



## VFFN Newsletter – Fall 2022

created by Johanna Nott & Jason Lahaie

### Hikes

Numerous hikes were on offer throughout the year starting with Spring botanical walks with Mary, Summer grassland hikes with John and Johanna's alternate hikes with dogs. All were well attended. Most hikes were held within our local area, but one outing



took us to the trails at Mt Kobau. Outstanding! Carrie's photos provide a pictorial history of our outings. One of her photos was chosen for the cover of the Princeton Leisure Guide.

### Update on Maple Cross

(formerly Currie Meadows)

The field crews have been focused on installing signage, mapping trails (foot and motorized), assessing fence lines to be removed and clearing invasive weeds in some riparian areas. Wildlife cameras were installed in strategic areas and have been successful capturing wildlife passing through.

Management planning will be carried on during the winter months with future plans to clean up livestock infrastructures.

### Membership

Memberships are coming due in December.

[Renewal Form](#)

### Night Sky

\*Jupiter has been most visible with the naked eye to the east this October. With good binoculars you can see its 4 moons.

\*Orionid Meteor shower is a product of Halley's debris. Oct 20-Nov 7. (20 per hour/predawn)

\*Geminid Meteor Shower Dec 13 after 3am is the Best! (120 per hour)

\*December 21 - winter solstice and constellations of Ursa Minor & Major

Full Moon 

October 9 - Hunter Moon

November 8 - Beaver Moon

December 7 - Long Night Moon

January 6 - Wolf Moon

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### Grasslands

submitted by Lorraine

I so enjoyed the VFFN presentation by Don Gayton re: Native Grasslands of BC's Southern Interior on October 11th. The changes that have taken place in the past 50 years reveal the impact that invasive species are having on our native grasslands and the animals dependant on them. It's important to do our part by staying on trails and established backcountry roads to protect the remaining grasslands from damage and erosion.

Removal of non-native species on parkland, crown land and private property are simple ways we can take responsibility and impact their spread. I came away from Don's passionate presentation wanting to try a little harder.

Thanks to the VFFN for the wonderful speakers and educators arranged monthly for our membership. The next presenter is Brian Horejsi on November 8th, speaking on Wildlife Ecology & Behaviour.

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### Birding

submitted by Cathy



This year we have seen 3 birds that we don't see all the time. In June, Ed saw a Black Tern, in August we got a Stilt Sandpiper and then in Sept the Sandhill Cranes. The cranes were seen flying and on the ground at Separation

Lakes. We also saw 3 different flocks flying over our house on the same day with numbers totalling over 1,000. This is the first year we have ever seen them in numbers on the ground in the Princeton Area. I am wondering if this sighting has anything to do with the smoke?