

Morrell Sanctuary Society Newsletter



Produced by:
Carol Lefevre

President's Message

Well, there goes 2020, thank goodness that year has hit the history books.

There is a light going forward in 2021. By this time most everyone has gotten use to wearing a mask while going into public places and keeping their distance. At least we have the Morrell Nature Sanctuary to walk in to destress, this also has added increase congestion in the parking lot. As for 2021, we do see a light, but it is very dim, a few educational school programs have been booked for the spring, but I don't expect to have the volume as in past years. Unfortunately, we also had to postpone our plant sale until next year as well.

We do have some good news; we would like to thank the Costal Community Credit Union for their generous grant of \$3000.00. The funds will be used for the Yew Loop improvement. The railings and the condition of the trail need the improvement.

We have also applied for Government funding through the "Summer Jobs Grant", hopefully, we will receive it, and our summer camp can be up in running this year.

Also, I would like to thank the general public and members who have generously donated funds to help the Morrell Nature Sanctuary. As you can see when walking the trails, the funds have been put to good use, large new trail maps, and new styles to help keep bikes off the trails.

Stay safe, and we will get through this.

Bob Harvey
President

Thank You to

Coastal Community Credit Union



Presentation of cheque to our Treasurer Val Booth from CCCU from their relief and resiliency fund.

Thank you so very much to Coastal Community Credit Union for supporting Morrell Sanctuary in our efforts to improve the Yew Loop.

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Part-time Bookkeeper Needed

Average of 2-4 hours weekly or bi-weekly depending on workload, to be completed on site at the Morrell Sanctuary Society office, ideally on Thursday mornings. This position reports to the Treasurer and works closely with the Office Manager.

Bookkeeping software: SAGE 50, manual payroll for one employee (and additional seasonal workers).

The bookkeeper will also be responsible for:

- Recording all transactions and maintaining records for annual audits.
- Preparing cheques, and ensuring bills are paid in a timely manner.
- Banking duties including preparing deposits, bringing deposits to the bank, bill payments through the teller, and more. Monthly bank reconciliation with hard copy statements.
- Preparing financial reports for monthly Board meetings
- GST return filing for non-profit, T4 preparation, and other government forms.
- Other duties, as necessary.

Experience with bookkeeping for non-profit organizations specifically is valuable. Must be able to work independently and manage your time and duties efficiently.



Please submit your resume to: morrell@shawbiz.ca
or apply at the office in person.

Our Board Members



From left to right...

Randy Milligan, Family Representative
Val Booth, Treasurer
Harry Adcock, Vice President
Bob Harvey (Front), President
Josef Baur, Director
Helen Harvey, Director
John Anderson, Secretary
Susan Haslam, Director
Daniel Haslam, Director
Lance Nordstrom, Director
Barrie Page (not present), Director

Office Hours

Office Hours:

Sunday	10:00 AM – 1:00 PM (Last Sunday of the month closed)
Monday	10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Tuesday	CLOSED
Wednesday	11:00 AM – 2:00 PM (3rd Wed of month 9:00AM-12:00PM)
Thursday	9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Friday	CLOSED
Saturday	CLOSED

The Pine Marten

The marten, or pine marten, is a weasel like animal that is dark brown to blond in colour with a paler head and underparts. The tail is long and bushy; the ears pointed and small. Average weight is 1-4 pounds.



Photo by Dori Blackie on Beaver Pond Trail

The pine marten is elusive and hard to spot, they are aggressive predators and make a huffing or growling noise in defense. Unlike many mammals, pine martens do not hibernate through winter as they are able to stay warm thanks to their thick fur. Their feet are also covered with fur which enables them to survive in snowy conditions.

Pine martens feed on fruit, fungi, insects, small rodents – such as mice and squirrels – and bird eggs. Most of their food is found on the ground, despite being strong climbers.

The pine marten is vulnerable to predation from raptors and other carnivores. In deciduous forests in British Columbia, they are hunted primarily by raptors such as owls and eagles.

Next time you are hiking the near the beaver pond, if you're quiet and have a sharp eye, you may be lucky enough to see one!



In April, 2-4 young are born blind in a leaf nest. Weaning occurs at 42 days. The young emerge from dens at about 50 days.

Thank You for the donations!

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

To preserve and promote the essential character of Morrell Sanctuary's evolving ecosystem as a model of co-existence and as a source of information, inspiration, understanding, awareness, and the enjoyment of nature.

- John Anderson
- Bill Beese
- Dori Blackie
- Valerie Booth
- Richard Cabell
- Lynn Garry Craig
- Eric Demers & Karen Barry
- Andres Enrich
- Isabelle Ferguson
- Stewart Fee
- Ann Glassford
- Dave & Maureen Kirk (*Monthly Donors*)
- Hitomi Kimura
- Evelyn Lepin
- Craig McCarthy
- Lance Nordstrom
- Carol Pelletier
- Will Petricko & Russ Haggerty (*Monthly Donors*)
- Kristin Rongve

ALDER HAIR ICE

One of the precursors of winter in our woodlands is the fluffy cotton candy like extrusions on old alder logs and branches. These look very much like a dense white mold growing on the logs. Many people assume they are an unusual transitory fungus, but close inspection reveals that is not the case. If you breathe on them, they melt right away. They are neither unusual nor a fungus, but they are transitory. The reason they appear to be rare is due to the fact that they only develop under very specific weather conditions, and soon fade away when these conditions do.

They appear overnight on old red alder logs and branches from which the bark has split away, exposing the underlying wood. The night, and the previous day must, however, satisfy specific weather conditions. During the day it must be humid and cool so that the wood is saturated with water. The temperature overnight must drop below freezing. If the day is already freezing, they will not form. If the ground temperature does not drop below freezing, they will not form. No wonder this process seems so mysterious. You go for a walk one damp autumn day, and everything looks as it has every damp day previously. Then you go for a walk the next morning and there is all this funny looking white stuff. You come back from your hike at the end of the day and it has all disappeared.



Once the freeze-thaw relationship becomes apparent then the explanation seems quite apparent also. It is associated with the wood of deciduous trees, but it is not common. On our coast, in contrast, it is common, but only on red alder.

In 2015 German and Swiss scientist has indicated that hair ice is produced inside wood by the actions of the *Exidiopsis effusa* jelly fungus.

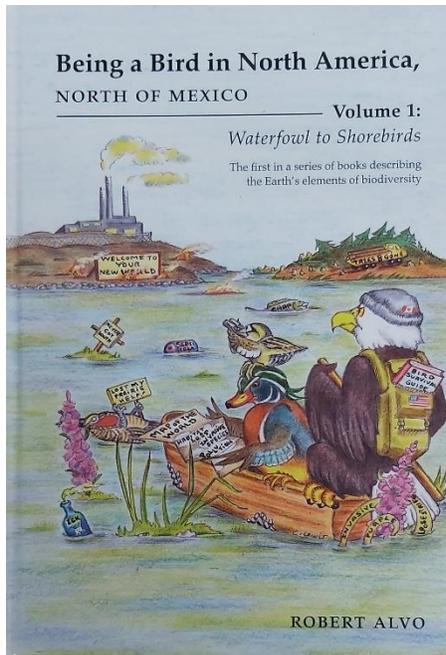


It is created on dead wood where a certain type of fungus, called *Exidiopsis effusa*, is found. The fungus causes the moisture from the wood to freeze in a specific way, forming hair-like ice crystals. This only occurs during humid, cold spells when the temperature dips just below zero Celsius. Each hair-like ice crystal is no more than 0.02 mm in diameter.

Written by: Bob Harvey



Being a Bird in North America



We currently have this hardcover book available to purchase in the office. It retails for \$44.95 in stores however we are offering it to you for \$20.00.

This book is intended for a wide audience which includes, birders, nature lovers, those interested in conservation or people who simply enjoy humor. Each species page is a lesson and can be used for classes in environmental studies.

The book includes:

- Nature and Life/Biodiversity
- Geographical Scope
- Cartoon Pictures
- Photographs
- Shore birds
- Raptors
- Waterfowl
- Loons
- Marsh birds
- And more

Trail Maintenance

Although our usual gatherings have been cancelled, a few volunteers are still doing trail maintenance, alone or with a co-worker, not only because they want the fresh air and exercise. They are trying to keep the Sanctuary trails safe for the hordes of citizens who are visiting daily with their dogs, children, families or alone, to keep their sanity during this somewhat trying period.

Unfortunately, as is now the case in all outdoor spaces, the Sanctuary grounds are getting worn down quicker than we can repair the consequences of so much foot traffic. On a brighter note, we recently received a \$3,000 grant from Coastal Community Credit Union for remedial work to be done on the Yew Loop trail, which is always popular with young children, wheelchairs and seniors with mobility issues. Besides keeping trails and roads safe and free of debris and fallen trees, a few persistent volunteers have continued with the removal of invasive plants. More noticeable accomplishments might be the transplanting of ferns to the barren area that was created when Nature Trust worked on rerouting water run-off from Morrell lake dam. The crews have now finished installing stiles on Deer Fern trail at the hydro access road as well as the north and south ends of the Lake Trail, to prevent bicycles from using vulnerable trails. Bicycles are permitted to travel only on the hydro access road, the fire lane and the Alder trail.

I want to thank all those enthusiastic volunteers who keep working to ensure our Sanctuary is a safe and welcoming haven for all to enjoy.

Val Booth
Trail Maintenance Co-ordinator