

**SALT SPRING TRAIL AND NATURE CLUB**  
**President's Report for 2010**  
**Annual General Meeting, 27 January 2011**

The Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club's mandate is to stimulate interest in hiking and related outdoor activities and natural history; and to study flora and fauna in their natural habitats. 2010 was a good year for hiking, walking, rambling and indeed also for observing and enjoying nature on Salt Spring Island. There were many highlights, but there were also a few concerns.

I like to start with the highlights:

-As you will see in the financial report, the club is financially sound and we have a large membership of around 210 members.

- We contributed \$500 towards the Tsawout Band long house. The band owns the reserve south of Reginald Hill, which we regularly enjoy. The club also contributed \$625 for a Park Interpreter in Ruckle Park over the summer, an amount graciously matched by an anonymous member of our club. Thank you!

- From April 27 to May 2, 2010, our Club hosted a BC Nature Field Camp. Twenty-four enthusiastic BC Nature members from other parts of BC gathered here. The program included hikes and nature walks, bird watching, wild life zodiac tour, geology field trip, shore line exploration, and evening presentations. We like to thank Nieke Visser as chief organizer and Zeke Blazecka, Richard Shead, (the organizing committee) and all members who helped out with all the activities. Our club shared with BC Nature in the proceeds.

- This year the only overnight trip was to Quadra Island in September. Thirty five people participated, and notwithstanding the weather, they had a great time. The trip was very well organized by Janet Andersen

-Talking about Janet, she was nominated to receive the 2010 Trailblazer Award, thanks to her long time commitment and hard work for the club, such as walking coordinator, secretary and organizer of many walks and this trip.

- On the social front, we have had seven presentations this year (two of which together with the Salt Spring Island Conservancy. These evenings were generally well attended. Thanks to the coordinator, Niels Gerbitz, and all the speakers.

- We have had three issues of The Oystercatcher. Nieke edited the first two, but in September she handed the job over to Gary Adams. Gary is now working on the next issue, so please keep nature or hiking articles flowing to him. Nieke has produced 13 issues over the last 4 years and brought it to a higher level. Thank you again.

- Talking about volunteers who are not on the Board, but who give us excellent support, I like to thank Sue Lehmann, who coordinates the website and the Driftwood announcements, as well as Marjorie Radford, Ann King, and Lucille Adderley, who are always ready to help out at the “Socials”.

In addition, many members are involved in the annual Christmas bird count, which is sponsored by the club; others are maintaining the trails of BC Parks and PARCS land. Another thank you to Brian Radford, who finally retired from his position as trail coordinator. Before this he was our BC Nature Director.

- We have decided to make a change in the way we make donations to the Trans Canada Trail. From this year onwards we will make a single donation to the Trans Canada Trail. The amount will be set in the annual budget. It will recognize ALL members who have passed away during the previous year. For 2010 we will donate \$150.

Now over to the concerns:

First, I have to mention, again, the lack of members who are willing to come forward to lead activities..... I cannot stress enough how important it is to have a sizeable pool of leaders. I strongly encourage you to lead events, otherwise they will not happen.. Your participation enriches the club and is appreciated by all. Some of the “older” leaders are more than willing to co-lead with you or to help you. This is also valid for spring and fall trips; these will not happen if you do not come forward.

As for this meeting, I like to encourage you to bring forward your ideas to make our club better. And during the year, please contact me or any other Board member with ideas, complaints, or issues you like to talk about.

Finally, for 2011 we likely will have the same Board as in 2010. I like to thank all Board members for the work they have done and we will be looking forward to a good hiking 2011!

Kees Visser

President