



2021-2022 Year in Review

To Our Valued Members,

Thank you for everyone who contributed and supported the Wild Pacific Trail Society in 2022. We had a very exciting year with new projects being brought to fruition and ongoing plans being conceptualized for the future. Among the highlights of 2021/2022 are:

◆ Completion of the Spring Cove Interpretive Trail:

The Wild Pacific Trail Society has had a trail building project every year for the past 14 years. For 2021, we celebrated the official opening of the Spring Cove Trail, an inner harbour section that grants visitors and residents the opportunity to learn about the tremendous biodiversity of mudflats. Nine interpretive signs guide you through this ecosystem offering fascinating information of the unique features of the mudflats' ecosystem, the shorebirds that frequent the cove and the history of the area. Bird watching is also facilitated by a bird blind overlooking the cove.

Thank you to Oyster Jim Martin, Dave and Jillian Edwards for their work in building the Spring Cove Trail. We would like to recognize the District of Ucluelet, the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust, Island Coastal Economic Trust and IBA for their support with the project. The Trail Society also received tremendous in-kind support from scientists such as Barb Beasley, Carolyn Prentice, Margot Hessing-Lewis, Ian Cruickshank, Andy MacKinnon and his students with the University of Victoria. Special thanks to Carey Cunneyworth UFN Department of Culture & Heritage, elder Bob Mundy and Vi Mundy (WPTS Yuułu?it?atḥ FN Representative).





*Thank you to the
Spring Cove Trail
planning and construction crew*



◆ **Elder Tree – Spring Cove:**


Yuuluʔiʔath First Nation plays a critical role in planning culturally sensitive trails and content for interpretive signs such as Spring Cove and Terrace Beach. This past year, we unveiled a dedication plaque and memorial bench in memory of Barb Touchie at an old growth “elder tree” on the Spring Cove Trail, celebrating the partnerships that continue to grow to enhance understanding of traditional knowledge. Thanks to all who witnesses and made this interpretive trail possible. Barb Touchie’s life-long teachings continue to impact generations of all communities.

Please view the trees from the trail!

Elder Tree ʔiič'im ʔaqaʔas

This ancient cedar has grown on the fallen generations of trees. Layer upon layer of decaying trees potentially date back to the last ice age.

The Yuuluʔiʔath First Nation has a very similar history of **elders supporting youth** for thousands of years.



Countless generations have nurtured the ecosystems of this area, enhancing the plants and animals that sustain them.

Dedicated to the memory of the Barb Touchie family, celebrating the partnerships that continue to enhance understanding of traditional wisdom.



◆ New Viewpoints

Through a partnership with the District of Ucluelet and the Wild Pacific Trail Society, the Trail added 4 stunning new viewpoints. WPTS is eager to share these wonderful viewing areas, overall increasing the attraction value of the Trail.



◆ Crow's Nest

Oyster Jim is placing the finishing touches on his second "Crow's Nest" which will be officially opened soon at the North end of the Artist Loops bringing a little hidden treasure to the Trail.



Trail Naturalist Program:



The Wild Pacific Trail provides a unique outdoor classroom that presents incredible opportunities to connect people to nature. With our education component growing immensely, we were fortunate to have Samantha Pedersen as our Trail Naturalist for the 2021 summer season and Gemma Macfarlene for 2022.

In the summer of 2021, the Trail Society was unable to offer interpretive walks due to the ongoing pandemic, we however focused on using our social media presence and channels to share our interpretive content and messaging. Samantha did an excellent job, reaching over 53,000 on our various social media platforms with her educational videos/posts and engaging quizzes.

Once we were able to resume limited in-person activities, Samantha offered a friendly presence at the Lighthouse overseeing the Discovery Tent display. She recorded over 3,000 meaningful interactions at this location over July and August.



◆ **Educational Partnerships:**

We were excited to have REDD Fish Restoration and the Raincoast Education Society join us again this year, sharing their knowledge of local flora and fauna at the Discovery Tent. SIMRS hosted their interactive Build-a-Whale at the Lighthouse and two citizen science events: 1) Sea star survey - monitoring the health of sea stars/look for sea star wasting syndrome at He-Tin-Kis Park, 2) WhaleBlitz-whale watch and learn about whale species. Always a crowd favourite, the Ucluelet Aquarium intertidal exploration was held weekly over the summer at Big Beach.



We look forward to this continued partnership and collaborating with all our education partners to share our synergy and resources. It is truly amazing what we can accomplish together!

Wild Pacific Trail Interpretive Events Join a FREE Nature Walk! **Sept. 2022**

LOCATIONS are colour coded:
 10 am walk: ● **Whale Parking Lot** (First lot on Coast Guard Rd, Lighthouse Loop)
 Tent Events: 🏠 **Lighthouse** (END of Coast Guard Rd, Lighthouse Loop)

Visit our Discovery Tent

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Map to events	Map to events	Map to events	Map to events	Map to events	Map to events	Map to events
BEAR Walk 4 10am: Whale Lot	No Walk on Mondays 5	10am to 1pm THE SALMON TRAIL 6 Booth at the Lighthouse.	Whale WEDNESDAY 7 STRAWBERRY ISLE MARINE RESEARCH SOCIETY 10-noon: Lighthouse booth	Forest Walk 1 10am Whale parking lot From the forest to the sea.	No event 2	SHIPWRECK 3 Pass of Melfort "Life & Death Stories" 10am Whale parking lot
Birding 11 Expert guide Ian Cruickshank			Build-A-Whale 14 Kid-friendly 10-noon: Lighthouse booth	Forest Walk 8 10am Whale parking lot From the forest to the sea.	No event	Beneath the BOG 10 Discover secrets of dwarf trees & carnivorous plants
BEAR Walk 18 10am Whale Lot		THE Salmon Trail 20 10am to 1pm Booth at the Lighthouse every Tuesday	Whale WEDNESDAY 21 STRAWBERRY ISLE MARINE RESEARCH SOCIETY 10-noon: Lighthouse booth	Forest Walk 15 10am Whale parking lot From the forest to the sea.	WILD SAFE BC 16 BC Goes Wild 10 am Lighthouse Tent.	SHIPWRECK 17 Pass of Melfort "Life & Death Stories" 10am Whale parking lot
BEAR Walk 25 Be bear aware, join this NEW interpretive walk at the Whale parking lot		THE Salmon Trail 27 10am to 1pm Booth at the Lighthouse	Build-A-Whale 28 Kid-friendly 10-noon: Lighthouse booth	Forest Walk 22 10am Whale parking lot From the forest to the sea.	Birding 23 Expert guide Ian Cruickshank	Beneath the BOG 24 Discover secrets of dwarf trees & carnivorous plants
				Forest Walk 29 10am Whale parking lot From the forest to the sea.	Truth & Reconciliation Day 30	

Thanks to our partners: Redd Fish Restoration Society, Strawberry Isle Marine Research, and WildSafe BC

Funded by donations to the Wild Pacific Trail Society: WildPacificTrail.com

◆ **Special Events:**

Special Events in 2021 and 2022 consisted of guest and local naturalist Silva Johansson returning to deliver the epic story of the tragic shipwreck that inspired the creation of the Amphitrite Lighthouse. A Seabird Special was led by local Bird Expert Ian Cruickshank at the Lighthouse with spotting scopes; allowing participants to watch and learn about the fascinating world of birds.



We continue to partner with Wild Safe BC for their annual BC Goes Wild Weekend with this year's event featuring a scavenger hunt where participants explored the outdoors while learning and being inspired by the flora and fauna along their travels. Thank you to WildSafe BC's Bob Hansen for coordinating and for being a special guest at our Discovery Tent.



Andy MacKinnon, bestselling co-author of “Mushrooms of BC,” has always had a strong turnout at his events- 100 people attended his last Wild Pacific Trail mushroom talk.



◆ **District of Ucluelet/Trail Maintenance:**

The Trail Society is appreciative of the ongoing support we receive from the District of Ucluelet staff and Council. We value this relationship, and their support continues to be instrumental in bringing our projects into fruition. As of 2020, the District of Ucluelet has overseen the maintenance of the Trail with Jason Mussell and Wanda McAvoy (Public Works and Parks) taking the lead. We thank them for their hard work keeping the trail in top condition.



(Photo: Nora O'Malley)

◆ **Local Fundraising Efforts:**

The Wild Pacific Trail is extremely grateful to the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust (CBT) for initiating and facilitating the Giving Catalogue in response to the challenges incurred by COVID19. As a non-profit, our funding was significantly impacted by the pandemic; with less visitors to the Trail, our donation boxes saw less funds received. CBT has made this into an annual event The Giving Catalogue is an online crowdfunding campaign to support non-profit work in the west coast region. Thank you to all who donated to the Giving Catalogue. It means the world to us!

CBT has also provided us with grant funding for our Ancient Cedars Voice Box (details below) which we are grateful to receive, helping us to bring a new element of learning to the Trail.

A huge thank you to Tourism Ucluelet for their grant and to Black Rock Oceanfront Resort for their donation, towards our upcoming interpretive signage project for the Ancient Cedars loop. We value having their support and recognition of the work that we do.

Local artist Nelly Heyduck, with HeyDuck Art and Design, has donated partial sales of her Wild Pacific Trail print and art card to the Trail Society with proceeds continuing in 2022.



◆ Trail Promotion: Business & Tourism Ucluelet Support

The Society wishes to thank businesses that have donated generously, your contributions have supported the promotion of the Trail and our brochure printing. Tourism Ucluelet continues to promote the Trail in all of their marketing materials and supports our initiatives. The Westerly News also provides the Trail with fantastic promotion and coverage of all our successes big and small. We appreciate everyone's efforts in showcasing the value of experiencing the trail.

What's next?

◆ Growing our Education Program

The Wild Pacific Trail Society continues to look for ways to utilize our amazing coastal trail network to inspire, facilitate discovery and a personal connection to nature! Having an amazing education team and partnerships helps facilitate this connection. We encourage individuals and organizations to continue to reach out to us to explore these possibilities.

Our goals for the future also include student education programs, encouraging local youth to explore topics and career opportunities in the natural sciences - developing into our future young naturalists.



Job opportunity

Wild Pacific Trail
UCLUELET, B.C.

Summer
Student Naturalist
CLICK TO LEARN MORE

The image is a collage. On the left, a hand is shown touching a sandcastle on a beach. In the center, there is a sunset over a forest with tall trees. On the right, there is a circular inset showing a woman in a green jacket showing a map to a group of children. The text 'Job opportunity' is written in a large, elegant font across the top. The Wild Pacific Trail logo is in the top right. At the bottom, there is a white banner with the text 'Summer Student Naturalist' and 'CLICK TO LEARN MORE'.

We are thrilled to have Rachel Stewart Dziama overseeing our education program – providing leadership for the trail naturalists and interpretive program coordination in 2022 and into 2023.



◆ **New Interpretive Signage**

The Trail Society is working on Ancient Cedars interpretive sign series that will highlight the old growth ecosystem and convey these ancient trees' cultural bio-diverse uniqueness via four interpretive signs to be designed and installed on the Ancient Cedars Trail. A voice box with audio content that is reflective of the Nuu-chah-nulth culture and language and the ancient and continued interconnections between the local landscape, the ocean, and First Nations culture will also be placed on this section of trail. We are grateful to the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ elders and teachers for sharing traditional wisdom on these projects, offering priceless contributions and insight.



Traditional knowledge leading the way forward

Possible carving on cedar

Learn to say the ancient name of these trees:

PLAY Dial #2 Qʷiʕaqmapt
PLAY Dial #3 Tuhmapt
PLAY Dial #4 Humiis

Listen!

Select a number on this dial to learn Nuu-chah-nulth names and stories. Short recordings will play after a few gentle turns of the crank.

1 Welcome 2 Hemlock 3 Spruce 4 Cedar
5 New Topic 6 New Topic 7 New Topic

Thanks to Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Elders, Bob and Vi Mundy for sharing their stories and language.

Sponsor logo

◆ Board Recruitment:

The Wild Pacific Trail Society is continually looking for enthusiastic individuals who are passionate about nature and the Wild Pacific Trail to join our Board of Directors. We have a committed governance-focused board with active sub-committees, a strong team of staff, a strategic plan, great relationships with our partners and a range of impactful educational programs and events.

If you are a local resident of the Ucluelet area, please express interest to info@wildpacifictrail.com



◆ Education Centre:

The Trail Society's board of directors continue to envision a Wild Pacific Trail Centre to offer a centralized location to offer orientation, indoor and outdoor educational programs, provide classrooms, administration office space and amenities.

Thank you to the many volunteers, donors, partners, and community members who support the Wild Pacific Trail and make our programs thrive!

Sincerely, Wild Pacific Trail Society

We respectfully acknowledge the Ucluelet First Nation on whose traditional territory the Wild Pacific Trail is located on. We extend our appreciation for the opportunity to live, learn, and grow on this land.