



SWAMP's Wetland Field Day

North Slocan Valley 2015

Prepared by Marcy Mahr
SWAMP Field Technician & Educator

Wetland Field Days are hands-on environmental education days that aim to inspire and inform residents and visitors of local communities about wetlands in the Slocan Valley watershed. The north Slocan Valley event took place on August 12, 2015, to showcase what SWAMP field ecologists are learning about wetlands in this part of the valley, specifically around Summit Lake. The event was co-sponsored by the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society (SLSS), and as one of SLSS's highly promoted *WILD DAYS*, this Wetland Field Day benefited from the added attention of their educational series. The event was scheduled from 12:00 to 3:30pm to piggyback our field trip to Summit Lake wetlands with Toadfest in order to encourage the public to attend the SWAMP / SLSS event and then 'hop' over to Toadfest (also held at Summit Lake). These synergies likely contributed to the Wetland Field Day being very well attended by 37 people – of all ages from toddlers to seniors, and hailing from Silverton to Fauquier and as far away as Istanbul, Turkey!

The event began with the public convening at the Hills Community Fire Hall. After an introduction to SWAMP and the itinerary, the younger participants were taken outside by a SWAMP biologist to explore wetland topics using a large hands-on diorama of wetlands in watersheds. Older participants remained inside with SWAMP's senior ecologist to learn about different types and classifications of wetlands; their important ecological function in our watershed; and SWAMP's ongoing field research.



WETLAND Field Days

FREE EVENTS!



Come and get hands-on learning about wetlands in the Slocan Watershed.

- Experience what makes wetlands biologically rich and unique.
- Practice identifying plants and different types of wetlands.
- Discover what wildlife and other organisms live in wetlands.

AUG 8, 2015
SOUTH VALLEY – Time: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. Meet in Winlaw at Fom's Bakery north of Winlaw. Come learn about wetlands along the Rail Trail. For further details, contact Rhia Mackenzie at: zzoi11@gmail.com or 250-226-7544.

AUG 12, 2015
NORTH VALLEY – Time: 12:00 – 3:30 pm. Meet in Hills at the Hills Fire & Community Hall #4480 on Highway 6. Learn about wetlands before attending Toadfest at Summit Lake Provincial Park. This event is co-sponsored by Slocan Lake Stewardship Society. For further details, contact Nancy Mahr at marcy@wetidea.com or 250-358-2669.

What to bring:

Shoes for walking that can get wet, appropriate clothing, notebook & pencil, water and snacks. Bring a lunch if you are attending the north valley program in Hills.

Pre-registration for either of these programs is recommended but not required.

The Slocan Lake Stewardship Society presents

WILD DAYS!

Fun and FREE nature walks for everyone



AUG 1	AUG 12	AUG 15	AUG 29
Lakeshore walk	Wetlands tour	Creekside walk	Creekside walk
Meet at the bottom of Main Street in New Denver at the sculpture.	Meet at the Hills Fire Hall 18km north of New Denver on Highway 6.	Meet at the gazebo at Expo Park.	Meet at the Village Office and Silverton Gallery parking area.
New Denver, 9 am–12 pm	Hills, 12–3:30 pm <small>Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.</small>	Slocan, 9 am–12 pm	Silverton, 9 am–12 pm



Come on out for a fun, outdoor field trip and learn about the Slocan Lake watershed from local naturalists and scientists!
Bring the whole family!

Columbia
Basin trust

Hills Recreation Society

SLOCAN
LAKE
STEWARDSHIP
SOCIETY

Posters promoting SWAMP's Wetland Field Days as a separate announcement and as part of SLSS's WILD DAYS. Over 50 posters were hung on 20+ community boards throughout the Slocan Valley and placed as advertisements in the Valley Voice newspaper.

Once at Summit Lake, SWAMP's field research team led the way along the Rail Trail pointing out the variety of wetland communities, plant species, and clusters of western toadlets moving crossing through wetlands located between the lake and upland habitat. At a site on the lakeshore, the SWAMP field crew provided basins of collected benthic invertebrates for everyone to view and identify. Given the enthusiasm and beautiful weather, many children waded in the water to collect more insects as well as freshwater mollusks.

Snapshot of the day provided by SLSS Board member:

WETLANDS: August 12, 2015 – Hills / Summit Lake

Location: Hills Fire Hall at start then east shore of Summit Lake

Time: 12:00 – 3:30pm

Experts: Ryan Durand, Marcy Mahr, Darcie Quamme, Rhia Mackenzie

Attendance: 37 people in total

Demographics: Adults 21 – mostly local (Silverton, ND, Rosebery, Nakusp, Fauquier) with several summer residents; Children – 16. Mostly families with kids and older adults.

Volunteer's Narrative & Photos by Ellen Kinsel:

"This large group met at the Hills Community Fire Hall on a beautiful, sunny day. The group initially split into older and younger learners, with the older (mostly adult) group inside with Ryan while the younger children went outside with Marcy to explore with the watershed model. Ryan presented a powerpoint talk on different types of wetlands, including swamps, marshes, fens, bogs, and standing shallow water. Meanwhile, the children poured 'rain' into the watershed model to observe how the water flowed in two different creek and wetland scenarios. Marcy got them thinking about why the flow differed and the implications – including a bit about the wetlands in the more natural creek. The children then completed the Wetlands Field Journal. The entire group carpooled to the area where Bonanza Creek flows out of Summit Lake, and walked along the rail trail. Everyone was excited to see toadlets on the trail, and in the grasses, puddles and water-filled ditches. Ryan and Marcy pointed out different wetland types and plant species as we walked along the trail. Ryan explained the procedures SWAMP uses in the field for assessing wetlands using soil cores to determine organic vs. mineral content. A short walk off the trail brought us to the lakeshore where Darcie and Rhia had collected a variety of aquatic insects for observation in tubs. Some of the participants waded into Summit Lake with nets to gather additional specimens. The highlight of the afternoon was seeing the various water insects with magnifying viewfinders."



Wild Days family nature programs planned for August

submitted

Curious about the amazing plants and animals of the Slocan Valley? Have you ever wished you could be in a naturalist's back pocket seeing what they see? There's outdoor fun and learning to be had in August during Wild Days!

The Slocan Lake Stewardship Society is offering four family-oriented nature programs in August to explore different habitats within the Slocan Lake watershed. Each day will have local

naturalists and scientists on tap to make the day interesting.

The first program is scheduled for Saturday, August 1 from 9 am to noon and features a walk along the shores of Slocan Lake in New Denver. We will meet at the bottom of Main Street at the sculpture.

The second program will take place on Wednesday, August 12 from noon to 3:30 pm and focus on the variety of wetlands in Hills. The meeting place is at the Hills Fire Hall, 18 km north of New Denver on Highway 6. This event is co-sponsored by SWAMP (the Slocan Wetlands Assessment and Monitoring Project) and will conclude in time to

hop up to the beginning of Toadfest at Summit Lake Provincial Park at 4 pm.

The last two Wild Days programs, focusing on creek and riparian habitat, are scheduled for Saturday, August 15 in Slocan (meet at the gazebo at Expo Park) and on Saturday, August 29 in Silverton (meet at the Village Office and Silverton Gallery parking area). Both programs are from 9 am to noon.

Please save these dates on your family calendar! For further information, contact 250-358-7714 or email theresa.tremaine@gmail.com.

And come learn more about the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society at our table at the New Denver Friday Market.

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Discover the wonderful world of wetlands

submitted

The Slocan Wetland Assessment and Monitoring Project (SWAMP) is hosting free family outings to share the wonder of wetlands in the Slocan Valley. Wetlands are literally 'wet lands', unique ecosystems occurring throughout our region from valley bottom to the alpine.

This August, SWAMP will host two family outings in the Slocan Valley, one in the south valley and one in the north.

The first event is scheduled for Saturday, August 8 in Winlaw from 9 am to noon, meeting at Fomi's Bakery north of Winlaw. Come explore along the rail trail with local experts and learn about enhancing wetlands on private land. For further details on this program, contact Rhia MacKenzie at zzoist@gmail.com or 250-226-7544.

The second event will be held north of New Denver in Hills on Wednesday, August 12, from noon to 3:30 pm. Come join experts in exploring different types of wetlands. Participants should bring a bag lunch and meet at noon at the Hills Fire and Community Hall, #4480 Hwy 6.

This event is co-sponsored by the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society. For further details on this program, contact Marcy Mahr at marcy@netidea.com or 250-358-2669. Preregistration for either of these programs is recommended but not required.

Since 2013, SWAMP has been using a scientific approach to identify and classify wetlands throughout the Slocan watershed to improve our understanding of wetland ecology and inform restoration and conservation decisions. This initiative relies on local professionals who love discovering and sharing new information on the plants, animals and other organisms found in wetlands. The information collected by SWAMP will result in a comprehensive mapping database for wetlands in our valley and will help refine provincial

wetland classification for our region. Checkout SWAMP's new website at slocanswamp.org/ to learn more about the project and keep up to date on interesting discoveries.

The SWAMP partnership includes the Slocan River Streamkeepers' Society, Slocan Lake Stewardship Society, Slocan Solutions Society, Fish & Wildlife

Compensation Program, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, BC Wildlife Federation, Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society, RDCK and Environment Canada. Funding has been provided by the Columbia Basin Trust, National Wetland Conservation Fund, FWCP, Columbia Power Corporation and FortisBC.



Field biologists with SWAMP are spending this summer researching the diversity of wetlands in the Slocan watershed, including documenting the biological 'bonanza' of Bonanza Marsh located at the north end of Slocan Lake. The science team includes Darcie Quamme, Ryan Durand, Marcy Mahr and Tyson Ehlers, in addition to Rhia Mackenzie (behind the camera.)