Bowen Island Conservancy

2016 Annual General Meeting

26 November 2016

10:00 am

Today's agenda

- Announcements
  - Gillian Drake: BICS Class project at Fairy Fen
- Formal business meeting
- Coffee break
- Featured presentation: "*Is sustainability still an option or is it now a necessity?*"
  - Presented by Jae Mather, Carbon Free Group
- Closing remarks

Photos: courtesy of Leo Chan, Owen Plowman

Announcements

2016 AGM Formal Business

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of 2015 AGM minutes
- Report from the Chair
- Financial report
- Directors
- Other Business

Fairy Fen

Report from the Chair: 2016

- Peter Drake Trail
  - Official ceremony once additional work is done at the Fen

Fairy Fen

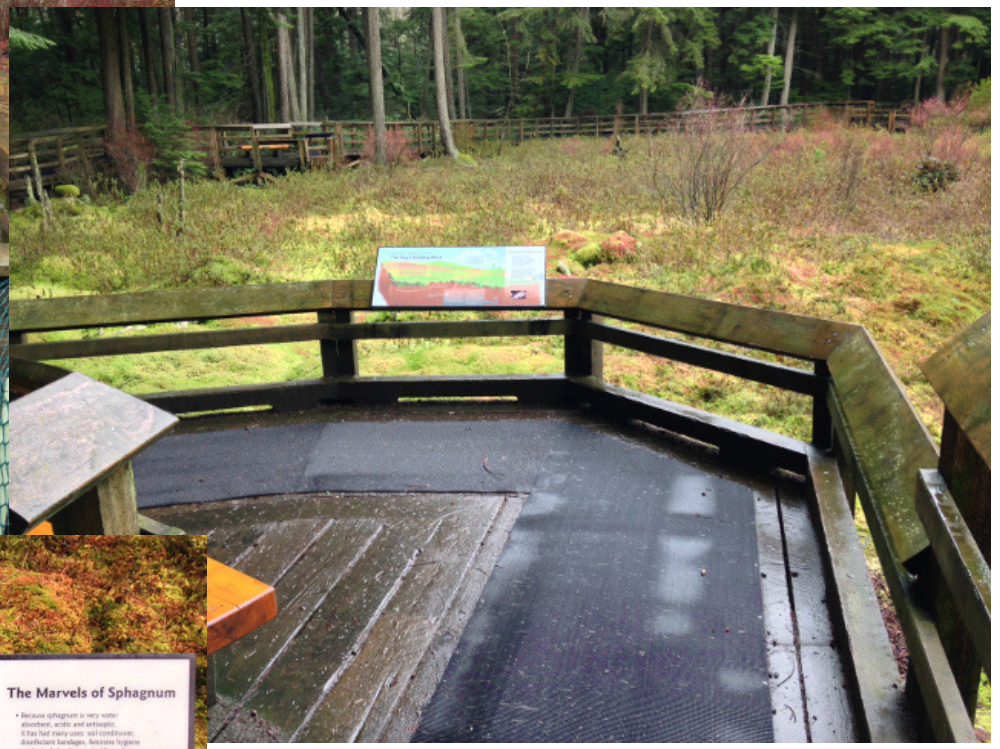
Report from the Chair: 2016

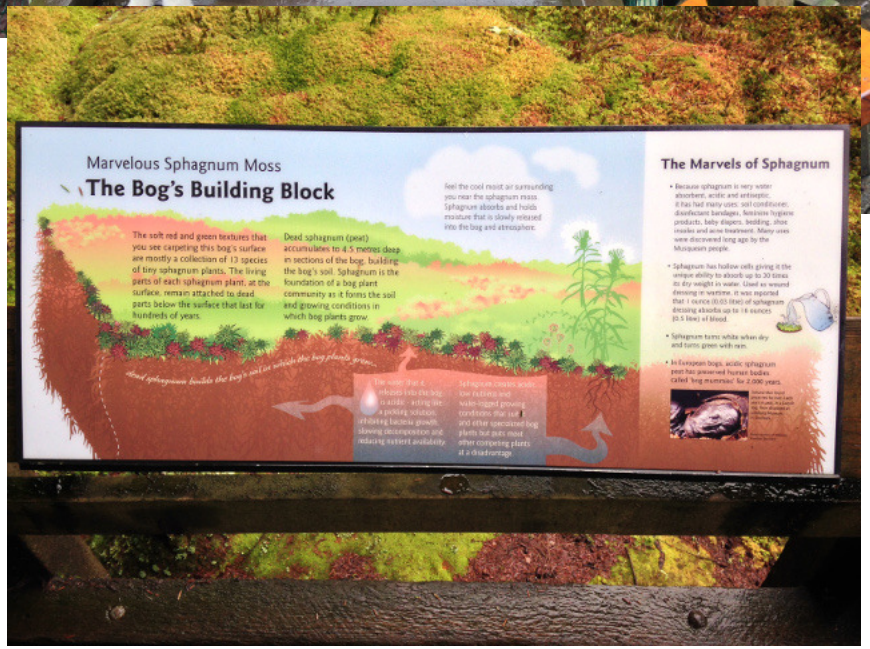
- ATV activity still low/ceased (for now): Crown Riders installed signs around the boundary

Fairy Fen

Report from the Chair: 2016

- Current project: viewing platform
  - Where to site it?
    - ITF funded project with Alan Whitehead
    - Decision made
  - What form should it take?
    - For action in 2017
    - Requires design and installation
    - We visited Camosun Bog in February 2016 to see what they have done




Marvelous Sphagnum Moss
The Bog's Building Block
The soft red and green textures that you see carpeting this bog's surface are mostly a collection of 13 species of tiny sphagnum plants. The living parts of each sphagnum plant, at the surface, remain attached to dead parts below the surface that last for hundreds of years.
Dead sphagnum (peat) accumulates to 4.5 metres deep in sections of the bog, building the bog's soil. Sphagnum is the foundation of a bog plant community as it forms the soil and growing conditions in which bog plants grow.
Feel the cool moist air surrounding you near the sphagnum moss. Sphagnum absorbs and holds moisture that is slowly released into the bog and atmosphere.
The Marvels of Sphagnum
• Because sphagnum is very water absorbent, acidic and antiseptic, it has had many uses: soil conditioner, disinfectant bandages, feminine hygiene products, baby diapers, bedding, shoe insoles and acne treatment. Many uses were discovered long ago by the Musqueam people.
• Sphagnum has hollow cells giving it the unique ability to absorb up to 20 times its dry weight in water. Used as wound dressing in wartime, it was reported that 1 ounce (0.03 liter) of sphagnum dressing absorbs up to 16 ounces (0.5 liter) of blood.
• Sphagnum turns white when dry and turns green with rain.
• In European bogs, acidic sphagnum peat has preserved human bodies. Called 'bog mummies' for 2,000 years.

Singing Woods

Report from the Chair: 2016

- ITF funded project to revise and update the Management Plan
- Work being done by Claudia Schaefer
- Open House to obtain community input
  - Wednesday, 30 November
  - 7:00 – 9:00 pm
  - The Snug

Islands Trust Fund

Report from the Chair: 2016

- We hosted ITF inspection visits to Fairy Fen, Singing Woods, and David Otter Nature Reserves
- Singing Woods and Fairy Fen: all is well
- David Otter: restoration work needed and underway

Forage Fish Program

Report from the Chair: 2016

- Goals : ***Document and Protect***

  - Sampling project undertaken by the Conservancy is complete
  - Sea Watch Society taking over (part of larger effort around Howe Sound and elsewhere)
  - Huge thanks to Anne Chollat (and Andre), Bob Turner, and Everhard van Lidth de Jeude

Forage Fish Program

Report from the Chair: 2016

- Sampling blitz held in August
- 11 beaches sampled
- 20+ volunteers, including children
- Opportunity to educate public already on the beaches (and receive thanks for the work)

Public Education

Report from the Chair: 2016

- February: 2015 UN Climate Change Conference
  - Merran Smith, Executive Director, Clean Energy Canada
- March: The Green Shores Initiative
  - DG Blair
- April: Squamish River Watershed Society
  - Randall Lewis, President
- November: The Great Howe Sound Recovery
  - Documentary films
  - Panel Discussion

Collaboration with Municipality

Report from the Chair: 2016

- Beach/marina/dock signage: BIC paid for signs, BIM paid for installation
  - Signs are up all over the Island

Collaboration with Municipality

Report from the Chair: 2016

- Bob's Knob: Protection, and view
  - Encroachment by tree/shrub growth)
  - Discussions underway

Other activities

Report from the Chair: 2015

- Attended Mayne Island Conference of local conservation organizations
- Attended Municipal Climate Action Reporting briefing
- We are on Facebook and Instagram
- Redesigned website

Outlook for 2017

- Fairy Fen
  - Viewing platform and bench
- Education activities
  - TBD
- Engagement with Council and Municipality (when appropriate)

Financial statements

Directors

- Leo Chan
- Ellen Coburn
- Allie Drake
- Owen Plowman (President)
- Nerys Poole (Secretary)
- Bob Turner
- Adrian van Lidth de Jeude
- Everhard van Lidth de Jeude (Treasurer)

- Coffee break

Today's Speaker

Jae Mather

- Director, Carbon Free Group

"*Is sustainability still an option or is it now a necessity?*"