of Ecological Reserves
PO Box 8477 Stn Central
Victoria BC V8W 3S1 ■

Meadowlark

Our 2000 Meadowlark raffle was a great success. Congratulations to Leigh Dyer of Penticton who won the painting – generously donated by Fenwick Lansdowne. The Friends raised over \$3600 from the event. Proceeds will go to support work in the area.

The painting was contributed after an FER placemat ‘paint-in’ held at the 1999 Meadowlark Festival. The Interior Grassland placemat has the famed Meadowlark as its center crest, a reminder of the fragility of the grasslands in BC. Special thanks to Doreen Olsen who hosted our painting guests, is instrumental in the festival itself, and contributed to the sale of the raffle.

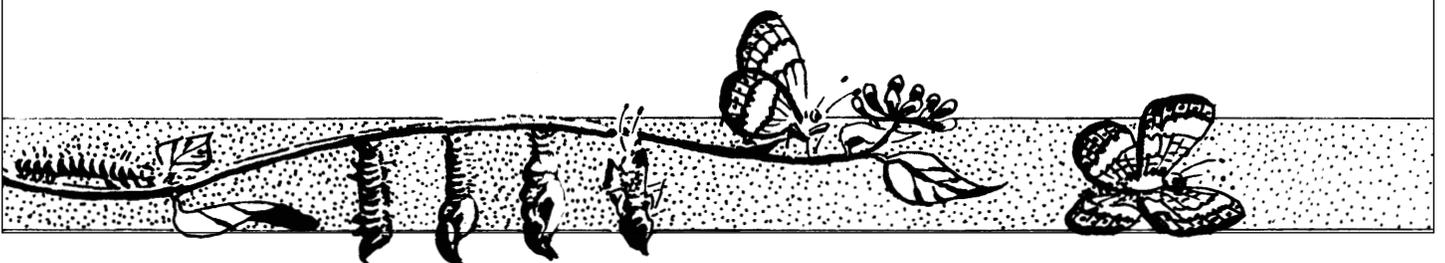
The Festival has made a Limited Edition Print of the Meadowlark, and several of the prints are available to the Friends for sale. An order form accompanies the placemat order at the back of our newsletter. Act quickly, as these have been a popular item, and only 200 were made.



Alison Watt



*Brionny Penn & Donald Gunn
painting placemats*



FRIENDS OF ECOLOGICAL RESERVES MEMBERSHIP FORM

Box 8477 Stn Central Victoria BC V8W 3S1

Renewal for 2001 New membership

NAME (please print) _____ Date _____

Membership Category

INDIVIDUAL: \$ 20 STUDENT/SENIOR: \$ 15 FAMILY: \$ 25 INSTITUTION: \$ 25

ADDRESS _____

Postal Code _____

PHONE () _____ E-MAIL _____

I/we enclose Payment for:

___ year(s) membership \$ _____

Donation \$ _____

___ copy(ies) Constitution & Bylaws @\$1 each \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Tax receipts issued for donations of \$20 or more
(Charitable BIN#118914597RR)

I am interested in volunteering for:

- Assisting with Field Trip organization
- Contributing articles/photos to *The Log*
- Fund-Raising telephoning Other

Please apply my donation to:

- Land acquisition projects
- Scholarships for post-graduate research
- where most needed

ORDER FORM FOR PLACEMATS AND FENWICK LANSDOWNE PRINT

Numbered Limited Edition Print (200) – \$50.00 each

Placemats – \$5.00 each

Interior Grasslands • Douglas Fir • Garry Oak

* Non-profit Group Volume Discount (10 or more) \$4.00 each



Name (please print) _____

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Postal Code _____

Phone () _____ E-mail _____

DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
Shipping, Handling and Postage for Placemat Orders		\$4.00
Total Enclosed (Cheque or Money Order)		\$

Websites of Interest

WORLD NETWORK OF BIOSPHERE RESERVES

The International Coordinating Council (ICC) officially designated 21 new biosphere reserves and one extension on November 9, 2000. The World Network of Biosphere Reserves now consists of 391 biosphere reserves in 94 countries. The final report of the ICC will be posted on the MABnet shortly.

<http://www.unesco.org/mab/newbr.htm>

AMPHIBIANS!

A tour of Canadian amphibians with virtual habitats, animated development, etc. Part of the Canadian "virtual museum"

<http://collections.ic.gc.ca/amphibians/index.html>

SEAL CONSERVATION SOCIETY

A useful resource for those working to protect pinnipeds (seals, sea lions and walruses) worldwide. This website is part of a project to compile information on the status of pinnipeds, protective legislation and details of pinniped-related organizations in each country where pinnipeds are found. Other pages planned for the future include pinniped-related research and academic organizations, organizations providing pinniped-watching opportu-

nities; and government departments and statutory organizations
www.greenchannel.com/tec/protect.htm

NATURESERVE

NatureServe, a new "online encyclopedia of life" developed by the Association for Biodiversity Information (ABI), is now available to the public on the Internet. This website provides authoritative conservation information in a searchable database for more than 50,000 plants, animals, and ecological communities of the United States and Canada, providing the most comprehensive, in-depth information on rare and endangered species currently available, and includes extensive information on common plants and animals too. This site is a resource, easily accessible to the public for the first time, representing a quarter-century of fieldwork, ecological inventory, and scientific database development by a network of hundreds of botanists, zoologists, ecologists, and data managers.

www.natureserve.org

B.C. PROVINCIAL PARKS OF NORTH BY NORTHWEST

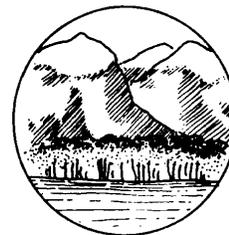
A site from British Columbia Adventure Network, which allows you to explore regions throughout

BC. Maps, pictures, trekking information, along with information about parks and the local flora and fauna. A good site to explore to 'visit' great places across BC.

www.bcadventure.com/adventure/explore/north/parks/index.html

www.bcadventure.com/adventure/wilderness/animals/index.html

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