

What's up at ARMS?



Alouette River Management Society

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Winter 2008

Upcoming Events

January 26 – For the Love of Jenny Fundraiser, Commercial Building, Maple Ridge Fair Grounds, 6pm

February 9 – Bird Feeder Workshop, Rivers Heritage Centre, 11am

February 13 – MRTA Conference, MRSS, 8am

February 15 – For the Love of Jenny Fundraiser, Haney Hotel

February 19 – AGM, Rivers Heritage Centre, 6pm

Winter Programs at the Rivers Heritage Centre

Junior Naturalist Club – Saturdays
January 26, February 23, and March 29
10am to 12pm

Wild Bird Feeder Construction – Saturday, February 9
11am to 12pm

Spring Break Camp Monday – Thursday
March 17 – 20
9:30am to 3:30pm

Contact ARMS for info: 604-467-6401 or armeducation@telus.net
Contact Parks and Leisure to register: 604-467-7322 or 604-465-2452

For the Love of Jenny

Please join us at the "For the Love of Jenny" Pub Night Fundraiser on January 26 at 6:00 pm in the Commercial Building on the Maple Ridge Fairgrounds. For just \$15.00, you will get dinner (beef on a bun), a beverage, and live entertainment. There will also be fun activities in which to participate including dart games, a silent auction, a toonie toss, and a dessert auction. And, of course, there will be a bar.

Proceeds of the fundraiser will go to Jenny Ljunggren, Executive Director of ARMS, to assist Jenny and her family during Jenny's battle with lung and brain cancer. Jenny has been a part of ARMS

for over 10 years and is also involved in many community initiatives.



Silent auction items are currently being collected for the fundraiser. If you have a donation, contact Jodie Feist at 604-763-8650.

A website will be launched that will acknowledge all sponsors and visitors will be able to bid on silent auction items starting January 19th to the evening of the event. The silent auction item bids will be

updated every 15 minutes on this website: www.fortheloveofjenny.org

For tickets to the "For the Love of Jenny" Pub Night Fundraiser or questions about the fundraiser, phone Lorraine Bates at 604-463-6922 or 604-462-7995 or Jodie Feist at 604-763-8650.

Feel free to circulate this invitation to anyone you think may be interested in having a great night out and would like to show support for Jenny. If you cannot attend this event, there is another pub night planned for February 15 at the Haney Hotel. There is also a "For the Love of Jenny" Fund at Maple Ridge Westminster Savings. For information about donating to this fund, contact ARMS.

Fall Salmon Spawner Survey

With the assistance of eleven volunteers, ARMS conducted spawner surveys on four tributaries of the Alouette River: Coho Creek, Millionaire Creek, Latimer Channel, the North Alouette River.

This fall ARMS volunteers recorded many Chum salmon. Pink and Coho were also spotted in two of the creeks. Additional data collected included weather conditions,

water depth and turbidity, water and air temperature, and information from dissected salmon.

The spawner surveys would not have been possible without ARMS' volunteers, the Pacific Streamkeepers Federation, and the property owners along Latimer Channel and the North Alouette River who allowed access to their property.

If you are interested in participating in the 2008 salmon spawner survey, contact ARMS.



Dissecting a Chum on Millionaire Creek

ARMS New Winter and Spring Programs

Winter:

Wild Bird Feeder

Construction:

On February 9th come build a cedar bird feeder at the Rivers Heritage Centre, a great winter activity for the entire family! You will get an opportunity to build a bird feeder, learn how to care for your feeder and discover ways to attract birds to your backyard.

Spring:

Junior Naturalist Club:

Introducing our new and improved Junior Naturalist Club! New time and day. New faces and exciting new activities. Do you want to become a certified Junior Naturalist? If yes, this is the club for you! Come and explore everything fascinating about the natural environment. Topics include: beautiful bugs, slimy slugs, river creatures, forest friends, and much more. Each hour and a half session will include a craft, activity, and game. Come and join the FUN!!!

Evening Hatchery Tours:

This is a great activity for the entire family. Come and learn about your local fish hatchery, see the baby salmon, and release them into the Alouette River. After the hatchery tour families will have an opportunity to enjoy a guided nature walk through Allco Park to learn about the fascinating forest.

For details or to register contact Parks and Leisure services 604-465-2470 or www.recreg4u.ca.

Alouette River Pesticide Project Update

Last September, ARMS and Environment Canada staff ventured out into the Alouette floodplain to take river sediment samples for phase one of the Alouette River Pesticide Community Awareness Project.



Sediment sample taken with a Ekman dredge

ARMS recently received results from the four sediment samples collected in the Alouette Watershed. The results from AXYS Analytical Lab indicated low levels of pesticides at all four sites. Two types of pesticides were found: legacy pesticides – pesticides used 15-20 years ago – and one currently used pesticide. The legacy pesticides were organochlorines and the currently used pesticide was an insecticide (Endosulfan

sulphate). Only four random sediment samples where taken in September because of a lack of funding. Additional testing must be done because one set of tests on a small number of samples is inconclusive. We are currently seeking funds to complete phase two of the project and to conduct further sediment sampling.

Annual General Meeting

The Alouette River Management Society will be hosting its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, February 19 at the Rivers Heritage Centre. Everyone is welcome to join us at 6:00pm for a light supper. The AGM will follow at 6:30pm.

A New and Improved Website

The ARMS website is now in service! It has taken almost a year to update, but the new and improved website looks great. Visit www.alouetteriver.org to explore the history and present day Alouette Watershed, information about ARMS school programs, ARMS current and completed projects, and how to become a member or volunteer with ARMS projects.

Upcoming Activities

This winter ARMS educators will be working with some new and established partners.

Westview Secondary:

The Westview Secondary Outreach group adopted McKenney Creek between Lougheed Hwy and Dewdney Trunk Road. The group has partnered with ARMS and Maple Ridge Adopt-A-Block to help keep the stream clean. In December, they planted 12 native trees and removed two garbage bags worth of invasive ivy. Two bags of garbage were also collected as well as a couple of old tires. At the end of January, the group will be testing the health of the creek's water by measuring turbidity, temperature, pH, and dissolved oxygen level.

Laityview Scouts:

This winter and spring ARMS will be working with the First Division of the Laityview Scouts to benefit the environment. The 20

scouts have divided into two groups and chosen separate projects: trail restoration and stream enhancement. The trail restoration will take place in Golden Ears Provincial Park. The stream enhancement will occur on Balsam Creek, a tributary of the North Alouette River and will include water quality survey, habitat survey, native tree planting, stream cleanup, and invasive removal. Both groups will commit five, seven hour Saturdays between January and April.

Teachers Convention:

In February, ARMS will participate in the Maple Ridge Teacher's Association Conference: Rights, Respect & Responsibility. ARMS hopes participation in this event will promote our education programs, especially to the high schools.