

Friends of the South Slopes

Spring 2011



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FOSS Annual General Meeting

Forty-three FOSS members and guests attended the January 13, 2011 AGM. Once again the Luxmoore Road ladies and Sharon Adams provided the refreshments—thanks, ladies! Door prizes were donated by FortisBC, Terasen Gas, Capri Insurance, Anna Yarosky, Pete Spencer and Penny Gubbels. Thanks for the support!

Blake Dixon and Trevor Lind from BC Parks and Barb Davidson from the City of Kelowna Parks' Department attended, representing the South Slopes' land managers.

Our guest speaker was Jessica Hobden from the South Okanagan-Similkameen Invasive Plant Society. She gave a very interesting and informative presentation —“ Stop the Spread - Managing Invasive Plants.” Jessica also had lots of free give-aways.

*Lost Lake Trail, Dec. 2010
Photo Credit: Teresa Brinton*

We are delighted that Jessica let her name stand as a 2011 board member. Her youth and enthusiasm will be much appreciated! The board also welcomes Vivien Blair as a new director. Al Bischoff, Teresa Brinton, Janice Casling, Penny Gubbels, Isabel Pritchard, Pete Spencer, Marty Stephan, Marilyn Westlake, Brad Wright and Moshe Yarosky return to the board for 2011.

We are sorry to see Herb Blamire leave the board as he has been such a hard-working director and president. However, he has promised us that he will continue to work with FOSS on some of our projects.

At the March 10, 2011 meeting of the Board of Directors, the following positions were filled:

President	Al Bischoff
Vice-President	Isabel Pritchard
Treasurer	Pete Spencer
Secretary	Penny Gubbels



April is Community Clean Up Month

The following information was sent to FOSS by the Regional Waste Reduction Office which is a program of the City of Kelowna, the Regional District of Central Okanagan and the Districts of West Kelowna, Lake Country and Peachland.

The Regional District is asking the community to participate in the fun and interactive environmental programs scheduled for April.

Community 20 Minute Make-Over.

Date: April 1st, 2011

Time: 10:00 a.m.—10:20 a.m.

Location: Anywhere, just step outside your doorway

Imagine the difference we can make if everybody takes twenty minutes to do a little spring cleaning in our neighbourhood. Please join the Waste Reduction Office, and thousands of students, business people and community groups to pick up litter, sweep the sidewalk, or paint over graffiti in our communities on Friday, April 1st. Simply organize your group, decide what you want to do and help clean our communities that morning.

Register with the Regional Waste Reduction Office by March 30th, and they will provide free garbage bags and pick up the collected litter afterwards. Just call 250-469-6250 or email: recycle@cord.bc.ca
(Note, if you can't do it on April 1st you can still participate in the Community Clean-up program any time this spring. Call the Regional Waste Reduction Office for details)

Community Clean Up Month – All of April

Be a part of improving your community during the month of April by volunteering to help clean up the litter in your area. To register your group or family, call the Waste Reduction office at 250-469-6250 or email us at recycle@cord.bc.ca
We supply the bags and collect them when you are done.

Illegal Dumpsite Report Program

We need your help! With large tracts of recreational land in the Central Okanagan, it can be difficult to monitor and protect our natural areas. The Okanagan is a beautiful place to live and play. Let's work together to make illegal dumping a thing of the past. Start by reporting illegal dumpsites to the Regional Waste Reduction Office. Together we can track, monitor and clean up our communities natural areas. It's easy—go to www.regionaldistrict.com/recycle to use our online report form or call us at 250-469-6250.

RDCO Upcoming Open House—South Slopes Official Community Plan

Just a reminder that there is an open house scheduled for Tuesday April 5th at the RDCO office, 1450 KLO Road from 4:00-7:30 pm.

This is the first South Slopes OCP. It's being developed for the lands within the Regional District boundaries along the south slopes of the Okanagan East Electoral Area including June Springs Estates, south Lakeshore Road and portions of Myra-Bellevue and Okanagan Mountain Provincial Parks.

Please renew your FOSS membership for 2011!!

.....if you haven't renewed your membership for 2011, please do so ASAP!

Membership forms can be downloaded from the FOSS website:

www.foss-kelowna.org

SUNFLOWER FESTIVAL - A DAY WITH NATURALISTS

The Central Okanagan Naturalists' Club is hosting its first Sunflower Festival in celebration of its 50th anniversary since incorporation by honoring the flowering of the Arrow-leaved Balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza sagittata*) commonly called the Okanagan Sunflower.

The Okanagan Sunflower Festival will take place on **Saturday, April 30, 2011 from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.** The one day event features an **official opening ceremony by Mayor Sharon Shepherd at 8:00 a.m. and a pancake breakfast 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.** located at Mission Creek Regional Park gazebo. The aim of the springtime celebration of the Okanagan Sunflower is to promote the best family festival in our valley both for our communities and for visitors alike.

Registration and the purchase of tickets to most of the following events are required.

- **Early morning birding with Dick Cannings** and Central Okanagan Naturalists birders meet at the EECO Centre at 6:00 a.m. and carpool to designated local birding locations.
- **Art Show – artist, Linley McKenna** and friends will display original paintings and photographs in the EECO Centre 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- **Scenic Canyon hike** showcasing the geology of Layer Cake Mountain with **geologist Dr. Robert Young and botanist, Dr. George Scotter** as they walk through fields of flowering Arrow-leaved Balsam root and other wildflowers, 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- **Knox Mountain geology walk** with Dr Murray Roed and CONC botanists leading a slower nature walk 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.
- **Kalamo Park fun filled walks with Naturalist, Scott Alexander**, hiking through the profusion of Arrow-leaved Balsamroot. Two hikes - 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 12:00 to 3:30 p.m.
- **Geocaching for Children** - a GPS based treasure hunt led by **Chris Byrd, teacher** at the EECO Centre 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.
- **Children's Nature Games** for children ages 5 to 10 joining CONC Young Naturalists in interpreting nature through games. 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
- **First Nations cuisine and Native Plants presentation, Leonard Raphael** of the Merritt First Nation describes the traditional use of native plants for food and medicine as **Kekuli Restaurant, West Kelowna** serves an array of traditional foods. 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.
- **Bats of Peachland, biologist and bat expert, Tanya Luszcz** explains the behavior and identity of the bats that live in Peachland including a view of the largest bat colony in British Columbia in the Old Peachland Primary School. Meet at Peachland Little Schoolhouse 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

The cost varies for each event. Tickets are limited and are on sale in March through the website. For information and to purchase tickets now contact the Central Okanagan Naturalists Club at okanagannature.org or pick up an event brochure in locations in the community.

Purchase your tickets at the following locations in April:

Kelowna Farmers Market – Dilworth and Springfield Road - April 16th 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Bylands Nursery, West Kelowna; and Art Knapp's Plantland, Springfield Drive April 17th and April 23rd, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

*Spring Is
Here!*



The Back Page....

Where's Waldo?? Dan Hobson took this photo at Myra Canyon Trestle #18 on Christmas day. Can you spot the Mountain Goat? Wouldn't this make an amazing jigsaw puzzle?



Cycling Race Classic
Photo Credit: Graeme Dimmick



Coyote at Slick Rock
Photo Credit: Marilyn Westlake