



Newsletter

Summer 2018

Volume 1, Issue 2

We're Back!

*It has been a busy start to the season! Thank you to everyone who attended our AGM in April and the **Get to Know the BLPA** history presentation by Rebeca Salas. There was a lot of interesting information shared and it was wonderful to get to know our guests and members outside of a work party! The BLPA display has been out in the community to the Eagle Creek Salmon Release, Rhododendron Festival, Great Salmon Send Off, Forest Fairy Gathering and Nature House Opening. Now the Weedbusters season is in full swing! As always, we welcome your ideas and feedback. Thank you. - Irene Lau, Chair - BLPA Board of Directors*



Get to Know the BLPA

If you were able to attend our **Get to Know the BLPA** presentation with Rebeca Salas in April, you may recall a very special group of people she mentioned. Known as the **Group of Ten**, these outdoor educators and naturalists, observed “an increasing pressure on the lake and the foreshore” and evolved into a community coalition who wanted to preserve the Lake; they formed the **Burnaby Outdoor Education Association** in January 1972. It has evolved over time, but this original group has left the current BLPA a legacy of stewardship that we are honoured to continue.

Remembering John Thomson

We would like to acknowledge the passing of founding member, John Thomson. Another member, Tony Fabian recalls John was talking about protecting Burnaby Lake for wildlife as early as 1965. Joe Sadowski fondly remembers his friend who was so willing to lend his efforts and equipment to the various projects and devoted many hours in his retirement years to the BLPA. Visit burnabylakepark.ca/about/history to view a short video about the history of the BLPA and you'll see some historical photos of Burnaby Lake that you can compare to what you know if it today. *Thank you, John!*



Stewardship Work Progress

The **Burnaby Lake Weedbusters** program started in 2004—we started invasive species removal before it was “a thing”. What’s even more amazing is that some of these original volunteers are still helping us today! In an expansive park that occupies 3.11 km², sometimes one might look around and wonder if they are making any contribution. However, after tallying the numbers for 2017, you can see the efforts of our hardworking volunteers **do** make a difference - **THANK YOU!**

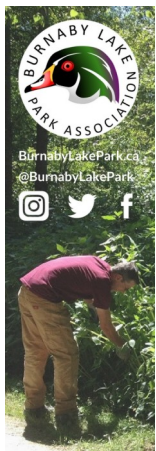


BRAVO BLPA VOLUNTEERS!!

In 2018, we have had two work parties before this edition’s deadline. It is interesting to note that our volunteers have done such a good job over the years that in some locations, it is challenging to find the same type of large area full of invasive species to get the same volumes as the early days. However, it looks like we are well on our way. We will keep this chart updated so you can track our progress. You’ll find it at: burnabylakepark.ca/activities/weedbuster-events/

		STEWARDSHIP PROGRESS 2018			
WORK PARTY DATE	MEETING LOCATION	# OF VOLUNTEERS	VOLUNTEER HOURS	INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVED (KG)	
1 April 22	Glencarin	28	79	425	
2 May 27	Avalon	22	66	840	
		50	145	1265	

Weedbusters 2018



For those of you who like to plan ahead, here are the Summer Weedbuster dates so you can mark your calendars. On our website, you can find directions and detailed information and meeting locations at **Activities & Volunteering** or **Events** tab. If you need more information or would like to bring your community group, **contact Ann by email** at info@burnabylakepark.ca.

**Sundays 1:00 - 4:00 pm /
Tuesdays 6:30 - 8:30 pm**

- **S June 10** - Rowing Pavilion
- **T June 12** - Avalon
- **S July 8** - Glencarin Trail
- **T July 10** - Avalon
- **S July 15** - Avalon
- **T July 17** - Avalon
- **S Sept. 9** - Nature House

EcoBlitz dates in October will be announced in August online and in the next newsletter.



2018 is the Year of the Bird

2018 marks the centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the most powerful and important bird-protection law ever passed. Over the last century, the law has saved millions, if not billions, of birds from depredatory human activities. In honour of this milestone, **National Geographic**, the **National Audubon Society**, **BirdLife International**, and **the Cornell Lab of Ornithology** are joining forces with nature lovers around the world to celebrate the **Year of the Bird** and commit to protecting birds today and for the next hundred years.

Vancouver will celebrate this special year with ornithologists from around the world as the city hosts the **27th International Ornithological Congress (IOCongress2018)** from August 19-26. It is considered the oldest and most prestigious of meetings for bird scientists and occurs every four years since the first one held in Vienna, Austria, in 1884. For more information about the events, some which are open to the public, visit www.iocongress2018.com.



We are certain we will have some visitors to Burnaby Lake Regional Park as it is well known for guaranteed Wood Duck sightings (partly due to our nest box program). So if you meet some keen birders at Piper Spit in August, this could be the reason why.

Speaking of visitors...There has been quite a "celebrity sighting" at Piper Spit. On May 6, the first photo of a wayward Mandarin Duck (*Aix galericulata*) at Burnaby Lake appeared on social media. We did our due diligence to ensure it was not fake news! Since they are not native to this area, we believe it must have escaped from a game farm. He seems to like it here; we have seen a steady stream of photos since then. It is a gorgeous bird and you can see that it is related to our beloved Wood Duck. It is also a perching duck, with claws at the end of its webbed feet as well as a cavity nester (and takes to nest boxes in other parts of the world) with the ducklings heading to water as soon as their feathers are dry.



Photo: Sheila Linn

If you would like to share any bird photos with us, please contact Irene or if you are on social media, use #BurnabyLake and we'll find them. For more bird information, visit our website and click burnabylakepark.ca/resources for our favourite bird reference books and websites, nest box plans and more!

Thank you!

We would like to extend our thanks to all who came to WILD ABOUT BURNABY LAKE. Our gratitude goes to our stewardship and community partners for their wonderful displays, workshops, and sharing their knowledge in a fun and friendly atmosphere.



A special thanks to our co-hosts, **Metro Vancouver Regional Parks** and the Central Area staff and the **City of Burnaby Planning Department**. It is great to work with you and have your support. Shout out to the **Burnaby Firefighters Charitable Society** for manning the BBQ for us and providing lunch to our guests!



Mark Your Calendars!



JUNE

- **10:** 12-4 pm, **Wild About Burnaby Lake**
1-4 pm, Weedbusters
- **12:** 6:30-8:30 pm, Weedbusters
- **20:** 7-9 pm, BLPA Board Meeting

JULY

- **8:** 1-4 pm, Weedbusters
- **10:** 6:30-8:30 pm, Weedbusters
- **15:** 1-4 pm, Weedbusters
- **17:** 6:30-8:30 pm, Weedbusters
- **18:** 7-9 pm, BLPA Board Meeting

The BLPA traditionally takes **August off**, but you might see us at a pop up display! Watch our social media for any notices. We'll next meet on **Sunday, September 9, 1-4 pm for Weedbusters** at the Nature House. Keep an eye on our website or social media, or sign up to be on the list: info@burnabylakepark.ca. Event details, meeting locations as well as other outreach and event listings with our community partners can be found at: burnabylakepark.ca/events



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