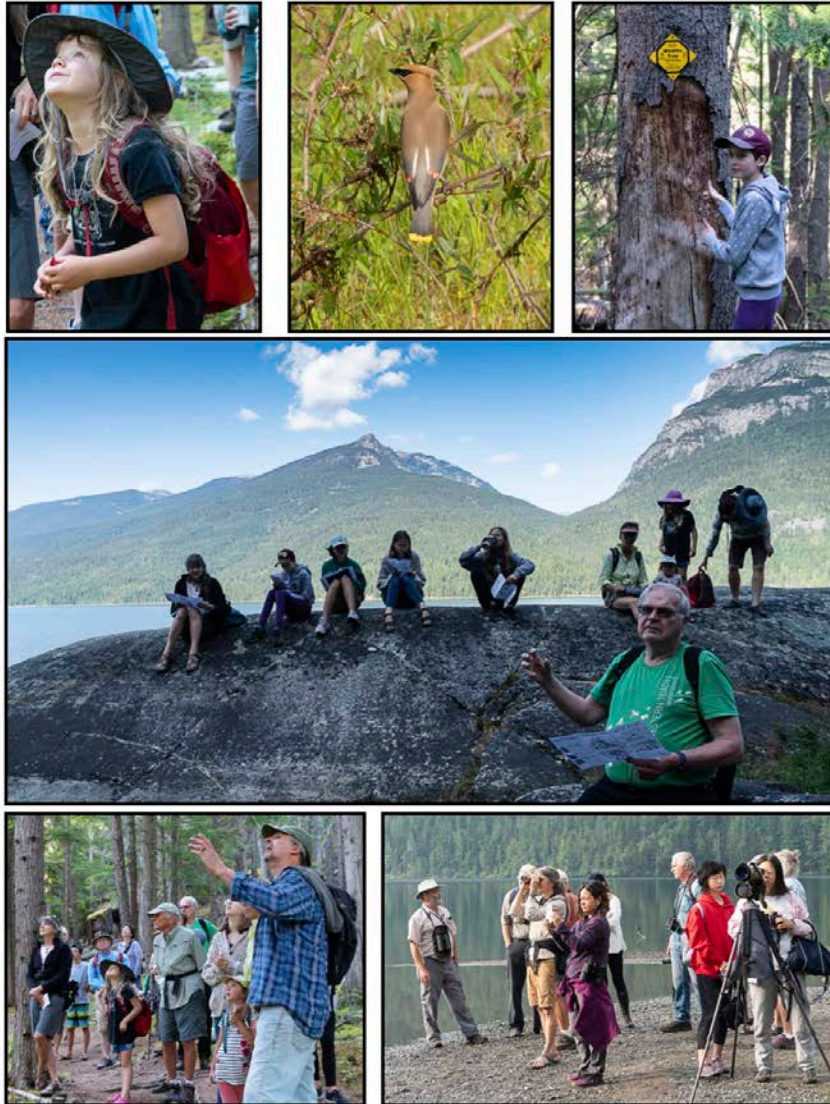


WILD DAYS 2019

Program Report



Prepared by Marcy Mahr & Theresa Tremaine
SLSS Education & Communication Team

August 2019





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Wild Days! sponsored by the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society (SLSS) are free family nature walks held at various locations throughout the Slocan Lake watershed. In July & August 2019, three *Wild Days!* engaged families, community members, and visitors in the watershed for fun outdoor adventure and environmental learning. The 3-hour long programs encourage participants to explore and make sense of some of the small, wondrous creatures as well as large, spectacular features that surround our communities in the north Slocan Valley. This year marks the 5th anniversary of Wild Days programs!

Our 2019 *Wild Days!* funders included the Regional District of Central Kootenay Area H, Recreation Commission #6, Hills Recreation Society and Columbia Basin Trust; and co-sponsoring organizations included the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada's Okanagan Centre, Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative (SIFCo) and the Okanagan Nation Alliance.

Event Highlights

Saturday, July 20 from 8:30 PM - 11:00 PM *Celestial Tour at Centennial Park, New Denver.*

The first hour consisted of an engaging powerpoint presentation by Colleen O'Hare and Guy Mackie from the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada's Okanagan Centre. They presented interesting information regarding planets, stars, galaxies and black holes; and revealed interesting recent discoveries as well as many of the mysteries still to be explained. They also touched on the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 landing on the moon. The presentation was followed with a question and answer period, and our presenters received many questions from a wide audience age ranging from about 3 years old to 93! After a very cloudy day, we were very grateful for the clearing skies that evening which provided a great night of star-gazing. Participants were able to look through high-powered telescopes to see Saturn and its rings, Jupiter and its moons, and various other constellations. Our timing was perfect as we were also treated to a glimpse of the International Space Station as it flew over Centennial Park that evening. The gazebo in the park was a good gathering spot for both campers and locals attending the evening. Many stayed until the end to take advantage of the telescopes and expertise that Colleen, Guy, and Olaf Lutz had provided. Throughout the evening more people joined to look through the huge high-powered telescopes. This tour was co-sponsored by the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada's Okanagan Centre.

Participants: 76

Saturday, August 3 from 9:00 AM - 12:00PM *Cool Rocks and Fire Smart, Bannock Point.*

The tour began with a walk along the Bannock Point trail to the beach. As participants walked through the forest, Stephan Martineau from Slokan Integral Forestry Cooperative (SIFCo) discussed wildlife trees and SIFCo's wildfire interface work removing trees in the forest that were potential fire risks surrounding Bannock Point. Stephan used the analogy of thinning carrots in the garden to explain SIFCo's approach to thinning forests in order to aid forest health and fire-smarting the forests in the Slokan Valley. He spoke about his approach to forestry through the lens of climate change - that fires and smokey summers will become the new normal. He told participants that it's a matter of 1-10 years as opposed to decades before forest stands burn in the Slokan given the combination of warmer, drier temperatures and the unhealthy density of our forests and fuel loads. Also as we walked, local geology expert Richard Johnson, pointed out rocks, boulder fields, and a suspected glacial erratic along the trail. Once at the lake, Richard discussed how geological features formed at Bannock Point and along the lakeshore of Slokan Lake. We were actually standing on the Slokan Fault Zone that separated different geologies that run along the east side of the lake up to Hills. Marcy handed out a Geology Field Journal where participants viewed the geology graphic explaining the development of geology in our area. The kids walked around, collected rocks for identification with Richard or worked on the word search puzzle, while adults asked more in-depth questions about wildfires and geology. This tour was co-sponsored by the Slokan Integral Forestry Cooperative (SIFCo).

Participants: 24

Saturday, August 10, 8:00 am -11:00 am. *Wondrous Watering Hole at Bonanza Beach/Creek, Hills.*

The morning started with ornithologist Gary Davidson taking us on a tour of the resident birds at Bonanza Beach and the confluence of Bonanza Creek and Slokan Lake. The area was teeming with birds and a spotting scope was set up for viewing a variety of birds including several Lesser Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpipers, a family of Bald Eagles nesting in Bonanza Marsh, a flock of Cedar Waxwings, Belted Kingfisher, young Mergansers, Mallard ducks, and the persistent calling of the Red-Eyed Vireo (aka "preacher bird"). We were treated to witnessing one of the eagles catching a fish and slowly paddling back to shore using its wings! This action provided a fortuitous segue to the second half of the tour, featuring fisheries biologist Michael Zimmer from the Okanagan Nation Alliance. Michael explained how salmon and Kokanee (redfish) spawn on bodies of water throughout the Columbia River Basin, including Kokanee in Bonanza Creek. He discussed the impact of hydroelectric dams throughout the US-Canadian Columbia River system on migrating and spawning fish such as Chinook and Sockeye salmon and White Sturgeon, and his research with ONA to restore and improve fish habitat. Michael shared that in July there was an important announcement that all levels of government and First nations had agreed to developing fish passage at key dams in the Columbia River to allow salmon to return to the Kootenays. This tour was co-sponsored by the Okanagan Nation Alliance.

Participants: 16

Program Stats

A combination of seven experts led the tours this year: Stephan Martineau, Richard Johnson, Colleen O'Hare, Guy Mackie, Olaf Lutz, Michael Zimmer, and Gary Davidson. They represented a broad range of disciplines from astronomy to wildfire interface forestry to geology, to fishery biology and ornithology, all of which infused into each event interesting hands-on experiences and facts about our natural world - locally and in our universe.

This year a total of 116 people attended Wild Days!

Table 1. Participants attending each *Wild Days* program.

	07/20/19	08/03/19	08/10/19
Adult	55	11	10
Child	15	8	1
Expert	3	2	2
Staff	3	3	3
Total	76	24	16

Communication Highlights

Print Media: Ads, articles and announcements

- *Save the Date* ad in the Valley Voice - July 4 issue
- *Wild Days!* colour ad in the Valley Voice with photos and dates - July 18 issue
- *Wild Days!* article published in the Valley Voice- July 18 issue

Marketing Collateral

- Posters - 15 8.5 x 14" colour posters were printed to be distributed in New Denver, Silverton, Crescent Valley, Slocan, Hills, Rosebery, and Nakusp.
- Leaflets: 160 Save-the-Dates leaflets printed to advertise *Wild Days* at the New Denver Friday Market July 5 to August 19.
- Geology Field Journals: The field journals were distributed during the Cool Rocks and Fire Smart event. This helped participants visualize how geology developed in our region, and provided general information about geology plus a word search puzzle. The field journals can also be used as an educational piece to give out at the Friday Market booth as well as any future SLSS events.

Social Media

- FaceBook: 4 posts - 1 Save-the-Dates and 1 reminder before each of the 3 events. Plus events were created in the community calendar. These posts were shared to other FaceBook accounts / groups, which reached other users beyond members of the New Denver & Area Community Bulletin Board.

Websites

- Slocan Lake Stewardship Society - Details about *Wild Days* 2019 and the poster were available on the front page of the SLSS website. Also, Wild Days menu on the site was created and now archives information going back to the first Wild Days in 2015.
- Village of New Denver - The Village Office posted our events on the online community calendar.

Participant Feedback

- In terms of advertising, SLSS's Friday Market table continues to be a good way to publicize the Wild Days event. FaceBook posts were a quick and easy method to remind locals about the events in a timely manner. Not everyone is on social media so display ads are always a good way to advertise via Valley Voice. For instance, a regular participant from Kaslo checked the Valley Voice ad to see where and when the Wild Days were happening.
- Helen Davis told Marcy that the astronomy program was fabulous. "Colleen and Guy were very entertaining like pros and the material was very interesting. It was also great to see so many community members out mingling with visitors, all moving between the large scopes set upon the ball field. Great program and great venue!"

Recommendations Logistics

- Recommend organizing 3 days again in 2019 - the combination of locations and themes worked out really well.
- Having 3 different times for each program was a little confusing for some though it was essential to tailor the time to the event theme. The evening program had the best attendance with weather and time working out for most participants. The second program was the second most attended. The 9 am start seemed to be fine for most families so attendance was good. The third program with an 8 am start may have deterred a quite a folks from going, especially families with young kids. Also, there were a couple of music concerts the previous night so getting up early on a Saturday possibly affected attendance. Since it could be challenging task for parents to get kids up and ready for an 8 am start on a Saturday, in the future we could suggest in the promotional material that folks can drop by a little later or do not have to stay for the entire time. Weather conditions on the morning of August 10 were less than ideal as it was lightly raining at the start of the program, so that may have factored into attendance.
- Given the past two summer's smoky conditions in mid-late August, we opted to scheduling Wild Days for late July and first two Saturdays of August. As it turned out, we had a less smoky season but the dates still worked out fine.
- Co-sponsorship with other local organizations helped spread the word and deepen collaboration for building local capacity for community-based environmental education.

- More effort to anticipate weather and footwear recommendations so folks come prepared for each of the tours. The tour at Bonanza consisted of more standing around and looking at birds through binoculars and telescopes, while the expert discussed surrounding birds. It may have been a good idea for people to bring lawn chairs or blankets to sit on during part of the presentation.

Registration & Group Size

- At about 70 participants, the first event in New Denver was well-attended and most diverse in terms of ages and interests. The weather for the evening turned out to be perfect, plus having the location at the park/campground pulled in not only locals but also visitors and campers who took advantage of the Astronomy experts and powerful telescopes on hand for unique experience in New Denver.

Education Materials

- New for this year, a Geology Field Journal was developed and distributed to all children and several adults at the *Cool Rocks and Fire Smart* program. The journal contained a graphic explaining the Slokan Lake fault zone (illustrated by local artist Roni Jurgensen), descriptions of three types of rocks, and a word search puzzle. Marcy also printed and bound a guide to West Kootenay Geology and gave two away as prizes at the end of the tour. She also emailed a link to the PDF version for those who were interested in reading it. Prizes for children included *A Field Guide to the Identification of Pebbles, Birds: Explore Nature With Fun Facts and Activities*, and *National Geographic Reader: Wildfires*.


ROCKIN' OUT WITH THE EARTH'S 3 MAIN ROCK GROUPS: IGNEOUS, SEDIMENTARY & METAMORPHIC

Planet Earth is a giant rock factory. Rocks are made very slowly but every minute of every day they are being made, broken and re-made. Three types of rocks occur on Earth. They are made differently. They all are found in the Slokan Valley.

IGNEOUS ROCKS
Formed by cooling and solidification of magma or lava. Under extreme heat and pressure, molten materials in the earth's crust sometimes shoot up to the earth's surface as a volcanic eruption to form an extrusive (basaltic) rock, or some of the molten materials may cool underneath the earth's surface very slowly to form intrusive (granitic) igneous rocks. Granite is an example of an intrusive igneous rock.

SEDIMENTARY ROCKS
Formed by layering of particles of soil and sand carried by wind and water or shells that accumulate and cement together on the ocean floor and bottoms of lakes. Sedimentary rocks contain fossils, coal, natural gas, drinking water, and metals. Study of the sequence of sedimentary rock strata is the primary source for our understanding of the Earth's history. Sandstone, limestone, and shale are examples.

METAMORPHIC ROCKS
Created by transforming existing rock types. Metamorphism which means "change in form". An original rock that could be igneous, sedimentary or metamorphic is subjected to high heat and pressure that causes significant physical or chemical changes. Metamorphic rocks may be formed deep beneath the Earth's surface, subjected to high temperatures and the great pressure of the rock layers above it. They can form from tectonic processes such as continental collisions, which cause horizontal pressure, friction and distortion. They are also formed when rock is heated by the movement of hot molten rock (magma) from the Earth's interior. Marble, quartzite, gneiss and slate are examples.



Geology Word Search


ANSWER KEY

Aggregate	Basalt	Basaltic	Basaltic
Aluminum	Basaltic	Basaltic	Basaltic
Conglomerate	Basaltic	Basaltic	Basaltic
Crust	Basaltic	Basaltic	Basaltic
Crystal	Basaltic	Basaltic	Basaltic
Earthquake	Basaltic	Basaltic	Basaltic
Erosion	Basaltic	Basaltic	Basaltic
Fault	Basaltic	Basaltic	Basaltic
Fossil	Basaltic	Basaltic	Basaltic
Gemstone	Basaltic	Basaltic	Basaltic
Geology	Basaltic	Basaltic	Basaltic
Igneous	Basaltic	Basaltic	Basaltic
Inner Core	Basaltic	Basaltic	Basaltic
Lithosphere	Basaltic	Basaltic	Basaltic
Plate	Basaltic	Basaltic	Basaltic
Rock	Basaltic	Basaltic	Basaltic
Rock Hammer	Basaltic	Basaltic	Basaltic
Sedimentary	Basaltic	Basaltic	Basaltic
Seismology	Basaltic	Basaltic	Basaltic
Tectonics	Basaltic	Basaltic	Basaltic
Volcano	Basaltic	Basaltic	Basaltic
Vulcanology	Basaltic	Basaltic	Basaltic

WILD DAYS

FIELD JOURNAL

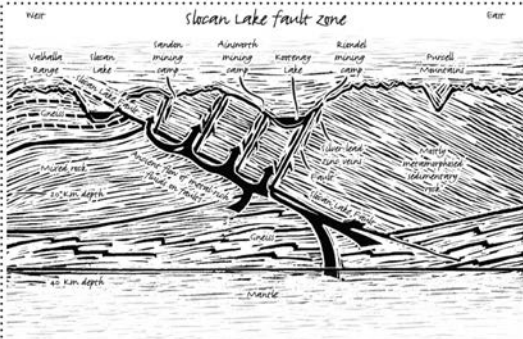
GEOLOGY



What is Geology?

Geology is a study of what makes up our planet, Earth, our natural landscapes, and what is deep below us. That includes the rocks, how they came to be there, why they are the way they are, and the ways they change over time.

Slokan Lake fault zone



Geology Word Search

M	I	O	O	U	T	E	R	C	O	R	E	P	T	S	T	I
O	S	P	R	U	R	C	E	I	L	N	K	L	A	O	P	G
T	O	E	M	S	T	O	N	E	E	V	A	R	T	N	A	L
C	V	T	I	M	I	N	I	N	G	R	U	C	C	N	A	E
E	H	R	L	S	E	O	P	E	O	I	L	T	A	T		
I	T	O	A	R	M	L	L	N	N	I	H	A	S	O	M	H
L	E	L	C	T	E	D	I	P	E	P	T	T	K	V	F	
A	P	O	U	Y	H	L	G	R	E	R	D	S	I	O	N	
U	P	C	A	E	M	O	A	R	S	A	E					
E	E	Y	C	G	F	R	M	A	G	A	E	T	S	C	L	O
F	P	L	M	G	E	A	O	I	H	V	O	I	R	I	L	Y
T	U	A	G	R	T	E	G	D	K	L	T	O	M	U		
V	O	A	G	E	I	P	H	O	E	C	L	O	V			
T	L	A	M	G	T	E	R	E	H	P	S	O	H	T	I	L
E	Y	V	A	R	D	L	O	O	T	S	U	R	C	U		
I	A	N	L	T	C	R	U	C	A	D	S	E	H			
A	E	P	H	E	O	L	M	S	M	K	F	A	G	T	E	O

Thanks to our sponsors!

SLOKAN STEWARDSHIP SOCIETY

Hills Recreation Society

Columbia Basin **TRUST** Recreation Commission #6

** See back page for Answer Key **

Promotional Materials

- Save-the-Date” leaflets were printed in B&W and designed to hand out at the New Denver Friday Markets. The leaflets were valuable in terms of reminding everyone about the event as well as heightening the impact of the posters and ads. 15 colour posters were produced and posted in and around the community. A colour ad was published in the July 18 issue of the Valley Voice.

SAVE THESE DATES

WILD DAYS: 3 fun family nature walks!

www.slocanlakess.com
For more information,
theresa.tremaine[at]gmail.com

Slocan Lake Stewardship Society presents Wild Days! Take the family out for a fun & **FREE** outdoor adventure & learn about the Slocan Lake watershed from local naturalists and scientists!

- ◊ **Saturday, July 20, 8:30 pm-11 pm. Celestial Tour at Centennial Park, New Denver:** Tour of the night sky and observe celestial wonders with members of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. Meet at the Centennial Park gazebo in New Denver.
- ◊ **Saturday, August 3, 9 am-12 pm. Cool Rocks & Fire Smart, Bannock Point:** Discover how cool rock formations came to be and what foresters are doing to keep forests healthy while reducing fire fuels. Meet at Bannock Point parking lot.
- ◊ **Saturday, August 10, 8 am-11 am. Wondrous Watering Hole, Hills:** Explore along Bonanza Beach & Creek to learn why this area is such a popular gathering spot for all kinds of birds and fish. Meet on the beach at the end of Alvarez Road in Hills.
No washrooms available at this site. Please come prepared.

The Slocan Lake Stewardship Society presents

WILD DAYS

Fun & Free Nature Walks for Everyone!

www.slocanlakess.com



JULY 20
Celestial Tour
Join us at Centennial Park and take a fascinating tour of the night sky and observe celestial wonders with members of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. Meet @ the gazebo at Centennial Park.
New Denver - 8:30 pm to 11 pm



AUGUST 3
Cool Rocks & Fire Smart
Discover how these cool rock formations came to be and what foresters are doing to help our local forests be healthy while reducing fire fuels. Meet @ the Bannock Point parking lot.
Bannock Point - 9 am to 12 pm



AUGUST 10
Wondrous Watering Hole
Explore along Bonanza Beach and Creek and discover why this area of Slocan Lake is such a popular gathering spot for all kinds of birds and fish. Meet @ the end of Alvarez Rd in Hills. **No washroom available at this site. Please come prepared.*
Hills - 8 am to 11 am



Hills Recreation Society

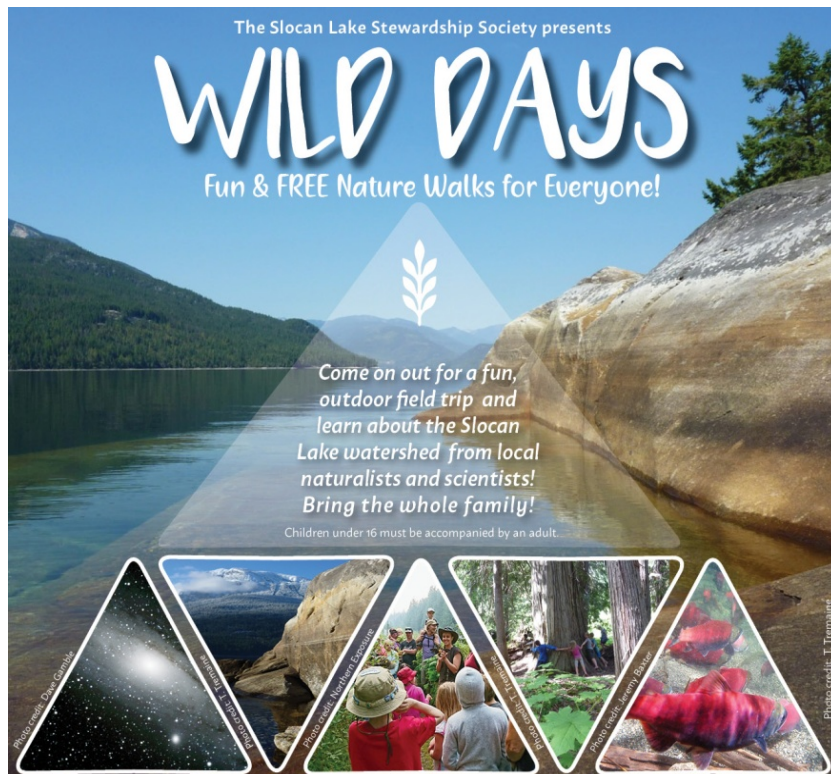

SIFCo


Columbia Basin Trust


Okanagan Nation Alliance

Recreation Commission #6

WILD DAYS! 2019 POSTER



JULY 20 **Celestial Tour at Centennial Park**
 8:30 pm - 11:00 pm
 Join us at Centennial Park and take a fascinating tour of the night sky and observe celestial wonders with members of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. Meet @ the gazebo at Centennial Park in New Denver.
Leaders: Colleen O'Hare, Guy Mackie, and Olaf Lutz.
 Co-sponsored by Royal Astronomical Society of Canada's Okanagan Centre.

AUGUST 3 **Cool Rocks & Fire Smart at Bannock Point**
 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
 Bannock Point is best known for recreation but we'll take a deeper dive into the area with a geology and fire smart perspective. Discover how these cool rock formations came to be and what foresters are doing to help our local forests be healthy while reducing fire fuels. Meet @ the Bannock Point parking lot.
Leaders: Richard Johnson and Stephan Martineau.
 Co-sponsored by Hills Recreation Society & Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative.

AUGUST 10 **Wondrous Watering Hole at Bonanza Creek**
 8:00 am - 11:00 am
 Explore along Bonanza Beach and Creek and discover why this area of Slocan Lake is such a popular gathering spot for all kinds of birds and fish. Meet @ the end of Alvarez Rd in Hills. From Hwy 6 take Bonanza Rd towards the lake and follow Alvarez Rd to where it ends at the beach. *No washroom available at this site. Please come prepared.
Leaders: Gary Davidson and Michael Zimmer.
 Co-sponsored by Hills Recreation Society & Okanagan Nation Alliance.

Thanks to our sponsors!



Hills Recreation Society

Columbia Basin trust

Recreation Commission #6



www.slocanlakess.com
 theresa.tremaine@gmail.com

Potential Locations for 2020 *Wild Days*

- Soliciting ideas and pre-planning for 2020 locations to visit would be ideal. Some potential ideas: tour Box Lake for painted turtles and toads. This lake is not in the Slocan Lake watershed as Summit Lake is the top of our watershed; however, it would be interesting. We would need to do a tour to check for potential possibilities. ONA could be a potential sponsor - contact ONA biologist David Derosa who is heading up a research project).
- Design a tour based from the Village of Slocan below the Bluffs north of the village (need to consider themes, access, and how to boost attendance).
- Margaret Hartley suggested a bee and native plants tour potentially co-sponsored by the Kootenay Native Plant Society - contact Valerie Huff.
- Possibly in 2021, invite back the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada's Okanagan Centre for late July.

Photos from Celestial Tour at Centennial Park in New Denver on July 20, 2019. (Credit: Northern Exposure, E. Kinsel).



Photos from *Wild Days!* at Bannock Point on August 3, 2019. (Credit: Northern Exposure, E. Kinsel).



Photos from *Wild Days!* at Bonanza Beach on August 10, 2019. (Credit: NorthernExposure, E. Kinsel).

