

**Plenary Three- Get Outside with Wildlife Viewing
Moderator: Bruce Bennett, Environment Yukon**

Introduction

Bruce Bennett, Environment Yukon

- It is common knowledge that when you take notice of something for the first time you start seeing it everywhere so get outside and starting noticing the nature around you and you will discover you are surrounded by beauty all the time.
- Environment Yukon has been promoting wildlife and viewing through brochures, pamphlets and public speaking.
- Please visit the Yukon Government website to obtain more information on viewing and wildlife in Yukon. It also offers various adventures to assist in getting to know Yukon better.
- You can also Google Yukon Wildlife Viewing to get the same information.

Yukon Wildlife Preserve

Krista Prochazka, Yukon Wildlife Preserve

- Purchased by the Yukon Government in 2003.
- It is a non-profit organization is operated by a board of directors.
- The Preserve is convenient because it is such a great piece of Yukon offered so close to downtown Whitehorse (30 minutes).
- It is open all year round with different activities offered in all four seasons.
 - Spring- bird watching.
 - Summer- Wildlife Births, Flowers, Walks, plant watch, frog watch.
 - Fall- Rut, beautiful scenery, Halloween.
 - Winter- Snowshoeing, Skiing, great photo opportunities of the animals.
- The plan for the future is to strengthen relationships, extend hours of operation and promoting the establishment for events and meetings.
- Memberships are \$50.00 per year.
- There will be an open house held on the weekend of June 13th & 14th with various activities offered as well as free admission.

Arctic Borderlands

Michael Svoboda, Environment Yukon

- The Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op monitors and assesses change in porcupine caribou herd.
- The Co-Op was founded in Dawson City.
- It incorporates a combination of knowledge and science
- Their focus is on climate change, contaminants, and regional development
- The Co-Op doesn't do research., but it helps research opportunities
- Interviews are conducted by communities members themselves
- Have developed strategies in long-term planning (I.e. go slow, keep it slow, be relevant, think long term, economize)

- The current focus is on analysis and synthesis of information collected from past 13 years

Plant Watch

Lori Shroeder

- Focus is integrating science into the community
- They do this through ‘Citizen Scientists’. They Track trends, educate, improve partnerships, free
- Plantwatch is a project of EMAN and Nature Canada.
- Basics include: selecting a site, marking the territory, recording the data, and sending in results.
- All plants on list (but lilac) are native to Yukon.
- Started in 2001, currently 16 species. Observers in Haines Junction, Dawson City and Whitehorse.
- The data set is too small to do an analysis, but there are some indications of an earlier bloom time.
- Everyone welcome, through YCS, www.plantwatch.ca

Predicting the Weather

Kent Johnson, Weather Office, Environment Canada

- There is a meteorological knowledge gap – we know a lot more but we don’t have a way to communicate information.
- Traditional weather forecasts are practically hard for southern Yukon
- They Issue 7 day forecasts and predictability can vary for them.
- Precipitation is especially hard to predict.
- “Temperature is difficult, precipitation is extremely difficult”
- You can look at EPSgraphs and Metrograms to check predictability of forecast.
- They can’t account for local differences – if you know your local area you will be able to create a more accurate weather prediction.
- www.meted.uca.edu - online free online learning modules

Questions:

- (1) How can you make accurate weather predictions for the entire summer? – Kent responded that extended forecasts are merely predictions using information from past years and frequent patterns. Three categories are used in the prediction process; Above, Accurate and below and the predictions are usually 40% correct. Certainly is low for extended forecasts.
- (2) The Conservation Society does their best in predicting the weather themselves using many different methods. Some of these include: recording the temperature at 5 A.M. recording the temperature in the shade, and looking out the window at where the wind is coming from. Do you have tips or advice? – Kent responded that all their methods are useful except for predicting the weather by the direction of the wind. This is because, for example, in Yukon you can get winds from the north and weather from the south
- (3) Any projections for the Porcupine Caribou Herd numbers? – Michael responded that a proper census of the Herd hasn’t been done in about 5 years. The results from that census show a decline in the Herd. For further information contact the Yukon Government or the Porcupine Caribou Management Board.