



WILD TIMES

SUMMER 2012 | FREE

A voice for conservation
in Canada's Columbia and
southern Rocky Mountains

TOP 3 FAMILY FRIENDLY PADDLES IN THE EAST KOOTENAY

How we enjoy our local waterways



You've been to a lake, but have you canoed an East Kootenay river? Check one out this summer - you'll see wildlife and wild places hidden from the highways.

Creston Valley Wetlands

The guided canoe trip at the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area is a great trip for first-timers. These wetlands, part of the Kootenay River, are filled with interesting sights and sounds, and guided tours are offered daily from May until August. With a naturalist at the helm, you will paddle the ponds and channels in search of wildlife - ducks, turtles, moose - you never know what you might encounter!
www.CrestonWildlife.ca

The Elk River Float

The perfect summer family canoe trip. Put in your boat two kilometres south of Olsen Crossing on Highway 3, just across from the Rest Area south of

Sparwood. Take out at the Coal Creek confluence south of the 4th Avenue terminus in Fernie.

The best time to take this four-hour trip is between July 1 and August 31. You'll see lots of birds, from belted kingfishers to bald eagles, osprey and great blue herons. At the Ladner Creek falls you can walk along the rock shelf and look at the vibrant, cool aquatic plants. After about 40 minutes paddling from the put in, pull over river right at the dry creek bed and beach for picnicking, sand castle building and swimming.

The water is fast-moving but relatively calm; featuring no higher than Class 2, easily-navigated rapids, except during the flood in early June—a time to avoid. Be aware of 'sweepers' as the watercourse changes every year and newly uprooted trees hang over various locations along the river.

The Columbia River

There are many options for putting in and taking out along the Columbia River: Invermere, Radium, Edgewater, Brisco, Spillimacheen, Parson, Nicholson, Golden and Blaeberry.

Along the way, watch for elk, bear, otter, beaver, bald and golden eagles, osprey, blue heron, sandpiper, frogs and snakes.

Near Golden, you can slalom around old wooden pillars in the river that were there from the stern-wheeler days. The metal buckets attached to some posts are for geese nesting, and were installed by Ducks Unlimited.

Do not swim in the Columbia River without a life jacket, as there are strong undercurrents in unexpected places.

Transport Canada requires those in canoes and kayaks to carry safety equipment. Before boating, visit www.tc.gc.ca, and search for 'Canoe Safety.'





Ellen Zimmerman

WILDSIGHT DIRECTOR

Birders, with binoculars to eyes and heads cranked back, quest to see elusive feathered creatures flitting through branches high over their heads.

This year, try something else: Close your eyes and listen. A whole separate world of bird “watching” is yours.

My season kicks off with the annual owl survey. Luck was with me in 2012. At my fifth stop I heard the familiar, “Who cooks for you?” repeated in the dog-like barks of the Barred Owl. A few more stops and there was the “beep, beep, beep” - like a tiny machine backing up - of the Northern Saw-whet Owl.

One morning from the forest came a sound that for me is spring—or a telephone ringing in the bush - the Varied Thrush. The chortling of Robins, a song everyone knows even if they don't quite realize it, comes next with the mating call of the Blacked-capped Chickadee, three clear notes, fee-bee-bee, ringing across the yard.

We hear this first dawn chorus of spring without really hearing it. On some level even non-birders react with renewed energy.

Since I was small, I needed to know the names for plants, animals, tracks, scat - and then birds and their songs. Now I can sift through the cacophony, knowing the Cassin's Vireo is back, and the Yellow-rumped Warbler and the Swainson Thrush.

Treat yourself to a CD of local bird song or download an app for your smart phone. If you can carry a tune, you're one step ahead. Learning to recognize a few bird songs will enhance your life. Avoid the eyestrain and stiff neck. Just close your eyes - and really listen.



DAVID SUZUKI IN INVERMERE

The Challenge of the 21st Century: Setting the Bottomline

Wildsight brings Dr. David Suzuki to Invermere on June 1, 2012. Very few people speak with his potency, insight and clarity. Fewer still have an extensive background in science, broadcasting and activism.

Suzuki, known to the world as Canada's voice for the environment, will give his talk, “The Challenge of the 21st Century: Setting the Bottom Line.”

Suzuki will outline the crux of the problem we face as a newly urbanized species, and how big-city living has changed our worldview and our priorities.

“For most of human existence, we understood we were a part of and utterly dependent on nature, but in a hundred years, we have been

transformed from an agricultural species to a big city dweller,” Suzuki says.

“In a big city, it's easy to think as long as we have a few parks to camp and play in, we don't need nature.

“In a city, our highest priority becomes our jobs, because we need jobs to make money to buy the things we think we need. So the economy becomes our highest priority and we forget that the very word economy comes from the same Greek word, oikos, as ecology.”

Suzuki will explore how the defects in our economic paradigm ensure the destruction of the biosphere. He will also offer insight as to how we can address these defects.

Wildsight's Strategic Vision Statements

During 2011, Wildsight developed a series of strategic vision statements to guide the organization until the year 2021. Due to this group effort, involving regional and local board members, staff and volunteers, the statements are comprehensive, realistic and inspirational.

Wildsight's work focuses upon four main areas of concern: Conservation, Water, Communities and Organization. Commitments are broken down into concrete targets, but each one starts

with a vision: Healthy, functioning ecosystems, clean water, sustainable communities and organizational excellence.

“As 2012 marks the 25th Anniversary of Wildsight, it's only fitting for us to look to the next 10 years with a new vision,” says John Bergenske, Wildsight's executive director.

The Strategic Vision Statements are available online, at: wildsight.ca/strategic-vision-statements



Three ways to help bees

Two new studies show a link between pesticides and bee population decline. Published in the journal *Science*, the studies show that pesticides called neonicotinoids, first introduced in the 1990s, drastically reduce the health of honeybee colonies. These pesticides are now among the most widely used in the world.

So what can you do, in your own backyard, to help bees survive and thrive?

Bees love yellow, blue and purple

Grow a garden and enjoy the beauty of native plants in lots of different colours. Bees are attracted to yellow, blue and purple, but many blossoms, even dandelions, help nourish them so they can stay as busy as, well, bees.

Keep it “au natural”

Your yard, that is. Insecticides are implicated in the decline of bee populations. Buy organic food when you can, and look into non-toxic ways of treating common garden pests.

Create a bee house

Did you know you can help different species of bees by building little bee houses? Mason bees and bumblebees don't need huge places to be safe and sound; even an upside-down terra-cotta pot with a drainage hole will do. The Internet is full of information about building bee houses. Try one and let us know how you - and your bees - fare this summer.

WILD EVENTS: WHAT, WHERE & WHEN?



Creston Valley:

Wildsight Speaker Series:
Grizzlies in the Creston Valley
 May 15 • 7.30 pm • Creston Rec Centre • FREE
 Biologist Michael Proctor talks about grizzly bears in the Creston Valley

Elk Valley:

EcoGarden Summer Camp for Kids
 Two sessions • July 23 - 27 • August 6 - 10
 Kids + Dirt = Fun. For children aged 5 to 10.
 Summer day camps with music, drama, guests and gardening. Register at the Wildsight Elk Valley Branch Office. Visit www.EcoGarden.ca

EcoGarden Workshops:

Gathering & Herbal Preparations
 July 21 • 10 am - 4 pm • \$20 + \$10 Supplies
 Capture the medicinal powers of garden and wild plants. At White Spruce Farm, collect plant materials and prepare herbal remedies to take home. Meet at Wildsight Office.

Walk on the Wild

June 27 • 6.30 pm - 9 pm
 Walk through one of Fernie's wilderness parks to collect wild foods responsibly and identify both edible and non-edible plants. Meet at Wildsight Office.

Backyard Bike Tour

August 8 • 6.30 pm - 9 pm
 A fun bicycle tour to unique Fernie gardens. See how gardeners make it work in our Fernie climate. Meet at Wildsight Office.

We Can!

September 19 • 6.30 pm - 9 pm
 Community Centre Kitchen • \$10 + \$10 Supplies
 Examine food storage and preserving techniques such as dehydrating, freezing, and canning in this hands-on workshop. Something for everyone to take home.

Golden:

2nd Healthy Lawn & Garden Fair
 May 26 • 11 am - 4 pm • Golden Civic Centre
 Exhibits, vendors, live music and free workshops. Presented by Wildsight, supported by the Town of Golden and Canadian Cancer Society.

Nature's Wild Edible Foods Workshop

June 16 • 1 pm - 8 pm
 \$15 Wildsight members; \$20 non-members
 Join wild food expert Shanoon Leigh to collect plants on a nature walk; prepare them in Golden's Community Kitchen. Enjoy a Wild Foods feast! Register: Rachel@Wildsight.ca

Master Composting Workshop

June 23 • Details TBA
 Wildsight Golden supports the Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD) Master Composting Program. Get in-depth training on composting and become a certified CSRD Master Composter! Participants will be asked to volunteer in the community. Register: Rachel@Wildsight.ca

Invermere:

David Suzuki - The Challenge of the 21st Century: Setting the Bottomline
 June 1 • 7.30 pm • Invermere Community Hall
 Wine & cheese at 6:30 pm. Register online, www.Wildsight.ca. Tickets also available in Invermere, at The Book Bar and Circle Health.

Kimberley/Cranbrook:

The Apple Capture Project is back in Cranbrook!
 Got apples? We've got a fruit press and dehydrators you can use. Have fruit to share? Join our fruit share. Our Apple Capture Project will run in both Kimberley and Cranbrook this year. The fruit press, dehydrators and picking equipment are available for use by families, school classes and community groups. Visit www.Wildsight.ca/apples or call 250 427-2535.

Sustainable Landscaping Guide - Call for photos!
 We're putting together a Kimberley Sustainable Landscaping Guide this year and we'd love to include photos of your environmentally sustainable yard and garden. Please e-mail photos or a request for us to come and take one to KimCran@Wildsight.ca. We welcome local sustainable landscaping ideas for inclusion in the guide.



WE ARE WILDSIGHT.

We work for fresh air, clean water, healthy forests and safe surroundings. We work for wild creatures and wild places in B.C.'s Columbia and southern Rocky Mountain ranges—a global ecological hot spot that's unlike anywhere else on the planet. We work for a sustainable future so all of us—and all of our children—can live well in healthy ecosystems.



Scott Niedermayer:
GROWING UP WILD

NHL legend Scott Niedermayer has been around the world to play hockey, but his love of nature started along the shores of Joseph Creek, the waterway that runs through his hometown of Cranbrook.

"After school, I'd head down there with

my buddies," he says. "We rode our bikes and took our fishing rods. We spent so much time outside, just playing."

Hikes with his family to hidden lakes and impressive peaks gave Niedermayer and his brother, Rob, an early taste for backcountry adventure.

But it wasn't until Scott was drafted to the New Jersey Devils NHL hockey team - when he spent hours on buses gazing into garbage-littered ditches - that he began to appreciate how different his childhood was.

"When you live in a metropolitan area, you see what a large impact humans are having on this planet," he says.

"The air was brown. Here it's crystal clear."

Having a family of his own - he and his wife Lisa have four boys—further inspired him to "look beyond tomorrow,

and next week."

"I come here for the summers with my family," he says. "We camp in the same spots. In the winter, there is no better place to put on a pair of skates."

"I can't imagine growing up in a better way. To be hiking and fishing with the possibility that a grizzly could be walking along the shore."

Niedermayer supports Wildsight. He signed autographs during Wildsight's Downtown Goes Wild Earth Day event on April 21, and spoke about his experiences growing up in the mountains - hiking, camping, skiing and fishing - at Wildsight's Uptown Goes Wild event the same evening.

"This is a place where there is still an opportunity to let grizzly bears survive," Niedermayer said. "It's a worthy challenge. If you want to make a difference, contact Wildsight."

JUMBO WILD. NOW AND FOREVER.

Summer's here and grizzlies roam the avalanche chutes on the road to the Jumbo Valley.

Wildsight has worked to defend this key grizzly habitat for 25 years. And we aren't stopping now.

DONATE ONLINE AT: www.KeptWild.ca
Or, clip and send this form. For Jumbo Wild.



I would like to donate:

- \$25
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- \$100
- \$250
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Wildsight: 2-495 Wallinger Avenue, Kimberley, BC V1A 1Z6 - Phone 250.427.9325

Wildsight is a non-profit charitable organization. 134892496 RR0001. All donations greater than \$20 are tax deductible.