

Message from the Coordinator

Congratulations on all the great work of our Partners and community in September. As you can see in this newsletter many exciting projects were undertaken! Coming up are lots of great conferences, workshops, and events in the Okanagan! Be sure to check out the listings below.



We're hiring! In order to increase OCCP's capacity so that it can better support its partners and realize biodiversity conservation and stewardship goals in the North and Central Okanagan, the OCCP is hiring a Projects Coordinator. See below for more details!

We are also seeking new Steering Committee Members. This is an excellent opportunity for motivated individuals to build on the OCCP partnership, engage in innovative projects and enhance conservation and stewardship in the Okanagan. Please contact me if you are interested.

Carol
occp123@gmail.com

Partner & Conservation News

BC Wildlife Federation Wetland Institute in the Okanagan

Last week the BC Wildlife Federation's (BCWF) Wetlands Education Program hosted an intensive 7-day Wetlands Institute in the North and Central Okanagan. Participants learned about wetland stewardship, restoration and construction skills as well as the Okanagan Wetland Strategy through field activities, site visits, and presentations lead by guest experts. During the week two wetlands restoration projects were completed on private property; one at Curly Frog Farms in Kelowna and one on Black Rock Road in Vernon. Each participant came to the workshop with a wetland project they wish to implement in their home communities. We are looking forward to seeing the projects by the Okanagan participants! More information on the BC Wildlife Federation's Wetlands Education Program is available [here](#).



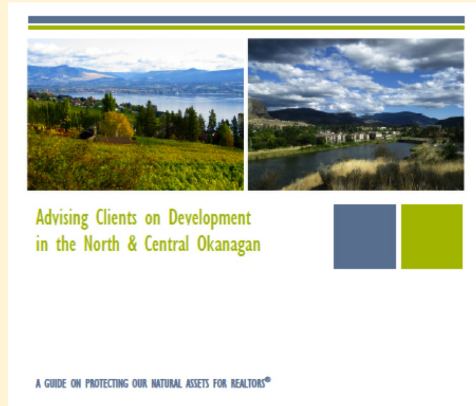
Guest expert Tom Biebighauser, who has restored over 1500 wetlands across North America, demonstrates how to assess clay content in soil to the Wetland Institute participants.

In addition to the Wetlands Institute, the BCWF's Wetlands Education Program delivered a one day seminar on wetlands to local and regional planners with support from OCCP.

Seminar presented to Realtors

In September the OCCP coordinated a seminar for Realtors from the commercial chapter of the Okanagan Mainline Real Estate Board (OMREB) on "Protecting our Natural Assets". This seminar was part of OCCP's communication and outreach plan to share information with the community on why and how we can preserve Nature in the Okanagan. Many thanks to our speakers: John Janmaat, economics professor from UBC, Lora Nield, Senior Ecosystems Biologist for the Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource

Operations, Paul Dupuis, Planner for the District of Lake Country and Todd Cashin, Suburban & Rural Planning Manager for the City of Kelowna. OCCP is also grateful to the South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program, Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Alliance, South Okanagan Real Estate Board, and the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia who helped OCCP provide resources for the seminar.



KLO Middle School Fascieux Creek Daylighting Project

A total of 200 m of Fascieux Creek that had been buried is now daylighted.

The first phase consisting of 70 m, was started during late 2014 and finished during spring 2015. It included a turtle pond and pedestrian crossing. Phase 2 started during summer 2015 and is just finishing up. It included a second pedestrian crossing, a sediment detention pond for the City of Kelowna to maintain,



Thanks to students at KLO Middle School and many project partners, 200 m of Fascieux Creek is now daylighted! (Photo credit: Haley Sheerer)

and over 750 plants have been installed. There is over 400 m of 3 rail cedar fencing being installed and two outdoor classrooms. Materials onsite have been repurposed and include danger trees that provided logs for instream and on-bank structures and concrete pads that line the bottom of the sediment detention pond. Dozens of volunteers have helped out including neighbours, staff of local business, students, and teachers. There are many partners on the project including SD23, Golder Associates Ltd., OBWB, Okanagan Foundation, P&E Lumber, AIL Industries, On-The-Mark Locates, Site Lines, TD Friends of Environment, Fortis, Telus, BC Wildlife Federation, Environment Canada, Central Okanagan Naturalist Club, City of Kelowna, Apex Sand and Gravel, Kelowna Lion's Club, KLO Neighbourhood Association, and many others. Volunteers are needed to help with fencing on Oct 6th, and there will be a Grand Opening Oct 7th. See the events listing below for details.

Wetland restored in Vernon!

A project that has been nearly three years in the planning has entered a new phase. Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship (OSSS) Wildlife Habitat Stewards Wayne and Wendie Radies wanted to construct a wetland on their Vernon property. From September 28 to October 2, a compacted clay liner was established using clay from the site. After the rainfall on Friday, the wetland was already holding water! 700 potted plants in addition to salvaged sedges were planted on Saturday afternoon.



Volunteers at work planting the restored wetland at Black Road in Vernon (photo credit: OSSS)

Through partnership with Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship, BC Wildlife Federation's Wetland Institute, OCCP, landowners Wayne and Wendie Radies, funding through Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program, Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, Public Conservation Assistance Fund, National Wetland Conservation Fund and Wildlife Habitat Canada, and in-kind support from Ophiuchus Consulting and volunteers, the wetland at Black Rock Road and Francis has become valuable habitat for wildlife in the area.

Hunters asked to submit Heads in MU 8-23 for BC Wildlife Health Surveillance Program

The Government of British Columbia is again asking hunters to participate in a voluntary collection of deer, elk or moose heads in MU 8-23 (Cherryville area of the North Okanagan) as part of its ongoing monitoring for Bovine Tuberculosis and Chronic Wasting Disease in wildlife. Neither of these diseases is currently in B.C., however, we are performing surveillance to be sure. Both diseases infect cervids (deer, elk and moose) and can be extremely difficult to control or eliminate if they enter wildlife. The surveillance in this area compliments other health monitoring such as for Chronic Wasting Disease in the East Kootenays and Peace regions of the province. Hunters who submit heads hunted in MU 8-23 are eligible to win a prize donated by Grouse River in Kelowna as a thank you for their participation!

For information about the MU 8-23 program, including drop off locations and previous years testing results or information about monitoring programs and other diseases, visit our new wildlife health website at www.gov.bc.ca/wildlifehealth.



Have your say!

RDCO seeking public input for Regional Park Management Plans

The Regional District of Central Okanagan is seeking public input into the future planning of [Black Mountain / sntsk'il'ntən Regional Park](#). The concept plans and an online survey are available [here](#). The deadline for the online survey is October 7th.



Conferences & Workshops

Columbia River Treaty: Past, Present and Future

October 7 2015

Osoyoos

The Canadian Water Resources Association and the Adaptation to Climate Change Team (ACT) at Simon Fraser University invite you to participate in a workshop on the Columbia River Treaty. The workshop will invite the public to engage in discussion with panelists from various levels of government, First Nations, and academia to discuss issues related to the Columbia River Treaty and what consider how a renewed treaty might be negotiated. The presentations and discussions will address the unique socio-economic situation of the Okanagan Valley as a sub-basin of the Columbia. More information and registration is available [here](#).

Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum

October 7-9 2015

Osoyoos

Osoyoos Lake is a microcosm of global concerns. This beautiful lake spans the Canada United States border in the Okanagan River basin, and has many environmental challenges. Lake sustainability depends on the actions of all who work, live or visit the basin, and all those involved in governance. The Conference theme this year is ***A Watershed Beyond Boundaries: Stewardship of our Shared Waters***. More information and registration is available [here](#).

WEBINAR: Green Bylaws Toolkit Second Edition release

Tuesday October 13th, 1:00-3:30 pm

Registration Deadline: October 12th

The BC Wildlife Federation, Wetland Stewardship Partnership of BC, and the POLIS Water Sustainability Project would like to invite you to attend the Green Bylaws Toolkit Second Edition release Webinar.

Who should attend: Planners, consultants, and municipal/regional district staff involved in mapping projects, urban development policy and permitting, and/or watershed planning.

What it entails: This webinar is to support the release of the second edition of the Green Bylaws Toolkit. The Green Bylaws Toolkit webinar will engage planners, consultants, municipal and regional district staff on ways they can integrate policies into conservation at a municipal and regional level. Topics to be covered include: mitigation banking, integrating sensitive ecosystem protection into a municipal framework, applications and recent revisions of the Green By-Laws Toolkit.

More information and registration is available [here](#).

Okanagan Water Forum “From Knowledge to Forward Thinking”

October 14 2015

Four Points by Sheraton, 5505 Airport Way, Kelowna

The Okanagan Water Forum “From Knowledge to Forward Thinking” will bring together Okanagan Nation representatives and regional water stakeholders in an effort to build partnerships, and create actionable solutions in regards to water management in the Okanagan. Join us for a full day of presentations, networking and facilitated dialogue that will allow for knowledge sharing and provide the opportunity to forage partnerships for addressing our common water management challenges. The keynote speaker is David Suzuki. This Forum is brought to you by the Okanagan Nation Alliance and the RBC Blue Water Project. More information and registration is available [here](#).

Workshop: Adapting Natural Resource Management to a Changing Climate

October 27 & 28

Vernon

The BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations is hosting this workshop, with input from a wide array of contributors. The workshop will provide a forum to discuss the state-of-the-art for incorporating a changing climate into resource management, and addressing climate change risks and opportunities. This workshop is free.

For additional information and to register, please contact Kylie Green at kylie "dot" green "at" ubc "dot"ca.

Workshop for Qualified Professionals: Working In and Around Water and Species and Ecosystems at Risk

November 3rd, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

West Kelowna

Deadline for workshop registration: October 16, 2015

The Ecosystems Section of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations is delivering a one-day workshop for qualified professionals (QPs; mainly Registered Professional Biologists) working in and around water and with species and ecosystems at risk (SEAR) in the Okanagan area of the Thompson Okanagan Region. This workshop is considered an important piece of the Ecosystems Section’s outreach strategy on key Resource Management initiatives to this audience. QPs will gain knowledge and skills in relevant and emerging topics related to working around water and SEAR as a result of the workshop, which supports the professional reliance model. Local government staff, government employees and professionals with other accreditations are also invited to attend.

For more information and to register, please contact Josie.Symonds 'at' gov "dot" bc "dot"ca.

Events

GRAND OPENING: KLO Middle School Fascieux Creek Daylighting Project

October 7th, 10:30 am

KLO Middle School, 3130 Gordon Drive, Kelowna

Please join in the celebration with BC Wildlife Federation for the completion of 200m of Fascieux Creek being restored behind KLO Middle School. This project was a large collaborative effort inspired by KLO Middle School students and made possible by many partners including SD23, Golder Associates Ltd., OBWB, Okanagan Foundation, P&E Lumber, AIL Industries, On-The-Mark Locates, Site Lines, TD Friends of Environment, Fortis, Telus, BC Wildlife Federation, Environment Canada, Central Okanagan Naturalist Club, City of Kelowna, Apex Sand and Gravel, Kelowna Lion's Club, KLO Neighbourhood Association, and many others.

Science in Society Speaker Series: *What can we do to adapt to a changing planet?*

Tuesday Oct 13, 2015, 7:30 pm

Okanagan College, Vernon Campus, Lecture Theatre

The Okanagan Science Centre and Okanagan College are hosting Dr. Richard Hebda, Curator of Botany and Earth History at the Royal BC Museum, as part of the Science in Society Speaker Series. Dr. Hebda will draw upon his extensive research with plant fossils and their distribution over time and place to shed light on the condition, history and evolution of BC's landscape and climate, in a public talk, entitled "What can we do to adapt to a changing planet?" This talk is the first of the 2015/16 season for the Science in Society Speaker Series. Tickets are \$7 in advance and \$10 at the door. [More information.](#)

NatureKids Kelowna Explorer Day

October 25th

Woodhaven Bird Sanctuary

Nature Kids Kelowna will be delivering flyers about responsible cat ownership tips when living next to a sanctuary. We will also walk through the conservancy and see how many Bird species we can see. [More Information.](#)

Volunteer & Employment Opportunities

Fencing for KLO Middle School Fascieux Creek Project

October 6th, 10 am

KLO Middle School, 3130 Gordon Drive, Kelowna

Partners working on the daylighting of Fascieux Creek are looking for volunteers to help install some split-rail cedar fence at KLO Middle School. Please bring gloves and a water bottle. For more information contact Darryl Arsenault at [Darryl_Arsenault "at" golder "dot" com](mailto:Darryl_Arsenault@golder.com).

Projects Coordinator

Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program

The Okanagan Collaborative Conservation is hiring a Projects Coordinator. The Projects Coordinator is responsible for engaging OCCP Partners through a Partners in Action model to identify and follow through on existing and future projects that support the *Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for the Okanagan Region* (2014). The Coordinator monitors and evaluates the success of projects and how these contribute to the Strategy's goals. The coordinator also helps with communications and contributes to the day-to-day operations of the Partnership.

Deadline: Wednesday Oct 14th

[More information.](#)

Funding Opportunities

TD Friends of the Environment

Deadline: October 15 2015

The Foundation supports a wide range of environmental initiatives, with a primary focus on environmental education, urban greening and enhancing biodiversity, and energy conservation. Please consult the checklist of what is and is not eligible for funding. [More Information.](#)

EcoAction Community Funding Program

Deadline: November 1 2015

Environment Canada's EcoAction Community Funding Program is again accepting applications for funding. Since 1995, EcoAction has provided over \$101M in financial support to 2944 community-based projects that have supported communities to protect, rehabilitate or enhance the natural environment. Preference will be given to projects that support the priorities of the Government of Canada's [National Conservation Plan](#) to conserve and restore our lands and waters and connect Canadians to our natural spaces. We will continue to focus on larger multi-year projects (minimum \$10,000, maximum \$100,000) that clearly demonstrate environmental and community engagement results anywhere in Canada. [More information.](#)

HCTF Enhancement/Restoration Grant

Deadline: November 2 2015

The Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation(HCTF) Online will be open for 2016-17 enhancement and restoration applications in mid-September. We encourage to submit your proposal early – HCTF staff will be available to help you with any questions or problems, but the last few days before the deadline get pretty busy and we cannot guarantee timely assistance at the final hour!

[More information.](#)

Please visit the OCCP website at www.okcp.ca and 'Like' the OCCP Facebook Page.



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