



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

South Okanagan-Similkameen Conservation Program

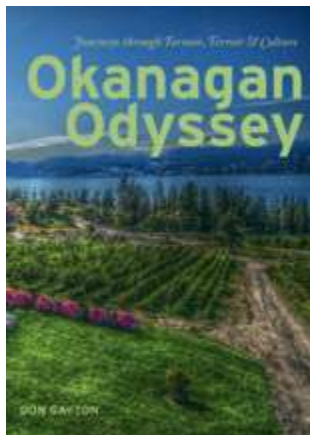
Newsletter

June 2010

We are very happy to be unveiling our new SOSCP website very soon! We'll let you know when we get the green light from our tech folks and GO LIVE. We hope you will take a moment to check out our new look, and stay in tune with us as we reveal sections on Sustainable Agriculture, Land Use Planning and the Regional Biodiversity Conservation Strategy – *Keeping Nature in Our Future*.

Bryn White
SOSCP Program Manager

News



A new book by Don Gayton

Okanagan Odyssey: Journeys Through Terrain, Terroir and Culture. Rocky Mountain Books, Calgary.

"*Okanagan Odyssey* is a quirky and lyrical examination of BC's Okanagan Valley. Sticking to the backroads and byways, Gayton gently pokes and prods local ecosystems, histories, vineyards and people. The author revels in the biological and social diversity while sampling local wines and fruit along the way. In his unique version of wine pairing, Gayton matches up local books and landscapes with local vintages, giving terroir a whole new meaning. Gayton deftly negotiates the tension between the Okanagan that is home to many endangered species and ecosystems, and the Okanagan that is a mecca for developers and urban refugees. *Okanagan Odyssey* is not a travel guide, but represents travel writing at its idiosyncratic best." Available through local bookstores or directly from the publisher [at this link](#)

Public opinion survey shows South Okanagan Similkameen residents in favour of establishing a National Park

Gwen Barlee of *The Wilderness Committee* (formerly Western Canada Wilderness Committee), was in Penticton June 3 coordinating a tour, for local and provincial media, of the proposed South Okanagan - Lower Similkameen National Park. WC announced the results of a telephone poll of 405 residents in the South Okanagan and Similkameen on establishing a national park. 63

% of those polled were in favour of the park while 26 % were opposed. A further breakdown indicated 7 % of those polled were very opposed, while 42 % were very in favour of the park. Watch for further media coverage of the poll results and media tour.

Annual Applied Biology Conference a Success – Kelowna, 2010.

The Association of Professional Biologists of BC just concluded their annual biology conference in Kelowna this past month with one of the biggest gatherings of professional technologists and biologists ever. The Chair of the conference organizing committee, R.P. Bio Alan Peatt said the conference focused on the theme of “Wind, Water and Wildlife” with twenty-three speakers covering a wide range of topics from the challenges and successes of independent power projects, environmental assessments and a strong focus on local work including sockeye salmon reintroduction and Okanagan River restoration efforts. Other highlights included honoring R.P. Bio Fred Bunnell with the Ian McTaggart-Cowan Award of Excellence in Biology, and local R.P. Bio Doug Wahl with a Meritorious Service Award for outstanding contributions to biology and the Association. “These awards are not handed out every year” said Peatt, “they are a special recognition to those who are outstanding and deserving”. Conference participants joined Dick Cannings for a day long natural history tour through the Okanagan and were able to improve their biology skills and professional development points. The next conference will be held in May 2011, Nanaimo with the theme: “Coastal Zone Management”.

Both newspaper and radio coverage was given to several environmental issues brought up during the RP Bio Annual Conference in Kelowna, May 7th:

“Environmental Scrutiny lacking on BC Independent Hydro and Wind Projects”.

[Link to Vancouver Sun article](#)

“Okanagan Valley amphibians suffer toxic effects of pesticides at levels considered safe by federal standards”. [Read more](#)

SORCO loses gaming funding

The South Okanagan Rehabilitation Centre for Owls announced that it has lost significant annual funding provided by BC Gaming revenue. Please support SORC by becoming a SORCO member or making a donation. Canadian Tire money is also welcome for purchasing supplies.

More details at www.sorco.org

Learn to Identify Birds and Bird Song with Dendroica

Hosted by Environment Canada, this interactive website is for all skill levels to help people improve their birding song identification skills so that they can participate in surveys and monitoring programs. Register for a free account [at this link](#) .

Calendar of Events and Workshops

June 5th

Celebrate Okanagan River Restoration, Saturday, 11 – noon.

The Ministry of Environment, Okanagan Nation Alliance and Okanagan River Restoration team invites you to join us in celebrating the completion of Phase I of their project located north of

Oliver. Meet at Oliver Visitors Centre (old CPR Station, 36205 93rd St.) at 10:30 a.m. for instructions on access to the site.

June 5

Join the JCI Discover Challenge

Saturday's Penticton "urban adventure race" will benefit the Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Alliance (OSCA) Ecostudies program. Teams of two complete challenges based on skills, knowledge, logic, and endurance at checkpoints throughout the city. Travel must be on foot or public transit. [More details](#)

June 8

"Xeriscape Landscaping and Gardening", A Penticton Green Drink Event

Presentation by landscape designer Eva Durance at Wholefoods Market, 1770 Main Street Penticton, from 5 – 7 p.m. Eva will discuss the importance of native plants and the benefits of incorporating them in our gardens with particular reference to xeriscape landscaping and gardening. Her Power Point presentation will detail the most common and readily grown native plants. Her book, *Cultivating the Wild: gardening with native plants of BC's Southern Interior and Eastern Washington* will also be available.

June 12

Festival in the Grass in Kamloops, The Grasslands Conservation Council of BC Celebrates 10 years with a full day of fun, field trips and great food. Come together to celebrate the beautiful and rare grasslands we all work and care for! Guest speaker for the barbecue is Trevor Herriot, writer, naturalist and broadcaster. [Events & registration](#)

June 15 & 29

Osoyoos Desert centre Restoration Work Parties will be held from 10 a.m. until noon. Come and help remove weeds and restore the desert in some damaged areas at the Desert Centre. Please bring work gloves and shovels.

June 17

"The Garbage Warrior" at Cawston Movie Night, 7 p.m. Cawston Hall, Bring your own chair, a \$3 donation and enjoy the movie and great snacks.

Upcoming Funding deadlines

Vancouver Foundation

Grants and Community Initiatives Program: Environment supports a broad range of environmental projects. **Letters of intent are due by July 23**, and if letter is accepted, grant applications are due September 15, 2010. For the goals and more information [go here](#).

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](#).

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
102 Industrial Place
Penticton, British Columbia
V2A 7C8

soscp2@gov.bc.ca

www.soscp.org

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



Bryn White *SOSCP Program Coordinator*

Penticton BC
Tel: (250) 490-8225
Email: bryn.white@gov.bc.ca
Website: www.soscp.org