



Conserving Canada's Desert Country is Good for Nature, People, and Business

South Okanagan-Similkameen Conservation Program

Newsletter

April 2010

SOSCP is getting younger - Happy 50th to us!

Congratulations and welcome to our **50th partner** and **first youth** group to sign on to the SOSCP. The Green Earth Movement (or GEM as they like to be known as) is an environmental club from Penticton High School with a penchant for raising awareness and making green things happen on – and soon, off campus. GEM didn't wait to be asked what they might bring to the table in partnership – they immediately got to work and created a Facebook presence for SOSCP. Currently, they are discussing what a youth summit for environment might look like in the Okanagan.



GEM students and SOSCP partners are looking forward to meeting the partners at the partnership signing celebration on Earth Day (April 22nd) in a ceremony at Penticton High School at 3:15 p.m., followed by the planting of a xeriscape/native plant garden right on the campus. Join us to celebrate this milestone and welcome this fantastic group of young people to the partnership!

Bryn White
SOSCP Program Manager

Earth Day is April 22nd, what are you doing?

Earth Day Canada. Check this resource out for ideas on how to celebrate or how you can be involved in Earth Day: <http://www.earthday.ca/pub/> If you have activities that celebrate Earth Day/Week/Month please send them to soscp2@gov.bc.ca so we can post them on the SOSCP website.

Earth Day In and Around the South Okanagan Similkameen:

Green Earth Movement (GEM) Signs on as 50th Partner on April 22, 2010. An Environmental Club from the Penticton High School will be signing on as the 50th partner on Earth day. Events will take place at Penticton High School courtyard, with a signing at 3:15 pm. Please come out and join us! For more information on how to get involved contact Justyne Sawicz at jsawicz17@gmail.com.

Summerland residents are encouraged to take part in a local Earth Day Event. On Sunday April 26 from 10 am to 1 pm, the Summerland Parks and Recreation Department, Summerland Asset Development Initiative and the Summerland Environmental Science Group are targeting the Dale Meadows Sports Complex for Summerland's third annual Earth Day Event. These groups are working cooperatively to enhance a section of Prairie Creek which flows parallel to Dale Meadows Road with a clean-up, removal of invasive plants, and planting of native plants. This is a family event! Volunteers are asked to bring their own shovels and dress appropriately. Free gardening gloves will be provided to the first 30 volunteers. For further information about this event, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 494-0447.

What are Green Drinks? **Green Drinks** are lively networking events for sustainability minded individuals, businesses and organizations. Green Drinks takes place in over 633 cities worldwide and is continuing to build on a monthly basis. Currently, Green Drinks occurs here in Summerland and Penticton (but you can start one in your own community by checking out <http://www.greendrinks.org/>).

Summerland Green Drinks 7 pm, Tuesday, April 6 at Summerland's Zias Stonehouse Restaurant, 14015 Rosedale Avenue. Special guest, Dale Bonke, the coordinator of Penticton Green Drinks, will speak about the Penticton Earth Day events, Penticton Green Drinks and about green business certification. Skip from Earth Matters will talk about his green construction company. For more information: <http://www.greendrinks.org/BC/Summerland> or call Barbara at 250-276-4314.

Penticton Green Drinks This event is on April 13, 2010 from 5pm to 7pm at Wholefoods, Wheatgrass Cafe at 1770 Main Street. **Penticton Green Drinks** is a simple and unstructured event where everyone has the chance to meet new friends, develop and share ideas, and help spread the 'green' around Penticton and the Okanagan. The wide range of attendees includes non-profit organizations, academia, government, small business, big business, self-employed, volunteers, students, event organizers, green builders, health care workers, concerned citizens...and everything in between. This event is non-partisan, not affiliated with any political party, and takes place on the second Tuesday of each month at Wholefoods 1710 Main Street from 5pm to 7pm. <http://www.pentictonwholefoods.com/Events.html>

Penticton Earth Day at Cherry Lane Shopping Centre. Speakers, displays, resources and educational information will help you learn what you can do to support Earth Day every day! For more information contact Deb Thorneycroft at debthorneycroft@gmail.com or at (250) 497-8617. The event takes place from 10 am until 5 pm from April 19th to 24th.

Keremeos businesses are making plans to celebrate Earth Day's 40th anniversary on April 22 with a community wide clean up. More details to follow.

http://www.bclocalnews.com/okanagan_similkameen/keremeosreview/community/89549787.html

Environmental Mind Grind - Call for Judges: The Environmental Mind Grind pits the environmental wits of school teams from around the Okanagan-Similkameen in a fun, interactive, quiz show-style contest. Teams range from Grade 4 to 12 with the contest split into Elementary (Grades 4-6), Middle (Grades 7-9) and High (Grades 10-12) categories. The annual Okanagan-Similkameen event is held in honour of Earth Day in April, and winning teams will represent the Regional District at the BC Finals held in Kelowna in May. Teams from all over Southern BC compete for \$1,000 for their school and a host of other great prizes. This year, the RDOS is hosting the event at Cherry Lane Mall on Friday April 23rd 1-5 pm. Mind Grind categories include: Waste, Water, Transportation and Air Quality, Forests, Species at risk, Habitat at risk, Climate Change and Energy. If you are interested in being a judge please contact Cameron Baughen for this volunteer opportunity at 250-490-4203. <http://www.rdos.bc.ca/index.php?id=69#1048>

Funding Information

Public Conservation Assistance Fund. Application deadline is May 15, 2010 for second call. Each year since 1974, the Province of British Columbia and Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (formerly Habitat Conservation Fund) have made grants available to organizations and individuals who wanted to carry out a conservation project but needed some financial help to get going. To assist as many groups as possible throughout the province each year, grants are modest, averaging about \$2,500 each and not exceeding \$10,000. More than 300 such projects have been carried out under the program so far. <http://www.hctf.ca/PCAF/PCAF.html>

Vancouver Foundation - Grants and Community Initiatives Program: Environment. Application deadline for Letter of Intent is July 23, 2010; Grant application deadline is September 15, 2010. The purpose of the Environment Advisory Committee is to encourage and assist in the resolution of broad environmental issues arising in British Columbia. For the goals and more information: <http://www.vancouverfoundation.bc.ca/grants/environment.htm>

MEC Community Contributions. Application deadline is September 10, 2010 for applications for Land Acquisition, Capacity Building, Research, Advocacy and Education, and Access. Urban Sustainability and Grassroots Product Donations applications are accepted anytime. Please see their website for more information: http://www.mec.ca/Main/content_text.jsp?FOLDER%3C%3Efolder_id=1408474396038943&FOLDER%3C%3EbrowsePath=1408474396038943&bmUID=1203699307979

Stewardship Canada Funding Directory. Stewardship Canada (with input from Funding organizations) has compiled this searchable list of organizations that provides funding to stewardship organizations: <http://www.stewardshipcanada.ca/funders/index.asp?type=static&page=funderhome.asp>

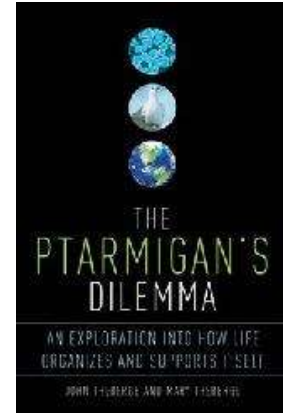
News

The Ptarmigan's Dilemma. In their new book, *The Ptarmigan's Dilemma*, renowned Canadian wildlife biologists John and Mary Theberge document their search for the secrets of that operating manual. How does life manage to keep going, constantly adapting and taking new forms?

The authors combine their own extensive experiences in the field and in the lab with the latest research to show how the interaction of species drives evolution onwards. They describe how distinct species arise and sometimes disappear, the principles that rule all populations and how vulnerable the delicate, complex and seemingly unstoppable process of evolution is to the effects of just one species among the untold millions on the planet: us. The book is an exploration of the dynamics of ecology and evolution for the non-scientist. If you've ever wondered how the male Wood Duck got its magnificently coloured plumage or why butterflies would risk extinction by overwintering en masse, the book offers answers, taking the reader on a journey of discovery into the way life adapts, persists and organizes itself from single genes to whole ecosystems.

But this is a book that will help the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) as well. The Theberges have generously donated a portion of their royalty earnings from *The Ptarmigan's Dilemma* to NCC. *The Ptarmigan's Dilemma* is published by McClelland & Stewart, and will be available on bookstands March 20.

http://www.natureconservancy.ca/site/News2?news_iv_ctrl=1&page=NewsArticle&id=13138



Flights of Imagination. Richard (Dick) Cannings launched his new book "Flights of Imagination" at Hooked on Books, 225 Main St., Penticton, on Wednesday March 24. The book is an anthology of writing about birds, with works from Bernd Heinrich, Kenn Kaufman, Barbara Kingsolver and others.

It's not just the birds that Twitter - Dick Cannings has also just launched a new website/blog. To follow his blog, or see a list of his books or birds in his backyard: <http://dickcannings.shawwebspaces.ca/>.

You can also follow him on Twitter @dickcannings. Seriously, if anyone should be tweeting it is Dick Cannings – check it out.

It's not easy being green! A recent article in British Columbia Magazine highlighted the decline in frogs and other amphibians worldwide. The article mentions the work done by Sara Ashpole in the Okanagan to alleviate this issue. Our local amphibian populations face many threats including increasing urban and agricultural development and Sara Ashpole is one of the dedicated British Columbia scientists working to keep frogs and other amphibian species from disappearing from the province. Backed by Environment Canada and the World Wildlife Fund, Ashpole and her crew have

engineered 14 ponds in the past few years as part of the South Okanagan Puddle Project, a program to restore habitat for the area's beleaguered amphibians.
<http://www.britishcolumbiamagazine.net/issue/article/?id=2975>

The Land Trust Alliance of BC held a very successful workshop, titled *Building a Culture That Sustains Land*, in Naramata, BC on March 18 - 20, 2010. Wayne Stetski from EKCP (ekcp@cyberlink.bc.ca), and Jeff Ward from CRD (jward@crd.bc.ca) participated in a panel to highlight their local successes with Conservation Funds and Kathy Dunster (unfoldinglandscapes@gmail.com) spoke on her project to develop a handbook to help community groups and local governments create their own conservation funds. The session was well attended and included local elected officials from Summerland and Princeton.

Give Green Canada (www.GiveGreenCanada.ca) was initiated in BC in 2000 as the Green Legacies Project and is now a national project that promotes gift planning as a key solution to long term funding of Canada's conservation organizations. They are offering a new free long distance learning course called Jump Start Your Gift Planning. For more information contact Natasha van Bentum at vanbentum@gmail.com or via phone at 250 477-3474.

Summerland Hosts Open House for OCP Amendments. On March 25, Summerland hosted its first Open House as a primer for the upcoming proposed OCP amendments to include an Environmentally Sensitive Development Permit Area. Hosted by the District of Summerland, the open house provided information to the public about Summerland's natural areas, and also to introduce the concept and process of an Environmentally Sensitive Development Permit Area. District of Summerland's Environmental Planner, Anna Milner and Lisa Scott (local Summerland biologist) were on hand to share her experiences working with developers and landowners, conducting Environmental Assessments. Overall, the evening was a success with about 40 people attending throughout the evening and lots of positive feedback about this proposed OCP policy. Planning has now commenced for the next Open House, likely in May, which will propose the details of the Environmentally Sensitive Development Permit Area to the public of Summerland.

Osoyoos Desert Centre Restoration Work Parties held from 10 am until noon, on April 10th, May 4th, May 18th, June 1st, June 15th, and June 29th. Come and help restore the desert! Time will be spent on removing invasive weeds and replanting native grasses, flowers, and shrubs in some damaged areas at the Desert Centre. Please bring work gloves and shovels, if you have them.

Osoyoos Desert Centre Spring Garden Party held from 2 pm until 4 pm on May 16th. The Osoyoos Desert Society would like to invite you to a Spring Garden Party, to celebrate the opening of their brand new native plant demonstration garden. It will be an afternoon filled with tea and scones, ribbon cutting, plant tours, and a silly hat contest.

Please come dressed in your 'Sunday best'. Tickets are \$5 pre-registered, or \$6 at the door. Register by calling 250 495-2470.

World Water Day – March 22, 2010. Distinguished Speaker, Robert Sandford, spoke to the water scarcity issues in the world and locally. He is the Canadian Chair of the United Nations International Decade *Water for Life*, a partnership to advance long-term water quality and availability in response to climate change in Canada and abroad.
<http://web.ubc.ca/okanagan/publicaffairs/speakers/robert-sandford.html>

Kettle River and “sacred headwaters” jointly top BC’s Most Endangered Rivers List for 2010 - Need for water policy reform and protection of northern rivers highlighted. The Kettle River runs through BC’s southern interior near the towns of Midway, Rock Creek and Grand Forks. This river suffers from seasonal low flows and high water temperatures. To see the whole Endangered Rivers List and Report:
http://www.orcbc.ca/pro_endangered.htm.

Partner Profile



City of Penticton

Located in the Okanagan Valley in the interior of British Columbia, Penticton offers the amenities of a larger urban centre yet maintains all the benefits of an uncongested, serene location. The City of Penticton signed on as an SOSCP partner in October 2009.

Calendar of Events and Workshops

April 6

Green Drinks, Summerland BC

The event starts at 7 pm, Tuesday, April 6 at Summerland's Zias Stonehouse Restaurant, 14015 Rosedale Avenue.

Speakers are lined up to talk about the upcoming Summerland Earth Week celebrations and events. For more information: <http://www.greendrinks.org/BC/Summerland> or call Barbara at 250-276-4314.

April 10

Osoyoos Desert Centre Restoration Work Parties, Osoyoos BC

Held from 10 am until noon. Time will be spent on removing invasive weeds and replanting native grasses, flowers, and shrubs in some damaged areas at the Desert Centre. Please bring work gloves and shovels, if you have them.

April 13

Green Drinks, Penticton BC

Takes place on the second Tuesday of each month at Wholefoods 1710 Main Street from 5pm to 7pm. <http://www.pentictonwholefoods.com/Events.html>

April 19 - 24

Penticton Earth Day, Penticton BC

Visit Cherry Lane Shopping Centre (2111 Main Street) for Earth Day events. Speakers, displays, resources and educational information will help you learn what you can do to support Earth Day every day! For more information contact Deb Thorneycroft at debthorneycroft@gmail.com or at (250) 497-8617. The event takes place from 10 am until 5 pm.

http://www.earthday.ca/pub/events/search/shell_event_public.php?event_id=3667&accessibility=public&next_list=3662%2C3663%2C3641%2C3601%2C3653%2C3616%2C3595%2C3649%2C3667%2C3625%2C3658%2C3659%2C3600%2C3640%2C3611%2C3629%2C3654

April 20-21

Aboriginal Cultural Awareness for Natural Resource Managers, Revelstoke BC

This two day interactive workshop will provide participants with the practical tools for engaging Aboriginal peoples, communities, organizations, and institutions in resource management discussions and decisions. The nature of culture and the role that cultural differences can play in interpersonal interactions are examined. Our instructors are Bob and Anne Moody of Global Indigenous Services. Details and registration are at: <http://www.cmiae.org>.

April 22

Green Earth Movement (GEM) – 50th Partner Signing to SOSCP, Penticton BC

Join the Penticton High School Environmental Club as they sign on as the 50th partner! Signing ceremonies to commence at 3:15 pm in the Penticton High School court yard. Activities throughout the day include cupcake sale, compost information and planting a xeroscape garden. Come out and join us.

April 22

Earth Day Clean up, Keremeos BC

Stay tuned for more information.

April 28-29

Public Participation Skills for Natural Resource Managers, Revelstoke BC

Although participation is widely recognized as a critical aspect of natural resource management, and is a regulatory requirement for a variety of environmental and natural resource management processes, few resource managers have had formal training or professional development opportunities in this field. This course will introduce the basic concepts and skills for planning and implementing a public participation process. This is a FORREX course hosted by the Columbia Mountains Institute. Details and registration at: <http://www.cmiae.org>.

May 4

Osoyoos Desert Centre Restoration Work Parties, Osoyoos BC

Held from 10 am until noon. Time will be spent on removing invasive weeds and replanting native grasses, flowers, and shrubs in some damaged areas at the Desert Centre. Please bring work gloves and shovels, if you have them.

May 13

Online GIS for Citizen Science and Stewardship Workshop, Castlegar, BC

The Columbia Mountains Institute is partnering with Selkirk College to host this one day workshop. Topics to be covered include an overview of the power of maps in society; the use of GIS in participatory decision making; a guided tour and demonstrations of Kootenay web-based mapping resources; and how to generate maps using several readily available tools such as iMAP BC (a portal to environmental and natural resources information in BC), Columbia Basin Biodiversity Atlas and the Columbia Basin Watershed Interactive Map. By the end of the day, participants will have learned how to use online GIS mapping resources to learn about an area of interest, and how to make their own customized maps. For more information:

<http://www.cmiae.org/Events/#OnlineGIS>

May 18

Osoyoos Desert Centre Restoration Work Parties, Osoyoos BC

Held from 10 am until noon. Time will be spent on removing invasive weeds and replanting native grasses, flowers, and shrubs in some damaged areas at the Desert Centre. Please bring work gloves and shovels, if you have them.

May 20 - 24

13th Annual Meadowlark Festival, Okanagan BC

Organized by the Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Alliance, the Festival offers over 80 environmental tours and events held under the open sky, which will take people from Canada's unique desert to the alpine meadows high above the Okanagan Lake.

Indigenous cultural tours, canoe trips, guided walks, bird watching tours, geology and history tours, art exhibits, hands-on presentations on astronomy, nature photography, green buildings and more, are all designed to be fun and informative for people of all ages and abilities. For more information: <http://www.meadowlarkfestival.bc.ca/>

May 29

Earth Wind Fire 2010, Kelowna, BC

A food and wine event benefiting The Nature Trust of BC and its land conservation work in the Okanagan. For more information please contact Robin Rivers 1-866-288-7878 or 604-924-9771 ext 226 or rivers@naturetrust.bc.ca for more information. For event website: <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e2ryjxsbf83d6f9>.

May 31 - June 6

2010 Wetlands Institute, Kamloops BC

Presented by the BC Wildlife Federation, the 2010 Wetlands Institute is now open to participants who are passionate about conserving and restoring wetlands. Download the agenda at

<http://www.bwfb.bc.ca/programs/wetlands/documents/Agenda%202010%20WI.pdf>.

June 1, 15, 29

Osoyoos Desert Centre Restoration Work Parties, Osoyoos BC

Held from 10 am until noon. Time will be spent on removing invasive weeds and replanting native grasses, flowers, and shrubs in some damaged areas at the Desert Centre. Please bring work gloves and shovels, if you have them.

Public Opportunities

Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen Calendar

<http://www.rdos.bc.ca/index.php?id=415>

Village of Keremeos Council Meeting Schedule

<http://www.keremeos.ca/Village/municipalcouncil.html>

Town of Oliver Council Meeting Schedule

<http://www.oliver.ca/siteengine/ActivePage.asp?PageID=25>

Town of Osoyoos Council Meeting Schedule

<http://www.osoyoos.ca/siteengine/activepage.asp?NewsID=19>

City of Penticton Council Meeting Schedule

<http://www.penticton.ca/city/council/meetings/default.asp>

District of Summerland Council Meeting Schedule

<http://www.summerland.ca/municipalhall/calendar.aspx>

Your Contribution

If you would like to have your conservation project listed, to submit a news item for the SOSCP Newsletter, or would like to provide feedback on this issue, we'd love to hear from you!

SOSCP Newsletter

South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program

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This e-mail has been sent as you have requested to be kept abreast of news through the South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program website. — If for any reason you wish to be removed from this mailing list please send an email to: soscp2@gov.bc.ca and your email address will be removed promptly from our mailing list. To update your email address please send your request to: soscp2@gov.bc.ca.

Donation Information

If you, or your organization, would like to support the coordinating function of the SOSCP, please contact one of the following



Environmental Legacy Fund

P.O. Box 24081
Penticton, BC, V2A 8L9

Tel: (250) 493-9311
Email: info@cfso.net

Website: www.cfso.net



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