

WILD TIMES

SPRING 2013 | **FREE**

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



wildsight



GROW FOR IT THIS SPRING

Wildsight is excited to be building projects around edible gardening, food security and food sharing.

Based in Kimberley and Cranbrook, Jessica Windle is in her second year of finding ways to connect wannabe gardeners with bona fide gardeners, and celebrating solutions that work in our climate.

"So many people are engaged in gardening or wanting to get involved in it," she said. "But the region presents challenges, as well."

Challenges include rocky soils, a short growing season, urban deer and compost piles that attract bears like bees to honey.

"Because of the challenges," Windle said, "we're finding it's beneficial to focus on projects that bring people together, things like community gardens and community composting."

One of the most hopeful developments in the region is the interest in Permaculture.

"Permaculture is an approach to gardening, housing and energy systems that enhances the natural world and meets the

needs of people," Windle said. "It's about observing what happens in your yard over time and designing your garden, compost and watering systems around ease of use, functionality and low impact."

In addition to Permaculture, there is growing interest in native plants and heirloom seed saving.

"Every community in the area has local food systems projects on the go," Windle said. "Creston is known as a 'hot bed' of food production, but in Fernie, Wildsight's EcoGarden is a focal point, in Cranbrook, the Cranbrook Food Action Committee has developed a thriving Public Produce Garden, in Golden, we've been offering composting workshops and in Invermere, we admire the Community Greenhouse.

"Of course, in Kimberley, we've been working on several projects, including Apple Capture, tree pruning workshops, the Edible Garden Tour and the Grow For It conference, with some exciting new projects on the horizon."

To connect with a local gardening project, visit Wildsight.ca

Garden Info Galore

Visit Wildsight.ca to learn more about these projects.

APPLE CAPTURE

Apple Capture provides processing equipment to preserve the harvest.
Kimberley | Cranbrook | Fernie

SHARE A TREE OR GARDEN

Find yards to garden or gardeners for your yard. Ditto for trees to pick or pickers for your trees.
Kimberley | Cranbrook | Fernie

GROWING COMMUNITY

Growing Community honours the gardening knowledge of seniors in our community—and creates opportunities for other to learn from them.
Kimberley

FERNIE COMMUNITY ECOGARDEN

Community garden, Keeping Food Real Workshops, garden tours, seed swaps and more.
Fernie

PESTICIDE FREE KOOTENAYS

Your path to pesticide-free living begins here.
Online: PesticideFreeKootenays.ca



Wasfia Nazreen

When Bangladeshi human rights-activist, writer and neophyte climber Wasfia Nazreen contacted Wildsight member Pat Morrow about her ambition to climb the Seven Summits, little did she know she'd be hauling tires out of the Wilmer wetlands as part of her training regimen.

The 30-year old Wasfia launched *Bangladesh on Seven Summits* in 2011 to celebrate her country's 40th anniversary of independence, and her personal goal to raise awareness for women's equality. The campaign celebrates women's strength and progress over the last four decades and calls upon youth to take the country forward.

Climbing big, cold peaks is an ambitious goal for someone living in a hot climate at sea level, far from any mountain. That's why she decided to visit Pat last December for some training and acclimating to the cold before her expedition to Antarctica.

Pat had just the routine for her.

Over the last few years, Wildsight Invermere and its dedicated volunteers have removed more than 200 tires from the wetlands, but a couple dozen still needed to be skidded across the ice for pickup in spring. Wasfia was a willing hauler and joined in the project.

She went on to climb Antarctica's Mt. Vinson in January, and was glad of her acclimatization to Canada's cold. To follow Wasfia's climbs, and her goal of establishing a women's outdoor centre outside of Dacca, check out 'BangladeshOnSevenSummits' on Facebook.

To get involved in other Invermere Branch activities, please contact Invermere@Wildsight.ca.



Cori Gadowski's image of Jumbo Mountain was the winner of the Jumbo Photo Contest. The Jumbo Photo Contest was sponsored in part by Mountain Equipment Co-op, Kicking Horse Coffee and Beanpod Chocolate.

MANY VOICES UNITE TO MAKE A JUMBO NOISE

People from all walks of life joined together to rally on February 19 in Radium Hot Springs.

On this day, the Jumbo Glacier Mountain Resort Municipality was incorporated and an appointed mayor and council were sworn in. The new Jumbo Glacier Mountain Resort Municipality encompasses more than 61 square kilometres of wild lands.

The problem? This municipality has no residents. Although the mayor and two council members will be paid, (with a grant from the Province) they were appointed, not elected, and are in place to work with a resort developer in what has become one of Canada's longest land use debates.

The Jumbo Valley is at the centre of the proposed Jumbo Glacier Resort (JGR), a planned ski resort on four glaciers in this remote wilderness setting.

Despite opposition to the resort from the local population, First Nations groups, and biologists, the new municipality—which was put in place to facilitate a resort—was announced in November 2012.

The creation of such a municipality was possible only by a controversial change

to the Local Government Act made by B.C.'s government last May. By September, the Union of British Columbia Municipalities—a group of elected officials representing municipalities and regional districts around the province—issued a statement opposing the change.

Now, two other groups who oppose the development and the empty municipality have filed judicial reviews. First, the Ktunaxa Nation challenged the signing of the resort's Master Development Agreement with the Province, as the agreement did not take into consideration their Aboriginal Rights and Title to the area, known to them as Qat'muk.

Then, on February 18, the West Kootenay EcoSociety challenged that the Letters Patent of the new municipality violate the Canadian constitution by creating a municipality with no residents.

"It's so inspiring to see people coming together across B.C. to stand up for wild places and democracy," said Robyn Duncan, with Wildsight. "For more than 20 years, people have maintained an unwavering commitment to keeping Jumbo Wild."



Darren Copley

The newly discovered 'Ducati' spider - endemic to the Flathead.

Flathead BioBlitz Critters

Last August, a group of biologists got together in the Flathead River Valley for a BioBlitz—a seven-day survey of the area's rich biodiversity.

There were three entomologists, a botanist, a gastropod expert, a limnologist and an ornithologist. (In other words, three insect experts, a plant authority, a slug 'n' snail specialist, a freshwater scientist and a bird researcher.) The scientists came from the Royal B.C. Museum, Parks Canada and the American Bird Conservancy.

They found an endemic spider and ladybird beetle (unique and newly discovered), as well as 14 spider species of special concern, some of which have never been found in B.C. before.

One of the more exciting finds was trumpeter swans from a flock that had been re-introduced in the U.S.

The BioBlitz was so successful that plans are shaping up for another one in June, 2013.

The Flathead River Valley is a natural treasure in our own backyard - just one hour from Fernie, this pocket of wilderness is famous for its 'mega-fauna,' and is also home to a huge array of smaller critters - spiders, insects, fish and plants.

Learn more by joining the Friends of the Flathead! Visit Flathead.ca.

WILD EVENTS: WHAT, WHERE & WHEN?

Around the Region:

Canada Water Week
March 18 to 24 • Your favourite lake, river, stream or wetland
Join with thousands of Canadians and declare love for your favourite waterbody.
Visit CanadaWaterWeek.com

Creston Valley:

Film: Chasing Ice
March 12 • 7 pm • Rotacrest Hall • \$6
National Geographic photographer James Balog produces stunning cinematography of never-before-seen areas of the Arctic.

Creston Valley Bird Festival

May 10 to 11
Tours, art, photography and workshops!
A great family-friendly weekend. Info and registration at CrestonValleyBirds.ca

Golden:

Earth Day Potluck and Clean-Up
April 22 • 5 - 7 pm
Reflection Lake Wildlife Viewing Area
Bring bags, gloves, and a potluck dish, plate, cutlery and lawn chair. We'll supply hot drinks, wash water and binoculars for bird watching!

Film: Chasing Ice
April 25 • 7 pm
Visit Wildsight.ca in April for location details or contact Golden@Wildsight.ca.

Bird Watching Breakfast
May 16 • 7.30 - 9 am
Reflection Lake Wildlife Viewing Area
Join Ellen Zimmerman, Abby Watkins and Joan Dolinsky for some inspiring bird watching and a yummy breakfast. We'll bring the binoculars!

Kimberley | Cranbrook:

2013 Wood Stove Exchange
Starts March 1
\$250 rebate available to residents of Cranbrook, Kimberley and RDEK Rural Areas C and E. Contact Erna@Wildsight.ca or 250 427-9360 for details.

Grow For It: Local Food & Garden Forum
March 15 to 17 • Kimberley • Centre 64
A weekend jam-packed with inspiration for gardeners and lovers of food. Info? Visit Wildsight.ca/GrowForIt

Film: Clean Bin Project
April 11 • 7.30 pm • Cranbrook
COTR Lecture Hall • Admission by Donation
Help us kick off Cranbrook's Clean Bin Project! View the trailer at CleanBinMovie.com

Earth Day Celebration: Chasing Ice
April 19 • 7.30 pm • Kimberley • McKim Theatre
April 21 • 7.30 pm • Cranbrook • Key City Theatre
Admission by Donation

View film trailer at ChasingIce.com

Green Building Conference
May 10 and 11 • Kimberley
Kimberley Conference & Athlete Training Centre
Workshops, keynote speakers and Green Building Showcase.
Visit GreenBuildingConference.ca

Savvy Spring Workshops
We've got lots of hands-on demos and workshops to help Kimberley and Cranbrook become more sustainable this spring. Check out Wildsight.ca/KimCran for details.

Invermere:

Green Drinks Turns Blue: Canada Water Week
March 20 • 5.30 pm • The Station Pub
Join us for an informal get-together to celebrate Canada Water Week.

Presentation and Wildsight AGM
April 4 • David Thompson Secondary School
6.30 pm: Wildsight AGM
7.30 pm: Looking and Listening: Dark Skies and Quiet Spaces, presentation by Rogier Gruys from Jasper National Park.

Journaling With Your Camera Workshop
May 10 and 11 • Pynelogs Cultural Centre
Photo workshop with Pat Morrow as part of the 2013 Wings Over the Rockies Festival.
Visit WingsOvertheRockies.org.

Elk Valley:

Think Tank Cinema and Branch AGM
March 20 • Arts Station
5 pm: Branch AGM and Potluck
7 pm: Film - On the Line, a journey along the proposed northern gateway pipeline route.

Think Tank Cinema: Occupy Love
April 17 • 7 pm • Arts Station
View film trailer at OccupyLove.org

Earth Day Celebrations
April 22 • Community Hall
Seed Swap, Trash to Treasure, FreeCycle and Trashy But Flashy Fashion Show.

Wild Nature Tours: Fernie
Wildsight offers fun wilderness tours around Fernie. The perfect way to see the sights with naturalist guides and have an excuse to eat the gourmet snacks these tours are famous for! Visit WildNatureTours.ca or call 250.423.3322



))) DID YOU KNOW?

Wildsight.ca is updated almost every day. There's always something new to read and learn about our wild home.

WE ARE WILDSIGHT.

We support fresh air and clean water. We work for wild creatures and wild places in B.C.'s Columbia and southern Rocky Mountain ranges—a global ecological treasure that's unlike anywhere else on the planet. We promote ideas and create initiatives that maintain healthy ecosystems to benefit those who live now and the generations to come.



Learning About the Natural World

How does the natural world function - and why should we care?

Wildsight educators answer those questions every time they take Columbia Basin students on a field trip into the ecosystems that surround us, and every time they work with kids in the classroom to find ways to reduce, reuse and recycle.

"All of our programs support teachers in delivering science curriculum that is approved by the B.C. Ministry of Education," said Monica Nissen, Wildsight's Education in the Wild Program Manager. "The programs meet science learning outcomes for the grade levels we offer them to."

Wildsight education programs include Classroom With Outdoors, Winter Wonder and Beyond Recycling.

"Studying a local ecosystem, students learn about the diversity of living species," Nissen said. "It's a great introduction to discussions of how human society is supported by the processes of nature."

One teacher summed up Classroom With Outdoors: "The outing constitutes a valuable shared experience. It's like walking inside of the science textbook. I enjoyed watching the students interact with the science they had learned during the year."

Teachers can now sign up for a free Classroom With Outdoors field trip this May or June.

Visit Wildsight.ca/Education to book a trip.

CLEAN BIN Movie & Project Kick Off

April 11 • 7.30 pm • Cranbrook COTR Lecture Theatre

Tired of throwing out tons of useless packaging a year? Looking for some motivation—and a community of like-minded people?

Then don't miss the kick off of Cranbrook's Clean Bin Project—attend the Clean Bin Movie!

What is the Clean Bin Project?

"The first Clean Bin project started in Vancouver," said Skye McDougall, Wildsight's Cranbrook Sustainability Coordinator. "A young couple challenged each other to reduce consumption and waste for a year."

"The spirit of the project, and the

movie, is to find ways to move beyond our reliance on plastics and non-biodegradable, single-use items," McDougall said. "It's not about being 'holier-than-thou' in the garbage department—it has to be fun or it won't last long."

Wildsight's Clean Bin Project builds on the idea of turning the problems of waste into puzzles to solve.

"There's nothing wrong with a little friendly competition," said McDougall, who will be working with Cranbrook residents on Clean Bin throughout the year. "We're excited to see a community competition start up, and we'll be encouraging schools to get involved."

View the trailer at CleanBinMovie.com.

Get involved by contacting Skye@Wildsight.ca

WANT TO BE WILD FOREVER? WE WANT YOU TO BE TOO! A ONE TIME \$20 MEMBERSHIP WILL KEEP YOU WILD FOR LIFE!

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Kimberley/Cranbrook Invermere Golden
 Creston Valley Elk Valley No branch affiliation

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Phone 250.427.9325

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