



Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society

**Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society
Fall 2018 Meeting Report to BC Nature,
submitted by Marg Cuthbert**

Our Friends Volunteers continued their ongoing commitment to stewardship in the Boundary Bay watershed with:

- 9 public events May through June featuring a Native Plant Garden Tour, a Lichen Discovery walk with Naturalist Al Grass, a pop-up World Ocean Day Festival, a Marine Creatures and Eelgrass presentation and beach walk and a World Nature Night presentation of Colombia Birds with Bird Studies Canada David Bradley,
- assisting two Elgin Secondary Science teachers with their native plant garden by providing native plant field guides and information, donating plants and volunteers to assist with planting their site,
- meeting with the Youth Council to invite them to participate on local projects,
- meeting with Semiahmoo Secondary students and Science teacher to finalize the plan then ongoing supervising and facilitating the students painting the Forest Trail Nature Mural project through August,
- 23 classes of students received marine, birds or pond presentations plus field trips May through June,
- a Shorekeepers marine surveys training workshop mid May followed by three marine surveys and data entry,
- participating in the *Spartina anglica* Working Group by placing flags on plant clones and noting their GPS coordinates,
- providing the 14th annual Beach Hero Marine Interpretive Program May 20th to August 13th with 2 student interpreters and volunteer support. 4300 individuals were directly reached through beach walks, school programs and twelve community events. 130 informational brochures were distributed. The Interpreters developed a new Food Web activity, a rack card on plastic debris in the ocean, a brochure on Plainfin Midshipman, the 'Singing fish and a poster to raise awareness. A sign is currently being developed. The BH Interpreters also developed a beach etiquette video,
- 7 habitat enhancement events May to October (planting and invasive plant removals),
- 4 work parties in three native plant demonstration garden projects,
- 3 marine shoreline cleanups,
- 4 city staff and volunteer planning meetings re native garden projects and forest trail,
- 2 meetings with WR staff re native garden followed by tour of forest trail to introduce plant signage we can offer them,
- attending DFO Volunteer Appreciation event in June and Surrey Parks Volunteer Appreciation in September,
- weekly bird surveys at Blackie Spit,
- leading three walks at Blackie Spit in support of City of Surrey's 'Get to Know' Blackie Spit program in parks,
- participated in Bird Studies Canada bus tour of the Fraser delta IBA with delegates and decision makers in August,
- participated in the Stewardship Roundtable, a part of the International Ornithological Congress in Vancouver in August
- participating in the Urban Forestry Conference in Vancouver in early October,
- our AGM and annual Volunteer and Project Partner Appreciation event scheduled for September 30th provides guests with a luncheon and special guests James Casey of Bird Studies Canada speaking on the Fraser delta IBA and Dr. Sarah Joy Bittick and Matt Christensen speaking on current eelgrass monitoring project work.
- 6 stakeholder/ working group meetings,
- subtidal eelgrass mapping data thus far completed was entered to the eelgrass atlas and noting a couple of small gaps, the mapping crew are scheduled to return in September for 3.5 days to complete the baseline mapping of eelgrass in Boundary Bay,
- the distribution of numerous informational brochures through the summer
- coordinating a working group of multiple stakeholders to address the health, conservation and management of Boundary Bay in collaboration with Bird Studies Canada,

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- ongoing collaboration with the LCWS, Semiahmoo Fish & Game Club and A Rocha Canada on concerns of development, water quality and habitat conservation in the Little Campbell Watershed.

The Friends of Semiahmoo Bay conservation and educational accomplishments are due to the commitment, hard work, resources and care of our volunteers and project partners. They are making all the difference!

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