

NATUREWILD

Magazine for the NATUREKIDS of British Columbia | Summer 2017

- Fire in the forest
- The Dinosaurs of Tumbler Ridge
UNESCO Global Geopark



Take
a look
INSIDE!

INSIDE...

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QUESTIONS?
COMMENTS?



Explore Nature...

My favourite part of being a co-leader of **NatureKIDS BC** (Vancouver) is sharing the moments of wonder, excitement, engagement, and fun that happen when families come together in the outdoors.

It is so rewarding to explore nature through all our senses; the lightness of a songbird in hand, the smells and textures of fungi, the sight of bees with pollen pants, the crackle of a fire, the flavour of a fern, and the nighttime calls of owls. It is a delight to learn all these ways from the Nature Mentors who are such amazing and generous knowledge sharers.

Leslie Bol, **NatureKIDS BC** Director, co-leader NKBC Vancouver and wildlife biologist.

photo: Leslie Bol and Vancouver club members looking at aquatic insects in Strathcona Park, Vancouver



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NatureKIDS BC is **THE** club for children and families who love to be outdoors. Members discover nature on Explorer Days organized by volunteer leaders and guided by experts, participate in stewardship projects, earn Action Awards and receive **NATUREWILD** magazine 4 times a year.

Come join us! Family membership: \$25 per year. Schools membership: \$45 per year. Or subscribe to **NATUREWILD** magazine: \$20 for 4 issues per year. For more information and to sign up online go to: naturekidsbc.ca

Thank you to our sponsors and supporters who share our vision that all children be connected with nature.



This project was undertaken with the financial support of:
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada

vancouver
foundation

Elders Council for Parks



Y.P. HEUNG
FOUNDATION

The Gosling Foundation



We acknowledge the financial assistance of the
Province of British Columbia

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Paper for **NATUREWILD** is sustainably sourced and printed by Benwell Atkins an RR Donnelley Company, Vancouver. Please share NatureWILD with others and give it to your school when you are finished.

Front Cover photo: Fire: USDagov, CC. inset Images: Teeth: US Fish and Wildlife Service, CC
• Fire ants on apple slice: Sean McCann, B.C. • Cross Orb-weaver Spider: Rob Alexander, B.C.

Volume 18 Issue 2, 2017

ISSN: 1492-7241

Get Close To A Grizzly Bear

The last issue of **NatureWILD** was mostly about bears, including the Grizzly Bears that live in the rainforest and other places in BC. I think we would all like to see a Grizzly Bear up close, but that would not be a safe thing to do! If you COULD see a bear up close this is what you'd see.

Claws

The Grizzly has five fearsome claws on each paw. The claws can be as long as 12 cm (about the length of your hand from wrist to fingertip and as thick as this circle. The Grizzly uses its claws to dig up shrubs, rip open logs to dig out bees, and dig large dens.

2.5cm

Teeth

The Grizzly eats meat, but also berries, grass, and insects. It has long tearing teeth in front and chewing teeth at the back. The fangs may be as much as 8 cm long.

Hump

The large hump on the Grizzly's shoulder is mostly muscle and gives the Grizzly terrific digging power.

Eyes, Ears & Nose

The Grizzly doesn't have very good eyesight, not much better than a human, but it has an excellent sense of smell to help it find food, whether it is live prey, dead animals or berries. Its short round ears are good at hearing prey that is moving around.

Fur

The Grizzly's fur is very thick and keeps it warm, as well as protecting it from insects and accidents. The tips of its hairs are white or silver giving it a greyish or 'grizzled' look, which gives the Grizzly its name.

Protect Grizzly Bears!

Grizzly Bears lived in British Columbia long before people came, yet people are harming these magnificent animals. It is up to all of us to protect Grizzly Bears and make sure that they will go on being able to live, strong and healthy, in our province. **To learn more about how to protect Grizzly Bears go to** <https://grizzlybearfoundation.com/> OR <https://www.raincoast.org/projects/grizzly-bears/>

NOT WANTED

Myrmica rubra
AKA European Fire Ant



THIS ANT IS ARMED AND DANGEROUS.
DO **NOT** APPROACH BUT REPORT TO
<http://www.bcinvasives.ca/>

By order: BC Invasive Species
Council of BC

By Brian Herrin, Sue Staniforth, Sean McCann
and Dr. R. Higgins - All photos by Sean McCann

Fire ant feeding on leaf



The European **fire ant** is a small red to brownish-red ant that can be identified by its two waist segments and the two backward pointing spines (which you can see with a magnifying glass).

Almost all of our native ants have only one waist segment and are more often totally black with no stinger visible.

Most ants in BC are fascinating neighbours to watch, but these fierce little invaders with stingers can create a lot of havoc if you run across them or step on their 'turf'.

Fire ants sting



Fire ants can both bite and sting. They first bite to anchor themselves and then insert their long sting and begin to pump venom. The venom is said to first burn and then itch, as it produces little red bumps filled with liquid. The stinging and swelling may last up to two weeks.

Once disturbed by humans or animals, fire ants will attack by swarming and an attack can be very dangerous. Some rare victims are very sensitive and can go into anaphylactic shock. They must be treated quickly.

Fire ant nests are hard to find. They prefer to nest in damp or wet environments alongside the roots of trees or shrubs, in

rotting wood and under rocks and paving blocks. They can even settle into a well-watered lawn! Being very aggressive, they eat many types of insects and other invertebrates.

Fire ants meeting



If you want to see if there are fire ants in your garden, put out a chunk of sweet apple and see who comes to feed on it.

Once a queen, with her colony, finds a good spot and becomes established she will begin to produce extra queens who set off with a few workers to begin new colonies near the original nest. This can make an area unsafe as the ants can have many nests close together and their aggressive manner chases other animals away.

Fire Ants are not common yet but once they get established they can take over a large area with many nests close together.

The first defense against fire ants moving into your yard is to know how to avoid them. Here are a few tips.

- 1** When buying bagged potting soil, ask where it comes from. Use local BC sources only to avoid importing unknown invasive species into your yard.
- 2** Properly store and dispose of any food or waste.
- 3** Make sure any rotting garden debris is not left sitting in moist areas.
- 4** When buying or receiving potted plants, bang them gently on a hard surface and look for any ant activity from the soil.

**Because fire ants like dampness,
keep your yard clean and dry.**

In BC, **fire ants** were first reported in 2011 in North Vancouver, but upon investigation they were also found in the Lower Mainland, including the Fraser Valley, and southern Vancouver Island. Biologists think they were brought to our continent in plants with soil attached. Once they found a home in North America they rapidly became pests and began expanding their territory.



Fire In The Forest

By **Matthew Solecki** Forest fire fighter, BC Wildfire Service.

A fire in the forest can be one of the fastest moving, most destructive and unpredictable forces in the natural world, as I've seen many times with the BC Wildfire Service.

Speed On the first fire I ever worked on for BC Wildfire I saw just how fast a fire can grow. It was very hot and dry, so we flew by helicopter to get to the fire as quickly as possible. On arrival, the fire was about the size of a bonfire and we circled around to get a good look and plan our attack. After the first circuit it had tripled in size. After the second circuit it had again tripled in size and was reaching up into the tops of the trees. By the time we had flown around it a third time it was half the size of a city block and its sparks had started another fire 100 metres away. It had taken less than 10 minutes for the fire to grow out of control and start a completely separate fire!



1) Wildfire races up hill

2) Firefighters build a fire break.



Heat Another time I saw how hot a wildfire can burn. My crew was following a Structural Protection Unit (SPU) onto a fire. Our job was to clean up any remaining fire around a set of cabins near a lake. The SPU had managed to protect the cabins closest to the lake but there was nothing left of a shed further from the safety of the water except its tin roof, which had gone through such intense heat that it had melted into a puddle on the ground.

Power On a third event I was struck by the power of a wildfire when I worked near the centre of a massive burn. From the top of a hill all I could see was a wasteland that stretched as far as the eye could see in every direction. The fire had been so hot that even the dark organic soil had been burned away, leaving nothing but sterile dirt and minerals covered by a layer of ash nearly a foot deep. The forest was now a dead silent place that smelled of cold smoke. The only sounds were the wind and the thump of branchless, blackened trees striking the ground as the remaining embers ate away at the last of their roots.



3) A burned forest is a dead silent place smelling of cold smoke

Wildfires that burn as hot and as fast as these fires can be an unstoppable force, leaving nothing in their wake. They burn so fast nothing can escape them. They cause the deaths of countless animals and destroy thousands of hectares of habitat.

At the same time, for all the destruction they cause, wildfires have been a part of the natural cycle for as long as there have been forests. Fires clean the forest floor, getting rid of dead trees that can build up to the point where travel becomes difficult for larger animals. Smaller fires clean out weak and unhealthy trees and small brush, allowing larger, healthier trees to continue growing with less competition. Some species of pine have even evolved to use wildfire to spread their seeds. Their cones will only open after having been exposed to fire. The young pine trees that grow from these newly - opened cones can now spread throughout the newly cleared space.



4) The forest starts to come back.

We're all taught that fire is dangerous, yet in BC every year there are about 700 forest fires. Of these forest fires, 40 out of every 100 are caused by humans. Forest fires put people, firefighters, and animals in danger.



5) Life finds a way!

Even the largest and most intense wildfire doesn't leave the land barren for long. Mushrooms and many-seeded plants such as Fireweed can flood the area within months. Fast growing species of trees rush in and take over. Life finds a way!

Warning

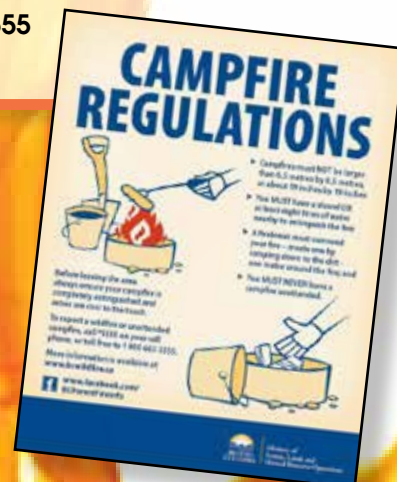
WILDFIRES can grow quickly and unpredictably. When you go hiking or camping in the forest, check if there are any fire bans during the summer camping season.

When fires do occur the best thing you can do is leave the area and report the fire to

**BC Wildfire Service at 1-800-663-5555
or *5555 on your cell phone.**



Keep your campfire small. Douse completely if you leave your campsite and follow regulations.



Matthew Solecki grew up on a ranch in the Bulkley Valley area, North Central, BC. He has worked five summers as a fire fighter for BC Wildfire Service and currently holds the position of Initial Attack Crew Leader.

Who loves DINOSAURS more about them?



1.

Replica of Acrocanthosaurus found in Tumbler Ridge area

Did you know that one of the best places to find out about dinosaurs is right here in British Columbia?

Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark!

Tumbler Ridge lies on the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains where they cut through north-eastern British Columbia. Most of the rocks are sedimentary – this means that the rocks are in layers, put down as sand and mud by water and wind, and are often smooth. These layers trapped the tracks and skeletons of the creatures that lived there millions of years ago, leaving them where we can find them – if we are lucky!

And luck DID happen – in Tumbler Ridge, where my family and I live!

In the year 2000 my son Daniel (8) and his friend Mark (11) were tubing down some rapids close to town. They fell off their tube, and decided to have another try. As they were walking back up the rock layers beside the creek they saw dinosaur footprints. They reported their find which turned out to be the long

and important trackway of an **ankylosaur** (armoured dinosaur). Daniel and Mark became quite famous!

Soon after, we brought palaeontologists (scientists who study fossils) to the site. They found a piece of bone about 93 million years old close to the tracks – only the second dinosaur bone ever found in BC.

Since then scientists, visitors and the people of Tumbler Ridge have discovered many more dinosaur tracks, including the only known tyrannosaur trackways in the world (probably made by **Albertosaurus** which lived a few million years before **Tyrannosaurus rex**). We found three parallel trackways, proving for the first time that tyrannosaurs travelled in groups, so our scientists call them “A Terror of Tyrannosaurs”!

Indeed, can you imagine anything more terrifying than meeting a whole group of tyrannosaurs!



3.

Baby Liam in Tyrannosaur print

Tyrannosaur footprints were LARGE!

2.

Daniel and Mark with tracks they found in 2000



8

Dinosaur Trackways:

In Tumbler Ridge most of the dinosaurs

Theropods: Carnivores that move sizes from huge tyrannosaurs to tiny birds. Most of theropods, as are all the other species.

Some Tumbler Ridge fossil bird trackways some are even new to science.

Ankylosaurs: Lumbering plant-eaters but their heavy armour protected them. Some had big clubs at the end of the tail.

Ornithopods: Plant-eating dinosaurs. They too varied from very small to very large.

Sauropods: These were the dinosaurs that would have weighed as much as a house.

4.

Carina Helm with fossil of



How did Daniel and Mark know they found dinosaur tracks?

Daniel and Mark were already very keen on dinosaurs. They had

eyes and knew what to

and patterns in the rocks to look for. And some adults did not believe them but the boys were right!

In fact, kids are some of the best at finding dinosaur ‘clues’ because of their sharp eyes and because those eyes are closer to the ground.

What to do if you do find a fossil or track

DON'T move it! Make a note of where you found it and take a photo. Then then come back and report your finding to our experts!

URS and wants to know Everyone!

By Dr. Charles Helm

ur trackways are made by:

ed fast on two legs. Theropods came in all
birdlike creatures. The **Ostrich** is a descendant
cies of birds today!

ways are among the oldest in the world, and

aters that walked on four feet – they were slow
m. We can think of them as 'armoured cows'!
eir tails.

saurs that include the hadrosaurs or duck-billed
big to very small.

saurs with very long necks, very long tails, and tiny heads. One sauropod
herd of elephants (20-30 tonnes)!

marine reptile

and
y had
tracks?

rk were
n on
d sharp
shapes
At first
t the

spotting
arp eyes
to the

How do you find a dinosaur track?

is (or take a GPS reading)
back to our research centre
s.

What are some footprint finding tricks?

Know your rocks. Work
out what ages of rock in
which you might find
dinosaur tracks

(example: Mesozoic =
Triassic, Jurassic, Cretaceous
Periods). Find out if those ages of rock crop out in
the area you are exploring. Check that the rocks are
sedimentary and not igneous.

NEVER, NEVER go dinosaur track hunting alone in
wilderness areas.

8. Pinnacle Peak
(sedimentary rock)

fossil hunting

9.



5. Daniel and Mark
high-five



6. The Cascades
Tumbler Ridge



7. Daniel
with tracks



8. Pinnacle Peak
(sedimentary rock)

More footprint finding tips

1. Rippled rock surfaces can be spotted from a distance and are worth a closer look.
2. Many dinosaur tracks are not pressed into the rock surface but are infills of tracks; they therefore 'hang down' under rock overhangs. When you are beneath an overhang, look up at the 'roof'.
3. If you find tracks on one surface, then you know you are in a track-bearing layer; if you can work out where that layer gets exposed again, you will have a greater chance of finding more tracks.
4. Look at lots of dinosaur tracks displayed at the Dinosaur Discovery Gallery and online. The more you look, the easier the dinosaur tracks will be to spot in the wild!



9.

There are so many exciting things to do in Tumbler Ridge Global Geopark!

Visit the Dinosaur Discovery Gallery; explore some caves; scramble over the rocks; hike the local mountains and be amazed at the waterfalls.

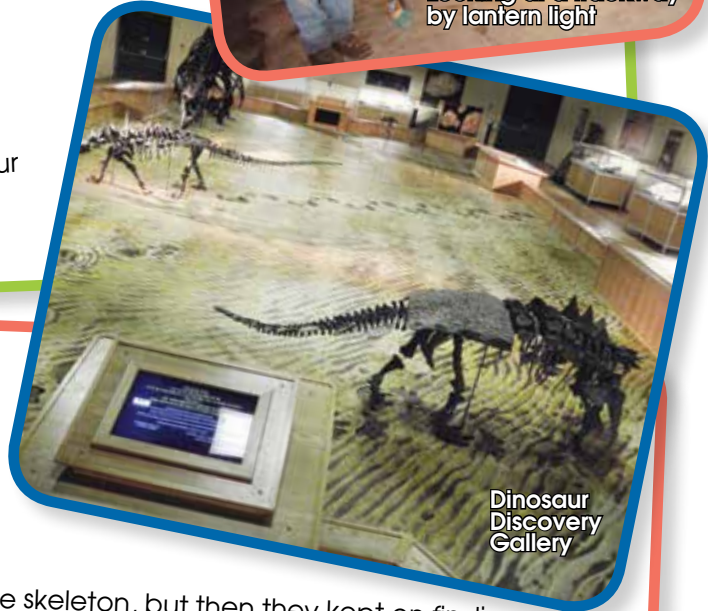
Sign up for a dinosaur trackway tour beside a creek where there are dozens of deep tracks – challenge yourself to find them all.

Come to Dinosaur Camp and learn all about dinosaurs and much more.

AND In Tumbler Ridge you can do something that you can't do anywhere else on earth – go on a night time tour by lantern-light to another dinosaur trackway, beside a rushing river!



Looking at a trackway by lantern light



Dinosaur Discovery Gallery

actual size!



Beside the hadrosaur skeleton we found one of the tyrannosaur teeth

BC's most complete dinosaur skeleton - a hadrosaur (duck-billed dinosaur) was found here. Scattered all around were about fifty teeth of young tyrannosaurs of different ages – this told us the tyrannosaurs were feasting on the hadrosaur.

Our scientists thought they were dealing with one skeleton, but then they kept on finding dinosaur thigh bones, six in all. This means that we likely are on the edge of a dinosaur bonebed. Sometimes these bone beds have hundreds of dinosaur skeletons.

Even more amazing – also around the hadrosaur were tiny blobs of metal – they probably fell from a large meteorite that vaporized in the atmosphere!

Author Biography:

Charles Helm is a family physician who came to Canada from South Africa, and moved to Tumbler Ridge with his wife Linda in 1992. He has written five books on the Tumbler Ridge area, plus two on the history of the northern Rockies, and one on dinosaurs for kids. He explores the Tumbler Ridge area, helps design, build and maintain the hiking trails in the area, goes out looking for fossils for the museum, and does scientific research. He helped develop the Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark, and has served as its President.

What is a UNESCO Global Geopark?

In the fall of 2014 Tumbler Ridge was awarded the status of UNESCO Global Geopark, one of only two UNESCO Global Geoparks in Canada (the other is in New Brunswick). The Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark is BIG – 8,000 square kilometres, and includes six provincial parks within its boundaries.

UNESCO stands for the:

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

To find out more about the dinosaurs of Tumbler Ridge, go to
(1) www.tumbleridgegeopark.ca/ (2) www.trmf.ca (3) www.wnms.ca
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XFmv2VQeKfk>

Or google "Above Tumbler Ridge" – this will take you to some crazy drone videos that will show you our scenery.

COME AND VISIT US IN THE SUMMER. HOW ABOUT THIS SUMMER!

DINOSAUR HUNTER- WORDSEARCH

Getting ready to look for dinosaurs? Here are some things to study up on before you start!

h	l	g	f	w	e	u	c	n	d	d	t	h	w	p
a	l	e	o	z	n	t	e	o	i	y	v	s	a	y
d	i	o	s	y	o	k	p	n	r	e	w	l	r	r
r	b	p	s	n	b	o	o	a	r	g	a	c	e	a
o	k	a	i	y	h	s	n	o	i	e	b	o	y	t
s	c	r	l	t	a	n	l	w	o	h	u	a	a	n
a	u	k	i	u	o	p	o	n	z	k	i	l	l	e
u	d	n	r	s	x	o	t	m	x	d	g	f	k	m
r	r	m	a	e	j	o	b	o	k	e	j	y	c	i
o	n	u	z	m	l	a	k	i	y	r	r	g	o	d
b	r	n	r	o	t	r	a	c	k	w	a	y	r	e
w	r	r	g	a	n	k	y	l	o	s	a	u	r	s
j	h	i	t	h	e	r	o	p	o	d	c	s	n	j
m	s	t	z	p	h	a	j	c	b	m	b	w	i	x
t	e	p	d	x	d	f	i	o	b	e	i	y	y	t

1. ankylosaur

7. fossil

13. sedimentary

2. bone

8. geopark

14. theropod

3. coal

9. hadrosaur

15. trackway

4. dinosaur

10. ornithopod

16. tyrannosaur

5. duckbill

11. palaeontologist

6. explore

12. rocklayer

A Read Aloud Story



Rescuing Wildlife?



1.



2.

When we think about wildlife that needs rescuing, we most often think of big animals being rescued, such as owls, eagles, bears or coyotes, but Elizabeth Melnick found many little wild animals and birds that need rescuing.

There are so many ways that small animals get injured – they get hit by cars, attacked by cats, get tangled in fishing line or swallow garbage and other stuff left around, like fish hooks and plastic.



4.

A registered nurse and wildlife rehabilitator, she started her own **Elizabeth's Wildlife Center** in Abbotsford, BC. She began small, in her own home and garden, but over time the centre grew and grew to four buildings! Every year about 1000 animals in need of care come to the centre; about half of them are able to heal completely and return to the wild.



3.

Elizabeth has lots of stories to share with you.

There was the **gosling** that couldn't walk but in the end was able to go and live on its own and the adult opossum which adopted an **orphan opossum** and took care of her until she was old enough to go back to the wild.



5.



6.

Two **baby pigeons** were separated from their

parents when their nest became blocked. The owners of the property realized what happened. They tried to reunite the babies with their parents but sadly, it was too late. The orphaned babies were brought into the centre in early March and will be released together when old enough.



7.



8.

Two Cotton Tail bunnies were brought to the centre last October. They were so tiny that their eyes were still closed. They have grown up happy and healthy and will be released once the grass starts growing.

A **Grey squirrel** was taken to the centre in the late summer last year. He was given a "soft release" which means he spends his nights in a large safe cage with his friends and his days - like Oscar the Grouch - in a garbage can!

A **Mourning Dove** came to the centre unable to fly. She's recovering well and will likely be released in late spring.



9.



10.



11.

You can't visit the animals in the centre because having a lot of people around may accustom them to humans. However, there is an open day in August or you can ask for a school visit.

Check the website.

<http://www.elizabethswildlifecenter.org/>

Adult volunteers can help Elizabeth. However, if you find an abandoned or injured animal yourself **Elizabeth has some tips for you:**

- Don't move an animal unless it is in danger. If you must move it, put the creature in a cardboard box and place it in a warm, dark, quiet place like the bath or shower stall.
- Don't ever feed or give water to a wild animal - you are more likely to harm it than help it. Just take the animal to the wildlife expert.
- A baby bird learning to fly may fall out of its nest, but unless you see a cat after it, leave it where it is. The parents know where the fledgling is. They will feed it, and at the same time teach it to fly.
- Handling a baby animal to move it to a safe place is quite OK. Mammal and bird parents are not bothered by a human scent. Elizabeth has never had problems returning young animals to their homes.

Have a Nature Question?

ASK AL

Al Grass has worked as a career park naturalist and ranger throughout BC. Now he is a well-known nature tour leader and photographer. Al especially likes birds, insects and spiders.



What do spiders that live in our gardens eat?



Watching the many kinds of spiders that live in my garden, I have been amazed at what they catch, from very tiny insects to remarkably large – bees, wasps, moths, crane flies, damsel flies and even dragonflies. One spider regularly catches yellow jackets (wasps)! (Picture of cobweb spider with wasp, taken by Al Grass)

An interesting project would be to find an area (backyard, park) and keep track of what the spiders are feeding on. The webs of the orb-weaver spiders –cross spiders, shamrock orb-weavers, marbled orb-weavers and “cat-faced spiders” - are the easiest to observe.

An excellent guide is **Spiders of Western Canada** by John and Kathleen Hancock (Lone Pine Publishers, 2015). Anyone keen about spiders needs this beautiful book.

Ant Buffet

Text and photos by **Dr. Eucan Doowitt**

Ants are easy to observe and it is fun to see what the ants like to eat and how different ants behave around food. For this you will have to make an ‘Ant Buffet’.



Here is one way!



#1) Cut out plastic sheets from clean milk jugs. With a permanent felt marker draw circles on the reverse side of each one. Mark reverse numbers so you can keep track of which is which.



#2) Lay out the buffet. Turn your sheets over. Put a different type of food in each circle – examples: peanut butter, jam, fresh fruit, bread, cake, sugar water, then set the buffet outside for the ants to find.



#3) Buffet 15 minutes after first ant found the plastic sheet.



#4) Buffet after two hours - all the sugar water (circle 1) is gone

Note what you have done on a piece of paper or index card so you can keep track of your observations, shape, colour or size. If there are different ants do they get along with each other? Where do they go after they have visited the buffet? Do ants begin to bring other ants back with them to the buffet? Perhaps you can run a larger buffet with more choices on bigger pieces of plastic. Do different foods attract different ants?

NATUREWILD • NEWS



Passports to Nature

Gage (Victoria) and **Talon** (South Okanagan) completed their first passports. **Emaya** (South Okanagan) completed her passport #4 and earned her Rite in the Rain notebook. **Rita** and **Travis** (Victoria) completed their passports #5. **Congratulations, all!**

Iris shows off her NKBC cap and certificate that she earned in March.

Credit: Leslie Pomeroy



OOPS! In our last issue, the front cover and tree photo on page 8 were credited incorrectly. The proper credit is: **Ancient Forest Alliance**



In March **NKBC Vancouver** members enjoyed a day with the Cheakamus Centre's Aboriginal Cultural Program. This involved a cedar walk and activities in the Big House - welcome songs, dancing, cooking bannock and cooking with rocks, a very tasty salmon lunch and activities such as cedar bark basket making, fishing and hunting, and goat-wool weaving.

Cheakamus Centre photo credit: Louise Pedersen



Congratulations to **Nemo de Jong** (NKBC Eastern Fraser Valley) who has qualified for a summer internship for Black Widow Spider research. Nemo says of himself "Nature is my second home. More than half of my life has been spent outside. The weather doesn't matter. I am fascinated by everything I find.

One of the things I am proud of accomplishing is working with a landowner to set aside 30% of her property for wildlife and improve habitat throughout the property. I am grateful to all the biologists who supported me in this project, the Eastern Fraser Valley NatureKids, and the landowner, Heather O'Grady, for caring for plants and animals so much, and for listening to my stories of wetlands, plants, insects, spiders, birds, and amphibians over the years." Western Black Widow: Lynette MT, CC

KNOW YOUR SPIDERS!

Text and photos; Rob Alexander, B.C.: So far, 859 spider species have been found in British Columbia - that's a LOT of spiders! Start learning to recognize some you may see.



Orb-Weaver Spiders are the ones you are most likely to notice, the ones which weave circular webs. They are totally harmless to people. Our most common orb-weaver is the **Cross Orb-weaver**, though originally from Europe! Cross Orb-weaver spiders even eat their own spider silk, as it's a protein snack before they make a new web.

Interesting fact - Orb-weaver Spider fossils date back 300 million years, a time when dinosaurs ruled Tumbler Ridge!



Giant House Spiders, despite looking like eight-legged crawling death, giant house spiders don't pose a threat to anyone. The Giant House Spider is known for its speed and high level of 'creepiness', but people shouldn't worry as they're quite harmless.



Cobweb spiders build tangled webs, unlike the beautiful creations of orb-weavers. This species of spider has very poor eyesight and relies on detecting vibrations (shaking) in or near its web to show where its prey is.

Other species of spider do not make webs.



Jumping Spiders: Red-backed Jumping Spider is one of the largest and most commonly encountered jumping spiders of BC. The Jumping Spider has the best eyesight of any spider. It uses its huge eyes to scan for prey, then leaps to attack its victim. The jumping spider can jump up to 50 times the length of its own body!



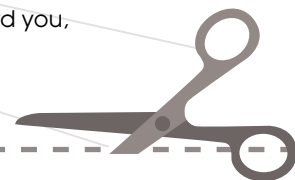
Zebra Spider, another jumping spider, very tiny, only 5.5 to 7 mm. This spider hunts mosquitoes, flies, and spiders - even other zebra spiders! When it finds a prey item, the zebra spider sneaks up behind and bites down with its fangs.



Wolf Spiders are ground-dwelling spiders which mostly live alone. The Wolf Spider hunts at night - pouncing upon prey as it finds it or even chasing it over short distances. If you flash a beam of light around and it lands on the spider, the light will reflect from the spider's eyes back toward you, producing a "glow" that is easily noticed.



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