

BCWF WETLANDKEEPERS PROMOTE CONSERVATION AND AMPHIBIAN HABITAT IN LARSON CREEK WETLAND

Wetlandkeepers Course: May 29th -31st, Horseshoe Bay



Julie Micksch teaches compass use

BC Wildlife Federation's Wetlands Program celebrated a dynamic Wetlandkeepers Program revitalization last month with the commencement of its Sea to Sky Series of Wetlandkeepers Courses, launching the first of the series of eight workshops in Horseshoe Bay, West Vancouver. This Course was the first of many to raise awareness and educate community members about wetland restoration, conservation and stewardship in a time of fast development along the Sea to Sky Corridor.

Funded by RBC Blue Water Project, Vancity Community Project Grants, Canadian Wildlife Federation and the North Shore Wetland Partners, participants from West Vancouver, Squamish, Bowen Island and even Bainbridge Island, Seattle came out for a weekend of wetland exploration and education. BCWF is BC's oldest and largest conservation organization, with a network of 130 clubs and thousands of members and has been running the Wetlands Program since 1996.

Expert instructor biologists and ecologists such as Michele Jones, Julie Micksch and Elke Wind led the 22 participants on trips to Larson Creek Wetland to learn wetland mapping and compass use, plant identification techniques and an amphibian surveying segment where a Red-legged Frog was spotted! The Red-legged Frog is nationally listed as Special Concern by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada.

Next steps for BCWF's involvement in the Larson Creek Wetland will be a preliminary inventory of the plants and wildlife in the area and a Puddle Project Course next year to teach community members about GPS use and how to map a wetland for online purposes! An environmentally sensitive habitat such as this needs to be accurately mapped and monitored so conservation needs can be identified and protected for the future.



We found a Redback Salamander!

Look for BCWF when we return to Larson Creek Wetland next year for a Puddle Project, you can also get involved in other upcoming Wetlandkeepers Courses in Whistler and Squamish. Email the Wetlands Coordinator at wetlands@bcwf.bc.ca and check out our website for other events <http://www.bcdf.bc.ca/programs/wetlands/>. Watch for us in a wetland near you!