

**Elders Council for Parks in British Columbia: Elders Gathering Field Trips
May 27-28, 2006**

Please Note: These trips will only occur if we receive an early expression of interest in them. Please fill out your Elders Gathering registration form and return it before March 31, 2006.

“After the Fire” Slide Show

Friday, May 26, 7:00 -8:30 pm

Harold Baumbrough, a retired science teacher, has been monitoring the progress of regrowth on a 10-ha area in fire zone near his home north of Naramata since late Fall 2003. His observations and research provide fascinating data and in some cases startling departures from previous knowledge about succession and plant behaviour after such ‘stand-replacing’ fires.

Location: Penticton Lakeside Resort

Cost: FREE

“After the Fire” Field Trip

Saturday, May 27, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm

Mr. Baumbrough will lead a field trip into the monitoring area. The trip involves hiking over somewhat rough ground on hilly terrain, and participants need to be in reasonable physical condition.

Location to meet: leave from Penticton Lakeside Resort lobby

Participants: max. 20

Transportation: carpooling

Cost: \$5 per person for car pooling

Early Morning Birding

Saturday, May 27, 6:30 – 8:30 am

Check out migrating and resident birds with expert local leaders at Okanagan Lake waterfront, Penticton; Sunoka Provincial Park and Agriculture Canada Research Station, Summerland; and Trans-Canada Trail (Kettle Valley Rail right-of-way), Penticton.

Location to meet: leave from Lakeside Resort lobby

Participants: max 20 per group

Transportation: carpooling

Cost: \$2 per person for car pooling

McIntyre Bluff Hike and Nature Study

Saturday, May 27, 8:30 am - 2:00 pm

Hike with local naturalist and birder, Eva Durance, in one of the most beautiful areas of the South Okanagan with a panoramic view of the valley at the top to enjoy over lunch. The Bluff is now part of White Lake Provincial Park. Must be in good physical shape; hike about 2.5 hrs each way with 3-4 short, but fairly steep sections.

Location to meet: leave from Lakeside Resort lobby

Participants: max. 15

Transportation: carpooling

Cost: \$5 per person for car pooling

Osoyoos Desert Centre and Nk'mip Desert Cultural Centre tours

Saturday, May 27, 8:00 am- 2:00 pm

Visit South Okanagan desert interpretive centres for a ground-level view of the unique ecology of Canada's only desert and the Okanagan People who have lived on this land for thousands of years. The Osoyoos Centre is an interpretive and research centre with guided tours on their 1.5-km boardwalk through the shrub grasslands that characterize the area. The Nk'mip Centre combines ecology and culture through interactive displays, guided/self-guided interpretive walks and research programs. Websites: www.desert.org and www.nkmipdesert.com.

Location to meet: Leave from the Lakeside Resort lobby.

Transportation: bus or carpooling

Cost: \$20/person

Hike to Unusual Pictograph Site

Saturday, May 27, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 pm

Sherri Klein, head of the South Okanagan Rehab Centre for Owls, will lead a hike through protected land east of Skaha Lake to an unusual and pristine pre-historic pictograph panel protected by its location in a cave. The hike is a relatively short, but steady uphill climb of about 200 m with magnificent views over the valley.

Location to meet: leave from Lakeside Resort lobby

Participants: max. 10

Transportation: carpooling

Cost: \$42/person

Turnbull Creek Hike and Winery Lunch

Saturday, May 27, 9:30 am - 1:30 pm

Enjoy a scenic walk along the Kettle Valley Railway trail with naturalists, Jim and Anne Ginns. View spring wildflowers, bluebirds, and rare Nuttall's cottontail rabbits as you look over the orchards and grassland hills. The loop walk follows the KVR and trail to Turnbull Creek, with some uneven terrain and uphill sections. Return to Hillside Estate winery for lunch and wine tasting.

Location: Leave from the Lakeside Resort lobby.

Participants: max. 20

Transportation: carpooling

Cost: \$20/person; included lunch

Tour of Proposed South Okanagan National Park Reserve

Sunday, May 28, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

This tour will provide participants with an overview of the emerging proposed South Okanagan national park reserve. The bus tour will allow for discussion with knowledgeable local proponents of the objectives, values, and management and other issues involved in this proposed National Park.

The tour will also include a visit on the return trip to Penticton to the South Okanagan Rehab Centre for Owls (SORCO). Sherri Klein, founder and manager, will talk about the Centre's work and provide as much of a facilities tour as possible depending on what birds are in care. A gift shop is on site as well.

Location to meet: Leave from the Lakeside Resort lobby.

Transportation: bus

Costs: \$30/person; includes lunch

Self-Guided Opportunities

- The historic, restored SS. Sicamous paddlewheeler and SS. Naramata tugboat on the Okanagan Lake waterfront, Penticton, an easy walk from the Lakeside Resort and other nearby accommodations
- Mountain bike (or walk from various access points) the Kettle Valley Railway right-of-way (now the Trans-Canada Trail) from Penticton to Naramata and beyond to the historic rock ovens or from Penticton to the Trout Creek trestle
- Bike the dike: the International Trail, from north of Oliver to Osoyoos Lake
- Road cycle to Okanagan Falls and back on the old Kettle Valley Railway bed one way and Eastside Road the other
- Visit the Summerland Research Station ornamental and xerscape gardens
- Visit the Native Plant Demonstration Garden at Okanagan College, Penticton
- Winery tours – plenty of choices
- Golf courses – plenty of choices