



# GOLDEN BRANCH UPDATE

2016



## COLUMBIA WETLANDS WATERBIRD SURVEY

The Columbia Wetlands Waterbird Survey (CWWS) just wrapped up its second spring bird count. Over 70 volunteers counted and identified birds at 85 sites located along the Columbia Wetlands. Over 110 species of birds were spotted over three dates, and over 25,500 birds were counted during the morning surveys! All CWWS data are posted on our website. This spring we also took 187 elementary students outside for bird watching field trips in communities adjacent to the Columbia Wetlands. Although widely recognized as important habitat, few bird surveys have been conducted in the wetlands and most available data is dated. It is our hope that the CWWS will provide the data needed for international recognition as an Important Bird Area. Fall 2016 survey dates are set for September 29th, October 5 and 15. Contact [rachel@wildsight.ca](mailto:rachel@wildsight.ca) if you'd like to get involved.

## LIMBER PINE PROJECT

Wildsight Golden has begun its first Limber Pine Monitoring project. Little is known about this tree in the Golden area, although the most northerly known stand of Limber Pine in BC is found in the Kickinghorse Canyon. An introduced fungal spore known as white pine blister rust and the mountain pine beetle have made the limber pine endangered.

You can help save the limber pine tree! We are looking for physically fit people who are open to hikes in challenging areas and are interested in learning about native trees. We aim to explore where known Limber populations are and explore other areas where they might be.

Native tree identification and information sessions will be offered on a personal or group basis as well. Contact Corinna Strauss at [strausscor@gmail.com](mailto:strausscor@gmail.com) for details.

## GARDENING WORKSHOPS



We've held workshops and garden tours for the last several years to connect gardeners and to empower people to grow their own food using sustainable methods. Through growing food, people learn the micro-ecology of their own backyard, appreciate the work of local farmers and increase their awareness of soil-based issues. This summer, we have a weekly column in the local newspaper with wisdom and growing tips from long-time gardeners for newbie growers and improving gardeners alike. This year, we will also hold a series of workshops on topics such as water-wise watering, simplified weeding, seed saving and other issues that make sense to our local population. Check our website for details and dates.

## LET'S PULL TOGETHER!



Help stop the spread of invasive plant species by taking part in Wildsight Golden's 9th Annual Weed Pull in partnership with the Town of Golden. Want to help protect biodiversity in your community? Volunteers will enjoy a walk along Golden's scenic waterways while helping to preserve our natural ecosystems by removing harmful invasive species, followed by a free lunch and gathering at Bacchus Books Cafe! Together, more than 100 volunteers and staff have removed over 1500 bags of weeds in the Town of Golden to date! Stay tuned to our website and Facebook page for upcoming summer Community Weed Pull dates in June and July or email [wildsightweedprogram@gmail.com](mailto:wildsightweedprogram@gmail.com).

## GET WILD! SUMMER CAMP



Summer is here and the kids are coming out to play in the wild. GET WILD! Camp is beyond day care. Every day is unique with some days starting at the Museum garden, others pulling invasive weeds and many afternoons at the Confluence Park. Young intrepid nature-warriors will explore what nature can teach them. Lead by Wildsight Golden's highly energetic Carmen Dolinsky, kids ages 6-12 will experience inclusive, creative outdoor play and an inquiry-learning style of environmental education. Every child is made to feel part of the camp gang! With three weeks already full, the camp is still available at an affordable rate of \$200 weekly for July 11-15, 25-29 and August 15-19. Contact [getwildcamp@gmail.com](mailto:getwildcamp@gmail.com) to register.

## JOIN US

Wildsight Golden's main objective is to work to maintain biodiversity and healthy human communities in and around the Golden area. If you are interested in volunteering on any of our initiatives or are interested in starting your own, please contact our Branch Coordinator, Jill Dewtie at [jill@wildsight.ca](mailto:jill@wildsight.ca). Also, we'd love to have you as a member so please visit us online or at the Golden Farmers Market to register!

[WILDSIGHT.CA/GOLDEN](http://WILDSIGHT.CA/GOLDEN)