

# Volunteers In Parks

**Feature:**  
Volunteer Photographs

**VIP Profile:**  
Bobby Arbess

**Staff Profile:**  
Todd Golumbia

**Volunteer &  
Park Updates**



Sea Anemone - Mary Sanseverino

## Photographs by People Passionate About Parks

By Colleen Long

For this issue we are featuring some of the wonderful photographs submitted by our volunteers, donors and partners over the last few years. We are so pleased with the high quality of the photos sent to us. As you can see, they are truly amazing!

We appreciate the photos you forward to us in emails and attach to your reports. We use them in communication materials, such as the website, brochures, annual report, interpretive signs, presentations, kiosks, and displays.

We are always looking for images of the special features in our parks, be it a hill top view, shimmering lake, or ocean panorama. We also appreciate photos of plants and animals in every season, from spring wildflowers and fall fungi, to summer marine life and winter birds. We like selfies too!

You are out in the parks because of your passion for the natural environment. So remember to pack your camera on your next outing and send in your shots! Thanks for your help sharing the natural beauty of our regional parks system.



Northern saw-whet owl - Ann Nightingale



Spider - Anna Fodchuk



Rufous hummingbird - Rick Leche



Fungi - ©Rich Mably



Lichen - Neil Boyle



Matheson Lake - Phil Petersen



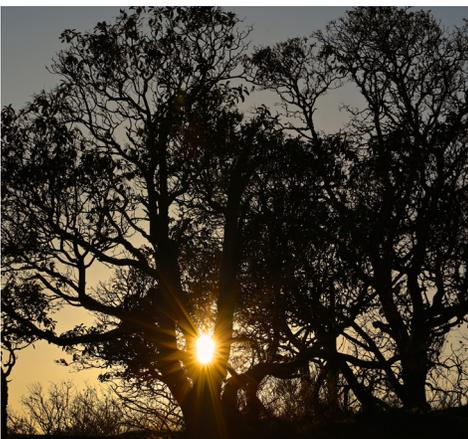
Galloping Goose - Bev Hall



Jordan River, Sandcut Beach - Gerald LeBlanc



Wildflowers - Hans Roemer



Mill Hill - Gordon Tolman



Blue-grey taildropper - Kristiina Ovaska



Young arbutus - Todd Carnahan



## VIP Profile

**B**obby Arbess is a naturalist at Francis/King Regional Park. He began volunteering with Regional Parks in April 2008.

### What do you enjoy most about volunteering?

Meeting so many people who come out with a real twinkle of interest and enthusiasm for nature and for learning, especially all those little naturalists and their parents, so keen to support their love of nature. That gives me hope that there will be another generation who will be reliable land stewards.

### What is your favourite volunteer experience or memory?

The day my son Mischa (pictured above) and I witnessed the honey bees swarming, with the Queen Bee leaving the hive and taking up a temporary station on a Garry oak branch immediately above the location of the observation hive. She was surrounded by a dense cluster of loyal workers the size of a football, just hanging on a branch, while her scouts went out to find a suitable hollow for a new hive. We had dozens of visitors with binoculars on the deck absolutely spellbound!

### What is your favourite park?

I love them all. Witty's Lagoon for the amazing vast, soft intertidal beach; Thetis Lake for the spring wildflower display on Seymour Hill; Mt. Wells for the satin flowers; and Francis/King for the splendid diversity of forest biomes, including the best remnants of giant, old-growth Douglas firs left in the region.

### Tell us a bit about yourself.

I spend most of my time outdoors, as a certified horticulturist, running my own landscaping company. I'm really into native plants, and grateful to be living in the beautiful Garry oak ecosystem of the traditional territory of the Lekwungen First Nations. I am determined to play my part in looking after it and passing the torch of environmental citizenship to the next generation.



## Staff Profile

**T**odd Golumbia is the Regional Parks Environmental Conservation Specialist. He began this role in September 2014.

### Where have you worked previously?

From the auspicious career of ski bum and fishing guide, I started my parks gig 33 years ago in Banff National Park as a seasonal Park Warden. From there I worked in several parks and sites in Western Canada as a Park Warden and ecologist. In 1993 I moved to Haida Gwaii and worked as the ecologist for Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve and Haida Heritage Site. In 2003 I relocated to participate in the establishment and operations of Gulf Islands National Park Reserve.

### What is your favourite park?

I don't favor one regional park but enjoy the system of parks and all it has to offer. All 30 parks have a role to play across the spectrum of nature conservation, recreation and just making the region overall, a better place to be.

### Where were you born and where have you lived?

I've lived in all four western provinces but I was born in a small town in northeastern Saskatchewan. My childhood home was a 10 minute bike ride from "the bush" and I enjoyed all seasons outside in nature. In my youth, I was able to live, work or explore in many regions of the province from the Frenchman River and the Qu'Appelle in the south to the Churchill River and Wollaston Lake in the North. My dream job was becoming the backcountry warden at Crean Station in Prince Albert National Park.

### Tell us a bit about yourself.

I love experiencing nature - hiking, paddling, skiing and biking. My wife Patty has been my adventure partner for almost 30 years and our kids (both Haida Gwaiians) re-invigorated our outdoor relationship with a whole new perspective (now I can't keep up!). When I'm not out and about, I enjoy reading, music, cooking and craft beer. As a life-long learner, I was recently certified in advanced bicycle mechanics and started playing both guitar and banjo which I find incredibly challenging!

# Volunteer & Park Updates



Orange-crowned warbler - Rick Leche

## Recruiting for Park Stewards

We are going to be starting a recruitment for Park Stewards shortly. If you know of anyone interested in the role, please have them contact Colleen Long at [clong@crd.bc.ca](mailto:clong@crd.bc.ca) or 250.360.3329. Below is a brief position description and the parks in need of Park Stewards. More details are at [crd.bc.ca/parks](http://crd.bc.ca/parks).

### Volunteer Park Stewards

- monitor regional parks, trails and facilities and report on observed problems, issues and trends;
- foster positive relationships and promote park protection with regional parks and trail visitors through information, education and professional role modelling;
- report problems and trends on Park Steward Activity Report;
- commitment of one year (renewable by mutual agreement);
- commitment to visiting designated regional park or regional trail once per week;
- submit Park Steward Activity Report weekly.

Regional Parks: Albert Head Lagoon, Devonian, East Sooke, Lone Tree Hill, Mt. Wells, Mt. Work, Witty's Lagoon.

Regional Trails: Galloping Goose and Lochside.

## Continuing Education Session

Thanks to all who attended the recent session on Coast Salish Burial Cairns and Archaeological Landscapes. We had a great outing with Dr. Mathews at Witty's Lagoon (Tower Point) and learned a great deal about Coast Salish burial practices and their culture. There was a lot of positive feedback regarding the session. We plan on having a second session in September as we ran out of time and were not able to get to all of the sites. Further details about the session will be in the summer Volunteer in Parks newsletter.

Our spring Volunteer Continuing Education Session will be a bird outing being led by David Allinson, a local birder. All levels of birders are welcome to attend, from beginners to seasoned bird watchers. For those new to birding, we do have binoculars and field guides that you can use for the session. Details are still being confirmed. The session is planned to take place near the end of April, or early May, during the spring bird migration. There will be a poster out shortly with more details.

## Park Artist-in-Residence

If you did not get a chance to take in an open house, open studio or workshop hosted by Artist-in-Residence Joanne Thomson during the pilot volunteer project at Francis/King in February and March, you can view her park-inspired artwork at [joannethomson.com](http://joannethomson.com). Stories about the project ran on Shaw TV Go Island, CTV Vancouver Island's Go Play Outside and in the Saanich News, all of which you can view online. The pilot is now over and staff are evaluating it to determine if the program will run again in the future.



Skull Study (left); Early Spring Violets in Mason Jar (right) - Joanne Thomson