Kčिमितिहक्वाइ it (August) 2016

August, the month when all types of fruit ripen at night

This gorgeous plant is called Bergamont, and is in the mint family. If you see it, feel the stem; it has the typical 4 sided/square stem of mint family plants. It is also called ‘bee balm’; and is a great plant for bees and butterflies.

Ktunaxa Jeopardy Question

This specific location within the Ktunaxa ?amak?is is located between the ?akisqnuk community and the ?a?qam community, it’s name comes from the Ktunaxa word Horsetail.

To submit your answer: go to our Ktunaxa Lands and Resources Facebook Page and private message us your answer or submit your answer by emailing nnicholas@ktunaxa.org. The Deadline to submit your answer is: August 26th, 2016.

Congratulations to Dominique Nicholas for winning last months Ktunaxa Jeopardy Question. Her correct answer, Salmon used to swim roughly 2000 km from Astoria, Oregon to reach the headwaters at Canal Flats, won her a $25.00 gift card.

Lands and Resources Sector Council:
- Chair - Sandra Luke
  Lower Kootenay
- Jim Whitehead
  ?a?qam
- Jason Gravelle
  Tobacco Plains
- Lorne Shovar
  ?akisqnuk

Photo’s from the Lands

This photo captures Lake Koocanusa with some neat effects to really show the dark cloud that rolled in that day

This gorgeous guy is a sagebrush mariposa lily. It likes dry grasslands, and open dry forest (ponderosa pine). Along with long walks on the beach!
Conservation Lands Culture Camp 2016

Ktunaxa Nation Council is working on planning the second Conservation Lands Culture Camp. Last year in August, Ktunaxa Elders, Knowledge Holders and Youth spent 3 days exploring the 3 parcels of land that Teck Coal purchased for Biodiversity Offsets. These lands were chosen for their ecological and cultural values. KNC and Teck are currently working together to develop a co-management agreement for these lands.

On September 23-25, 2016 a second culture camp will be held but this year it will be a hunt camp with different cultural activities to participate in and learn. Lands and Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Language and Ktunaxa Kinbasket Child and Family Services are collaborating to provide an opportunity for Elders, knowledge holders and youth to spend time in Ktunaxa ?amak?is. The location of the camp this year will be in the beautiful Flathead where we will have cultural activities such as:

◊ Fibre and Food Processing
◊ Material harvesting and processing
◊ Storytelling including history, trails and archaeology
◊ Language and Placenames
◊ Learning to cook in a birch bark basket
◊ Hunting practices and respect
◊ Bow Making
◊ Pine Needle Basket making and other
◊ Meat cutting and making wa?kna

If you are interested in the camp, please contact Denise Walker at dwalker@ktunaxa.org or call (250) 489-2464 Ext. 3120 and she can provide you more information.

Sullivan Mine Tour

On June 30th, Ktunaxa citizens and KNC staff visited Teck’s Sullivan mine site in Kimberley to look at and discuss reclamation and water management on site. It was a great day filled with lots of questions (and some numa!). At the Sullivan, lead, zinc, and silver were mined from 1909 to 2001. Other operations were added to the site at various times, including tin, fertilizer, iron and steel plants.

Water management is a concern at any mine site, and with creeks flowing around and through the property, the Sullivan is no different. To complicate things, a chemical reaction can occur in rock if certain components in some types of rock are exposed to water and air. This makes water acidic. On a mine site this is called Acid Rock Drainage (ARD), and is sometimes produced from waste rock dumps (depends on the type of rock). ARD is a concern at Sullivan, and an extensive water management system collects and transports water impacted by ARD to a water treatment plant. Reclamation work has occurred across 1100 ha of the site. Reclamation efforts began decades ago, and at that time there were different standards and approaches for planting. Agronomic plants (pasture, cereal, forage crops, etc. like alfalfa) were used across the site, with a tiny minority of native trees and shrubs planted as well. There are benefits to using agronomic species, as they grow quickly, reduce erosion (soil run off), and provide food for wildlife.

However, they are not native to Ktunaxa ?amak?is, and when seeded in thick stands like at Sullivan they take over the landscape and don’t allow native species to grow with them. Since they provide so much food, agronomic species also have impacts on wildlife species, like increasing population sizes (elk herds at Sullivan) and changes in behaviour (animal movement). An increasing elk population may sound like a good thing, but there are always trade-offs when there is not balance in a system; native shrub species cannot recover on site because the elk are eating what they can, so fences have been put up to protect shrub plantings to allow them to regrow (if possible).
Agronomic species will always have a place in reclamation practises, and can help address areas that are tough to reclaim. However, what we want to achieve is a landscape that is as similar as possible to what was there prior to the ground being disturbed. This is done by planting native species, and establishing native plant communities that will evolve on the site over time. Over the years, Teck has shifted their viewpoints and practises, and is now focused on biodiversity, and having a positive impact on biodiversity where they operate. Sullivan was a good opportunity to see and discuss how things have been done previously, and contrast that with what we are striving for now.

For Qukin ?amak?is the KNC is focused on native plant reclamation, and linking Ktunaxa interests and values with reclamation practises. We will be doing work with citizens this fall, discussing the overall vision for reclamation landscapes in Qukin ?amak?is, and what Ktunaxa want to see from the tree tops down to the rivers’ edge. Once we work out some details, we’ll provide an update in our next newsletter, and on our Facebook page! If you want to chat in the meantime, please feel free to call, email, or drop by!

Ali Burton (Contact Information on Page 8)
Lake Koocanusa Archaeology Work

From July 11th to July 17th several Lands staff worked with Tipi Mountain Eco-Cultural Services to conduct an archaeological assessment on Koocanusa Reservoir. This has been the first archaeological work conducted within the Reservoir since 1989 and it is hoped that the results of this fieldwork will guide a Reservoir-wide archaeology program in the future.

Prior to going into the field, Lands Staff and TMECS worked together to identify landforms and landscapes throughout the upper level of the “active erosion zone” (from the high water mark to the vegetation line) that have archaeological potential. The crew used digitized air photos from the 1950’s, current air photos from 2008 as well as other mapping layers such as known archaeological sites, traditional use mapping, vegetation polygons and LiDAR mapping to help with this work.

The crew then surveyed the entire length of the reservoir to confirm areas of archaeological potential in the field. We now have a comprehensive archaeological potential map, and are able to better manage applications for development along the Reservoir, as well as be able to focus future work on areas that are either susceptible to development, erosion, pot hunting, or areas that we think could help us understand the history of the area through excavation work. The field crew spent some time on the shore, surveying the shoreline, to get a sense of the current condition of archaeological sites that haven’t been visited since the 1980’s. Fortunately, we found that many of the sites were still in tact, and we even had a few people find some projectile points! Congratulations to Dominique Nicholas, Denise Walker and Craig Paskin on each finding their very first projectile points during this survey. Also of note, TMECS archaeologist Jacob Liddy found a large biface that we think dates to 8,000 - 10,000 years old.

With the data that we gathered this year, KNC will be developing archaeological management and protection strategies, including plans for further fieldwork, which we hope to begin next year. If you would like to know more about this project, have information you would like to share with us about the Koocanusa Reservoir area, or even if you are interested in joining us in the field next year, please contact Nicole Kapell.

Lands Staff Field Trip to Lake Koocanusa

In the course of our day-to-day work in the Lands Sector, there are many times when a person can feel detached from the purpose or objectives of ones’ position. Long days and weeks of meetings or computer time can get a person so focused on tasks - that we can forget for a time why we do what we are hired to do.

Thanks to support from Ray Warden, Sector Director, Ktunaxa Lands staff went onto the land and water to observe shoreline archeology surveys on Koocanusa, and hear Wayne Choquette describe his understanding of previous research and present findings. We saw firsthand a heavily impacted archeology site on the reservoir shore, located where humans have camped, fished, hunted, worked, and lived for thousands of years. With the retreat of massive glaciers, ancient lake levels rose and fell, eventually creating the Columbia, Kootenay, Elk, and Bull river drainages. Evidence of human habitation around the present location of the Koocanusa reservoir was studied by Choquette prior to completion of the Libby dam and inundation of the valley. This trip was his first return look at sites previously identified by him in the 1970’s, and to expand on current understanding of historical human use and habitation of the area along the shoreline of the reservoir, and the potential impacts the reservoir has on cultural sites.

After a few hours on the reservoir, staff then traveled to Kikomun Provincial Park to learn a bit about the Provincially Blue-listed painted turtle. This species is found within the park and surrounding areas, but faces a number of challenges unique to painted turtles which make them vulnerable to environmental factors such as invasive species, and human disturbance.

The impacts from unregulated or unrestricted recreational use have been a concern for Ktunaxa residents living nearby, and all levels of governments. Craig Paskin, KNC Lands Manager of Planning, was instrumental in re-working the Koocanusa Official Community Plan and amendments, along with the Regional District of East Kootenay, and the Province of BC. Staff then stopped to look at signage celebrating the success of the process and the amended OCP. The signage was erected by the Province at “Four Corners”, adjacent to Kikomun Provincial Park.
Did you know??

- Did you know that British Columbia uses a "red" and a "blue" list to rank a species' risk. However, being red-listed or blue-listed does not confer any protection.
  Red-listed species in BC includes any "ecological community, and indigenous species and subspecies that is extirpated, endangered, or threatened in British Columbia. Endangered species are species facing imminent extirpation (disappearance from BC) or extinction. Threatened species are those species likely to become endangered if existing challenges are not reversed.
  Blue-listed species in BC are at risk species of "special concern because of characteristics that make them particularly sensitive to human activities or natural events."

- Did you know that British Columbia is a biodiversity hotspot? Many of Canada's species call it home, including 77% of the country’s bird species, 70 % of our freshwater species, 66% of our butterfly species and Canada's largest population of grizzly bears. There are over 1,900 species at risk in BC-a number that increases every year.

Information from: Defend BC's Wildlife, published by the Wilderness Committee
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K'C'i?mii?q'ikwa?it 2016

K'tumixwit 2016
Ktunaxa Word Search Contest

Complete the Word Search correctly and submit it to win a $25.00 gift card. There are many locations you can submit them to: Denise Walker - Ktunaxa Nation Government Building, Bonnie Harvey - Aqam Band Office, Chad Luke - Lower Kootenay Band Office, Nevada Nicholas - Akisqnuk Band Office or Dan Gravelle - Tobacco Plains Band Office. A winner will be randomly selected by a draw of name. Deadline for submission is August 26th, 2016.
The Mandate of the Ktunaxa Lands and Resources Agency is to ensure that the lands and resources within the Ktunaxa Territory are effectively managed and protected for the benefits of the citizens, communities and government of the Ktunaxa Nation.

- Lands Sector Mandate