



Newsletter

Autumn 2018

Volume 1, Issue 3

Happy Autumn

It was a busy summer! Thank you to everyone who came out to meet us in the community to learn who we are and what we do, and to our volunteers who rolled up their sleeves and helped us remove invasive species from around Burnaby Lake Regional Park. Check out their impressive progress on the next page. We have two EcoBlitz events to look forward to in October as well as Fall ParksFest in November. Speaking of Fall, birds will be making a stop at Burnaby Lake on their way south and the salmon will begin to return around Thanksgiving. To finish off 2018, the Year of the Bird, remember to sign up your budding birder for the Christmas Bird Count for Kids and mark your calendars for our Open House! As always, we welcome your ideas and feedback. See you in the Park! - Irene Lau, Chair - BLPA Board of Directors



Get to Know the BLPA

If you have spoken with any of our long term volunteers about our history, you likely have heard of the **Group of Ten**, who founded what the BLPA is today. Leading the charge was **Bob Gardner** (1927-2002), an educator in the Burnaby School District 41. As he tells it, our history combines the background of science education as well as the ability and luck in successfully receiving grant money to fund activities. Bob was a member of the BC Biology Curriculum Revision Committee and became the chairperson of the Outdoor Education Committee of the BATS – the Burnaby Association of Teachers of Science. In 1971, he learned of a government funded Local Initiative Program (LIP). With a source of funding, Bob gathered interested community members in January 1972, and formed the **Burnaby Outdoor Education Association (BOEA)*** and he became the Project Director. From 1972 to 1996, he secured 6 LIP grants, 8 Job Creation Grants and other funds to plan and build the trail around Burnaby Lake and the original viewing tower as well as convert the house at 4519 Piper Avenue into the Nature House. Bob Gardner has left the community a legacy that we see each time we are in the park. To see a video of our history, visit burnabylakepark.ca/about/history.



*it became the **Burnaby Lake Advisory Association** in 1979 when the GVRD took over management of the park

Weedbusters Progress

From April to July, the BLPA has held 10 Weedbuster work parties at various sites throughout Burnaby Lake Regional Park. Some information of note:

- With 3 work parties left in 2018, we have surpassed the 2017 total weight of invasive species removed: **4215 kg** vs **4319 kg** in 2018 so far

BRAVO BLPA WEEDBUSTERS!!

- Our April Weedbuster happened to fall on **Earth Day**, and we had several people come out specifically because they wanted to do something for the environment on this day, including one person who took time from his holidays from Ontario!

- While the majority of our volunteers are from Burnaby, we welcomed community members from across Metro Vancouver from West Vancouver to the Tri-Cities.

- While we go after the “usual suspects” of invasive species, *English ivy*, *Scotch broom*, *Himalayan blackberry*, *Himalayan balsam*, a few **Black locust** or **False acacia** (*Robinia pseudoacacia*)

trees were discovered on the Glencarin restoration site and were removed by our volunteers. Originally from the US south, this species can grow in dense stands whose shade will suppress seedlings from native trees.

- We hosted **Catching the Spirit Youth Society (CTS)** for two work parties. CTS is a program for youth aged 12- 18 focused on leadership, social responsibility and environmental stewardship. It's led by youth for youth - check them out to learn more.

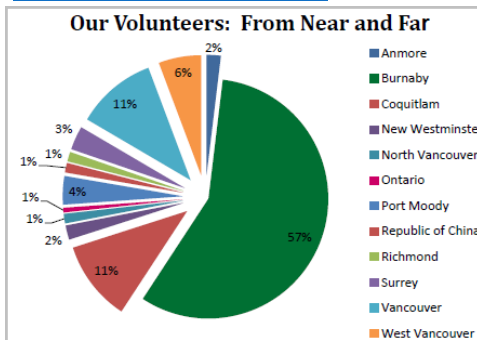
2018 has been a very successful stewardship year so far. **Thanks to our volunteers, Ann for coordinating and Metro Vancouver Regional Parks staff for their support!**

		STEWARDSHIP PROGRESS 2018				
WORK DATE	MEETING/ WORK LOCATION	VOLUNTEER #S*	VOLUNTEER HOURS	INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVED (kg)*		
1 April 22	Glencarin-Freeway	28	79	425		
2 May 27	Avalon	22	66	840		
3 June 10	Pavilion-Glencarin site	17	51	*700		
4 June 12	Avalon	14	28	255		
5 June 30*	Glencarin site	21	76	612		
6 July 8	Glencarin site	20	61	287		
7 July 10	Avalon	28	44	200		
8 July 14*	Glencarin site	16	60	585		
9 July 15	Avalon	15	47	215		
10 July 17	Avalon	13	27	200		
		194	540	*4319		

*CTS – Catching the Spirit youth group * Volunteer Instances * Estimated Weight

We will keep this chart updated so you can track our progress. Find it at:

burnabylakepark.ca/activities/weedbuster-events/



EcoBlitz 2018



METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL PARKS



The first EcoBlitz was held in 2014 and was a one day event across the Metro Vancouver Regional Parks System. It was an opportunity for the community to lend a helping hand to nature and show a little extra love to our Regional Park. In 2014 and 2015, we removed invasive species from an area known as the North Avalon Restoration Site (NARS). In 2016, we received a [George Ross Legacy Grant](#) for \$4000 to purchase new tools and 218 native species to plant in [NARS](#). We also planted native species around Piper Spit that year and went back to plant more in 2017 as well as the area between the Avalon lot and the Lake.

Now in its fifth year, the BLPA is happy to be able to host two EcoBlitz events on **Sunday, October 14** and **Sunday, October 21**, (1:00-4:00 pm). On the 21st, we are working with TD to deliver a **TD Tree Days event**. Registration details will be posted on our social media soon or contact Ann at info@burnabylakepark.ca.



Autumn is a wonderful time at Burnaby Lake! We are on the migration path so we have many birds stopping by on their journey south. Be sure to drop by Piper Spit often! Also, around Thanksgiving weekend, salmon returning to spawn will usually start appearing at Cariboo Dam.

Fall ParksFest

One of the great things about volunteering with the BLPA is the opportunity to meet like-minded members of the Regional Parks community who are interested in nature and stewardship. Each year we have gathered together at Fall ParksFest for a day of learning, inspiration and fun.

This year, the event takes place **November 15-17** and will be open to all interested! Check our website or social media in October for details. If you are already on our volunteer or member email list, you do not need to do anything further.

ParksFest 2017
A TRIBUTE TO NATURE
Mike Peppitt
General Manager
October 4, 2017

12 Regional Parks
21 events
615 participants
2,250 volunteer hours contributed
6,651 plants planted
11,650 kg invasives removed

METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL PARKS
50 YEARS
1967 • 2017

Fall ParksFest
2017
A Tribute to Nature
COLLABORATION BY STATE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Fall ParksFest 2017 held at Simon Fraser University. It was an extra special year celebrating 50 years of the Regional Parks system.

A Holiday Tradition

Save **Sunday, December 2** in your calendar for some fun at the Nature House!

Do you know a budding birder? A great way to end 2018, the [Year of the Bird](#), is to sign them up for the annual [Christmas Bird Count for Kids](#).



TIME: 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM **AGES:** 8-14 years **COST:** Free

A fun activity is a fun way to introduce kids to the wonders of birding. Learn basic birding skills like how to use binoculars and a field guide to identify and report findings during this winter bird count. Enjoy the BLPA Open House afterwards. Presented in conjunction with Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Interpreters. **Space is limited and registration is required.** Two easy ways to register: Online at www.metrovancouveronline.org (use barcode **7477**) or call **604.432.6359**.

TIME: 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM **AGES:** All **COST:** Free



Join the BLPA for our **Annual Open House!** Drop by the **Nature House** to enjoy crafts and complimentary refreshments or join a guided nature walk. A schedule of events will be posted on our website and social media closer to the date. We look forward to seeing you!

Mark Your Calendars!



SEPTEMBER:

- **9:** 1-4 pm, **Weedbusters** (Nature House)
- **19:** 7-9 pm, **BLPA Board Meeting**

OCTOBER:

- **14:** 1-4 pm, **EcoBlitz** (Avalon)
- **17:** 7-9 pm, **BLPA Board Meeting**
- **21:** 1-4 pm, **EcoBlitz** (Avalon)

NOVEMBER:

- **15-17:** **Regional Fall ParksFest** (details available in October)
- **21:** 7-9 pm, **BLPA Board Meeting**

DECEMBER:

- **2:** 9 am-12 pm, **Christmas Bird Count for Kids** (8-14 yrs, registration required)
- **11 am-2 pm, Christmas Open House**

Keep an eye on our website or social media for event updates, or send inquiries to: info@burnabylakepark.ca. Event details and meeting locations as well as other outreach and event listings with our community partners can be found at: burnabylakepark.ca/events. If you are reading this online or on your computer, any text that appears [like this](#) is will link you to another location on the internet for more information.



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