

Field Journal Summary

May 20-27, 2003

By Kelly Young

**Submitted in partial fulfillment of course requirements
for ES 400C (summer session 2003)**

**School of Environmental Studies
University of Victoria**



© 2003 Kelly Young

Field Journal Summary

Kelly Young

May 20 – Just arrived in Ucluelet at the Long Beach Model Forest Society house. Stan Boychuk greeted us at the LBM house; he's the executive director of the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust. Gave us some info on biosphere reserves. Turns out that reserves aren't legally binding; they're created by the UN to outline ecologically sensitive areas. I guess it makes them more noticeable so that anything that goes on inside of them is put under the spotlight (logging?). The Clayoquot Reserve includes the Pacific Rim National park, but extends past it and around. Doesn't include Meares Island, as agreed upon with the local First Nations.

May 21 – Today we had a tour of the new (not finished yet) interpretive trail at South Beach in the Pacific Rim Park, led by Nadine Crookes, the First Nations Program Manager in the Park.



Very cool trail that will have stories from the First Nations displayed on boards that shares their stories and beliefs. The boards are interesting because they'll have pictures of the elders that told the tale and the stories will be in English, French and Nuu-chah-nulth. They'll also have little designs that people can take rubbings of to keep as souvenirs. Nadine commented that the greatest challenge for this project was translating the stories, and making them short enough that they would fit onto the boards. The problem with that is that the Nuu-chah-nulth language is an oral language and it isn't easily translated. The stories are also usually told over a couple of days, or even a month! so it was really

difficult to shorten them and still keep the meaning. She stressed the importance of understanding the concepts or context of the stories.

The trail is important to inform visitors to the region about the Nuu-chah-nulth peoples in the region. Parks goals are of ecological integrity and of cultural heritage. Nadine's job is to help Parks fulfill the other half of their goals (i.e. the cultural part) and help dispel the misinterpretations most visitors have of the First Nations peoples. For example, the Nuu-chah-nulth used to be called the Nootka, because when the first explorer came, the native people along the shore were yelling "Nootka, nootka!" He thought that was their name, but it actually means "go around."

Nadine also commented about how some elders are hesitant to participate, because of misuse or abuse of the knowledge that they have. There are problems of ownership, acknowledgement and misinterpretation sometimes. She told us of her Grandmother who, as a child rubbed something all over herself. Now she has no hair on her body. She's going to take that information to the grave with her though, because of the potential misuse (from a commercial company?)

Later that day: Botanical Gardens with the Supreme Director George Patterson.



George has big goals for the gardens, it seems (I hope he achieves them!) He eventually wants to build a dorm and maybe turn the place into a bigger educational garden. He commented that gardens are the interface between culture and nature. People modify the lands and plants in a garden for their needs, be it for food or for pleasure. So far in his

gardens, there is a children's garden, a hippie garden (with a vw bus), Chilean garden, frontier garden (with an old cabin) and a few others, made with help from people that volunteer at the gardens; lots of sculptures! George has great faith that the right people show up at the right time to help with the building of the gardens. I guess it's because it's happened that way so far! Note: return in June to see the giant Lily bloom. There's a nice boardwalk we took down to the water, which was the mudflats. He eventually wants a First Nations garden down there; he describes ways that the First Nations used the sea to fertilize plots that they would cultivate at high tide. Someone studying the boxes thought they were dysfunctional crab traps, further adding to the misinformation about the First Nation peoples. We ended on George's boat that he beached with great difficulty.

May 22 – Had a talk with Sylvia Harron who works for the Clayoquot Alliance for Research, Education and Training (CLARET). She is making a database and archives of all of the research that has taken place in the Clayoquot Sound region. This is important so that people aren't "researched to death" by repeated studies. Also provides good background papers that people can access whenever they are interested in the region. She wants to do a type of tiered approach, having general access for some, and working up to restricted access. This allows for sensitive information to be recorded and preserved, without everyone having access when they shouldn't (eg: families in the First Nations have their own medicines that they will share, but others can't make).

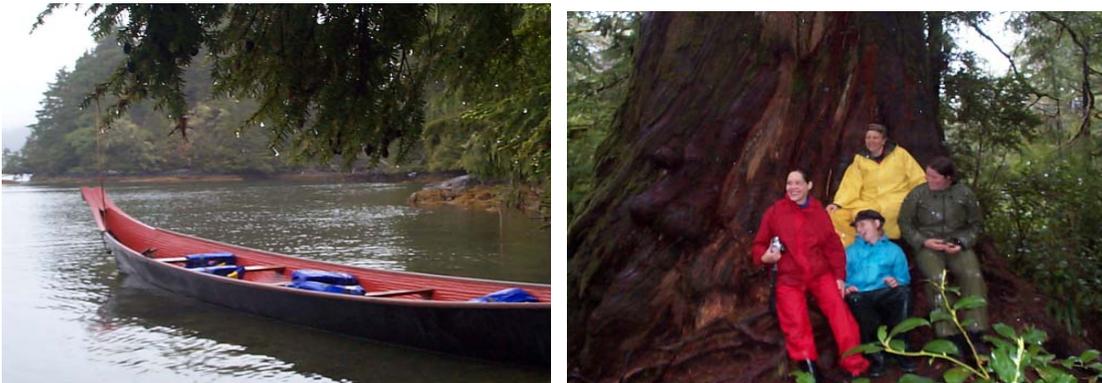
Also introduced me to the term of 'gray literature'. Defined it as not quite academic literature, for example consultant reports, student reports, letters and newspaper articles, all stuff not formally published and available.



Later on: Jen from the Rainforest Interpretive Centre (program co-ordinator)

Jen talked about the importance of sharing your research with the community that you're working in/with. The RIC is used to raise awareness for the natural and cultural side of Tofino and the Clayoquot area through education and presentations (acts as interface between research and the community). Common problem in the area is that there is fast turnover from the tourists and researchers in the area. Researchers go through the area and leave nothing behind. There is usually lots of people interested in what is going on, so it's good to do presentations or something to inform people what you're doing. Remember: Tofino time!

That afternoon: Canoe trip with Gisele and Dwayne



It was amazing to cross the inlet no motor noise, just the sound of our paddles dipping in the water. Dwayne and Gisele sang for us to take our minds off the work of paddling (it was hard work!) We went across to Meares Island, where they took us on an old boardwalk through the forest. We saw a Giant tree (actually a couple); they're so amazing, hard to imagine that they may be logged in the future. Also saw my first CMT – culturally modified tree. Gisele explained what part of a Salmonberry bush you can eat (or Thimbleberry), a lichen that has the same properties as Echinacea, and which fiddleheads are good to eat (Deerfern, not Swordfern)

May 24 – Hike down Willowbrae Trail down to Half Moon Bay beach with Dr. Barb Beasley. Barb showed us the difference between old growth and second growth forest. She explained some of the differences between them – more understory, different ages of

trees, and nurse logs present in the old growth. We also saw a red-legged frog in the marsh! Barb attempted to catch it but couldn't. They're on the threatened list.

Later that day: Gerry Schreiber, community liaison for the Protocols Project & part of the Nuuchahnulth Aquatic Management Society. We met in the LBMF building and dried off from our walk with Barb. We discussed our assignment D with Gerry, and talked about the protocols project. Some thoughts: How much participation is enough? Need to use the local contacts, get feedback and be transparent with what your objectives are. Start your research by building relationships with the people you're going to be working with. Find others who are interested in your project (through the RIC, maybe?)

That afternoon: hike to Big Beach to explore the intertidal.



Hiked a part of the new Wild Pacific Trail. We saw goose barnacles, lots of seaweed and other fun intertidal animals. We discussed the issue of private property that lines the shores; guidelines don't exist that helps to protect the shoreline. Developers often cut right down to the water, or leave a little fringe of trees that threaten to blow over in a storm (see the property on the shore at Big Beach as a good example). Gerry described how to choose good barnacles, and how to prepare them to eat. I'll have to try one sometime.

May 25 – SPLAT presentation with Dr. Barb Beasley.

SPLAT = some poor little amphibian trampled. This project started when Barb was driving home one night from a party. There is a lot of amphibian mortality on roadways, so she started research by monitoring the road between the Ucluelet and Tofino gas stations.

There were night surveys that she conducted by car, and drove the whole length looking for splats, or live amphibians. Morning crews were mostly volunteers who would walk parts of the highway very early before the birds scavenged the splats. The amphibians most commonly found: Northwestern salamander, Red-legged frog, Pacific tree frog, Western red-backed salamanders, Rough-skin newt and the Clouded salamander. This project is a good example of community-based research – it was initiated by someone in the community who was concerned about an issue, and involved anyone from the community who wanted to be involved. She also kept people informed about the results, something that most researchers take away with them and leave nothing behind.

That afternoon: trip to Clayoquot Island (also called Stubbs Island)

What an amazing place, its hard to believe that one person (or family) owns the whole thing. The island was the first settlement of non-natives; Dwayne on the canoe trip commented that they (the First Nations) traded it to the Japanese for a barrel of molasses. It's kind of a weird juxtaposition there; there are neat, cultured lawns and beautiful manicured flower gardens around the house area, but the rest of the island is wild and natural. Beautiful long sandy beaches!

May 26 – SPLAT project.

Today we helped Barb with her project by mapping the culverts and wet places along the highway between Tofino and Ucluelet. Liz and I even saw a Red-legged frog, and a whole bunch of egg masses in one ditch. Barb thought of an interesting way of mapping the roadside – every telephone pole has a number.



That afternoon: had a visit with Jur Bekker from BC Parks.

We visited Chesterman Beach and the Tofino Mudflats Wildlife Management Area (through the Botanical Gardens) in search of shorebirds. We didn't really find any, though. We did see a black bear in the distance, lots of sea otters, and an Osprey. At Chesterman, we discovered tiny little red worms that make the holes in the sand. The birds eat the worms to fuel up for their migration.

Jur showed us the boundaries of the Wildlife Management Areas, located throughout the region, on a giant map. The WMA help to protect sensitive species, for example the migratory birds that visit the beaches. The birds flock there for only a few days, but need the stopover to eat. Jur commented that a big problem is loose dogs on the beach that chase the birds. It may seem trivial, but it's very distressing for the birds.



May 27 -- presentation by Josie Osbourne from the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council Fisheries Program. The story of the Goose Barnacle Fishery. NCN Tribal Council made up of 14 tribes, separated into North, South and Central; Josie works for the central. The Fisheries Program: funding provided through DFO, made for sustainable management and provide economic base for the First Nations communities. She views her job as an interpreter to help and teach others the policies and science that is needed for the fisheries. One fishery: Goose barnacle – black stalks with white shell; stalk is edible. Grow with California mussels in exposed locations. Delicacy in Spain; pay big bucks because their own stocks were over-fished and heavily polluted. Here experienced a boom-and-bust fishery because of high pay (but dangerous work) and because it was unregulated (unlimited licenses issued.) DFO closed fishery in May 1999 because of the lack of knowledge, catch reporting, or assessment data (precautionary principal – good science, but massive social

impacts). For it to re-open: must follow DFO's "new & developing fisheries policy" and cost neutral to DFO. Formed a working group & a biologist visited, and couldn't understand why they closed it down so fast. The experienced harvesters know what they are doing and harvest selectively; it is new harvesters that can be a problem if not regulated. A code of conduct is being made with the harvesters, with confidentiality (hard for them to share their secrets.) The key for this fishery is adaptive management and including the harvesters in the policy-making because they are the ones with the know-how and will be working within the policy.

