



BC NATURE CAMP ON SALT SPRING ISLAND

April 27 – May 2, 2010

“Between mountains and ocean”

PROGRAM OUTLINE

Salt Spring Island is the largest of the Southern Gulf Islands. Due to its geographical location between Vancouver Island and the outer Gulf Islands, its climate is mild for Canadian standards and it receives only about half of the rain compared to Vancouver. Salt Spring’s wildlife, its vegetation, its physiography, and its people are a product of its unique location. April brings (wild) flowers, the rain eases off, the temperature slowly increases, the migratory birds return or make a stopover, and sea mammals are abundant. During a six-day, five-night stay, we will explore all these aspects of the island and more. This BC Nature camp is organized by the Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club and features expert leaders and presenters covering all aspects of natural history, including birding, botany, geology and marine life.



Burgoyne Bay from Mt Maxwell ©Lynn Thompson

TOTAL COST PER PERSON

\$600 PER REGISTRANT (\$180 extra for single occupancy).

Payments: 50% (\$300) at time of registration (postmarked no later than December 15, 2009) by cheque made payable to the Salt Spring Trail & Nature Club, the remainder (\$300 or \$480 for single occupancy) by postdated cheque dated March 27, 2010.

INCLUDED IN THE PRICE:

1. Camp costs:

Include five breakfast and four evening meals, accommodation, and a marine excursion, all excursions.

2. Accommodation:

Sea Breeze Inne (www.seabreezeinne.com): all rooms with full kitchen. All rooms have two double or queen-size beds. Single accommodation on request at an extra charge of \$180. The hotel provides housekeeping services and provides a breakfast in their conference room. The rooms are on two levels: ground floor and first floor. **There is no elevator.** Please indicate on the registration form which level you prefer.

3. Meal arrangements

- Continental breakfast: provided by the hotel.
- Evening meals: three meals at three different Salt Spring restaurants as well as a catered dinner on the last (Saturday) night are included. Tuesday dinner on your own.
- Lunch on your own.

4. Marine Wildlife Excursion:

A ½-day marine wildlife excursion by zodiac. We hope to see sea mammals, e.g. seals, sea lions, dolphins, porpoises, and orcas; (migratory) sea- and shorebirds. There will be two trips of 12 participants.

5. Program :

Please note that the program may be subject to change due to weather conditions or other unexpected events.

Day 1: Registration and welcome

Afternoon outing for early arrivals

Dinner on your own

Evening presentation

Day 2, Morning: Group 1: Marine wildlife excursion by zodiac

Group 2: Geology excursion

Day 2, Afternoon: Group 2: Marine wildlife excursion by zodiac

Group 1: Geology excursion

Dinner at Salt Spring Inn in Ganges

Evening presentation

Day 3: Day hike through Ruckle Park and a visit to Chris Hatfield's museum

Dinner at Seaside Restaurant in Vesuvius

Evening presentation

Day 4: Intertidal excursion (plus short hike if time allows)

Dinner at Rock Salt Café in Fulford Harbour

Evening presentation

Day 5: Morning: Option 1: Saturday Market in the morning (on your own)

Option 2: Birding.

Day 5: Afternoon: Option 1: Short hike up Mount Erskine in the afternoon (moderate)

Option 2: Short walk on Andreas Vogt Nature Reserve (easy)

Catered Dinner at Seabreeze Inne

Day 6: Check-out and farewell

Optional hike on Mount Maxwell for those departing in the afternoon.

NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE:

- transportation to Salt Spring Island and ferry costs,
- transport while on Salt Spring Island for those needing a ride to events,
- dinner on Tuesday night, all lunches, and beverages at restaurants.

OUTINGS AND ACTIVITIES:

This camp includes moderate daylong hikes over rough trails, with elevation gain up to 300 meter (some steep sections), climbing in and out of a zodiac, and walking over slippery ocean shorelines. A good fitness level is expected of participants. If you have doubt about your ability to participate, please call Nieke (250-537-5443). For cancellation policy, see below.

On-island we carpool: some trailheads have very limited parking. Please, bring some change for carpool fare.

WHAT TO BRING:

Hikes will take place rain or shine, so come prepared. Please be reminded that it may still rain in April. We hope for fair weather, but please be prepared for wet and/or cool weather. Bring sturdy hiking boots, a warm sweater and rain gear. We will also muck around in the intertidal zones, so gummy boots or at least a spare pair of boots may be a good idea.

Checklist:

- Clothes: comfortable field clothes, including rain gear, sweater, sun hat, gloves and a warm hat for the marine excursion.
- Shoes: sturdy hiking boots, day shoes, something for intertidal wetness (e.g. gum boots).

- Walking stick or trekking poles if you normally use them.
- Toiletries, sunscreen, **personal medication** and first aid kit.
- Binoculars, camera, and bird and/or plant guidebooks; other guides.
- Daypack, thermos, water bottles.
- Flashlight, alarm clock (some days are an early start).
- Food for your lunch or for breakfast if you follow a certain diet and cannot have the hotel breakfast. There are several grocery stores on the island: Thrifty Foods and Natureworks (organic produce only) in downtown Ganges and Country Grocer on the Lower Ganges Road. The hotel is a ten-minute walk from downtown Ganges.

INSURANCE AND WAIVERS:

Camp participants covered with full liability insurance under the BC Nature policy with SBC Insurance. The waiver we ask you to sign is to show due diligence in advising participants of camp hazards such as rough terrain, steep sections and slippery rocks and beaches. **Please note that under no circumstances does the Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club take any responsibility for activities outside of the camp program.**

You are also asked to complete a medical form asking for your MSP number, additional insurance and policy numbers (if any), your regular doctor's information, emergency contact, etc. This is to ensure adequate and timely medical care if needed. Salt Spring Island has a hospital with an emergency room. This confidential information will be kept on file during the camp, and will be returned to you or destroyed after camp.

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES:

NOTE: REGISTRATION WILL BE LIMITED TO 24 BC NATURE MEMBERS OR MEMBERS OF AFFILIATED CLUBS.

Registration procedure will start on November 16, 2009, at 10:00 am by either phone or email on a first come first serve basis. Date and time of the call or date and time of the email will determine the order of registration. Please register early, but not before November 16.

The first 24 callers/emailers will receive an information package (preferably by email) containing a registration form, a waiver form, an information sheet about the program, and a medical information form. If needed, there will be a waiting list for those interested.

At the same time, prospective participants are requested to remit of a deposit of 50% of the total costs (\$300 per person) plus a postdated cheque (dated March 27, 2010) for the remainder \$300. Single occupants need to send a postdated cheque of \$480.

Completed registration form, signed waiver form, completed medical information form, and the two cheques are due on or before December 15, 2009. Registration and payments postmarked later will be placed on a waiting list in order of date and time received.

IF THE SIGNED REGISTRATION FORM AND THE PAYMENTS (TWO CHEQUES) ARE NOT RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 15, 2009, YOUR RESERVATION PLACE WILL BE LOST AND YOUR REGISTRATION WILL BE PROCESSED AS IF YOU REQUEST A NEW RESERVATION.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

In the event a participant withdraws from the camp at any stage after paying the deposit, the SSTNC will refund, where possible, a part or the entire amount paid. Up until February 1, 2010, we will refund the full deposit less a \$75 administration fee. For cancellation after February 1, 2010, the refund will only be made if some else can fill that vacancy.

PARTICIPANTS ARE REMINDED THAT:

- They are responsible for their own travel arrangements to and from Salt Spring Island unless other arrangements have been made at time of registration. Carpool with other participants when and where possible.
- Room sharing is encouraged and may be arranged in advance.
- During camp, carpooling is mandatory. Fares for car rides as per SSTNC policies (between \$2 and \$4 per passenger depending on the distance and road conditions)
- They are responsible for their lunches during the camp.
- They are required to follow all instructions of activity leaders, all rules and regulations of accommodation providers, and other applicable laws and regulations posted on the Island
- Camp activities may be changed due to weather or reasons beyond SSTNC's control.
- Dogs are not allowed on excursions. Please leave them at home.

SUGGESTED READING, WEBSITES AND REFERENCE SOURCES:

www.saltspringtourism.com

www.saltspringguide.com

The Story of an Island – Charles Kahn

Hiking the Gulf Islands – Charles Kahn

Salt Spring Island- A Place to Be – Ellie Thorburn and Pearl Fray