

2024 Year in Review

Thank you to those who have contributed and supported the Wild Pacific Trail Society (WPTS) over the years. 2024 was an exciting interpretive season with a record number of interactions. Highlights include:

- 2024 Trail Naturalist Programs, June 5-Sept 18:
As of Sept 18 we have interacted with 10,973 trail users at 193 events, compared to 2023 where we had 141 events and 6175 interactions.
- Social Media:
Has grown from 6830 Facebook followers and 3362 Instagram followers to 7631 and 3604 followers respectively, **a gain of 801 followers on fb and 242 on IG, totaling 1043 new social media followers** since the end of September 2023.

Many Thanks to our talented Trail Naturalist team of Josh McCullough and Lori Johnson for their hard work. Much research, work, collaboration, experience, and time, go into the creation and production of our programs. Special thanks to Barbara Schramm for the amazing calendar designs, and, special thanks to our board members for their help and dedication!



Season Highlights:

- 1) A collaboration between WPTS staff brought a new, original guided walk to the Wild Pacific Trail titled 'Walking Trees Walk'. This walk brings guests to a special spot where we do an interactive interpretation of the Western Red Cedar survival strategy of layering and apparently being immortal.



- 2) **New Naturalist Content:** Our Summer Naturalist **Lori** created and developed a new walk titled Roots and Poop 'Slugs Bugs Soils', with the help of Board Director Liam. This kid-friendly walk attracts families and is great for those interested in the deeper details of the underworld along the Wild Pacific Trail. More than just dirt! Lori spotted a Yellow-bordered Taildropper eating Red-tooth Juice Fungus one day near the lighthouse.



3) **Wolf Sighting** by trail users along lighthouse loop:

Early July-Trail Naturalist **Josh** went to warn trail users and came face to face with the wolf, which turned and ran away. The wolf was spotted again on the rocks being chased by crows. Black-tailed Deer fawns are left on the rocks below the lighthouse while the mother feeds elsewhere. The wolves figured it out and showed up several days in a row. The fawns were taken away by the mother and not spotted again for a few weeks.



- 4) Happy Story: A family visiting Ucluelet was upset that they had not seen a single whale on their trip across Vancouver Island. They had finished their walk on the trail and were about to drive back to the Nanaimo ferry when we told them to sit on the bench in front of the lighthouse Discovery Tent for five minutes. Within five minutes a Humpback Whale showed itself and began breaching clear out of the water, making huge splashes. This made the whole vacation for that family and their huge smiles made our day! When whales are spotted a wave of excitement travels through the air and people rush to gather! In the photo Lori is pointing out the whale, doing excellent whale interpretation.



- 5) Great Interpretive Display Panels at the Discovery Tent. We always spot trail users reading our display panels when off-duty. Much of our guided walk attendance derives from people seeing the advertisement posters and calendars.



- 6) Lucky Strike: Immediately after giving a safety briefing for our Tidepools Explorer Guided Walk with Ucluelet Aquarium, we had just mentioned the bear and wolf country part, when a Black Bear walked out onto the rocks of Big Beach. 30 participants patiently watched in excitement as the bear flipped rocks over and slowly made its way down the beach and out of sight.



Discovery Tent and Guided Walk Overview



Free August Events

Inspiring Through Nature 2024 Trail Society Programs



Scan for details

Join a 1 hour guided **Naturalist Walk** at 10 am or visit our Tent



UCLUELET, B.C.

Walk + Tent		Walk + Tent		Tent		Walk + Tent		Walk + Tent		Walk + Tent		Walks + Tent			
Lighthouse: 10am		Whale parking lot: 10am		Lighthouse: 1-4 pm		Lighthouse: 10am		Whale parking lot: 10am		Big Beach: 10 am		Birds@9 Ships@10			
Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Fridays		Saturdays			
<p>Ucluelet Map (LOCATION COLOUR KEY)</p>		<p>Location Key: ● Whale Parking Lot (1st lot on Lighthouse Loop) ● Big Beach (Picnic Shelter) ● Lighthouse (Tent) ● Whale lot am, Lighthouse pm</p>		<p>Location Key: ● Whale Parking Lot (1st lot on Lighthouse Loop) ● Big Beach (Picnic Shelter) ● Lighthouse (Tent) ● Whale lot am, Lighthouse pm</p>		<p>Location Key: ● Whale Parking Lot (1st lot on Lighthouse Loop) ● Big Beach (Picnic Shelter) ● Lighthouse (Tent) ● Whale lot am, Lighthouse pm</p>		<p>Location Key: ● Whale Parking Lot (1st lot on Lighthouse Loop) ● Big Beach (Picnic Shelter) ● Lighthouse (Tent) ● Whale lot am, Lighthouse pm</p>		<p>Location Key: ● Whale Parking Lot (1st lot on Lighthouse Loop) ● Big Beach (Picnic Shelter) ● Lighthouse (Tent) ● Whale lot am, Lighthouse pm</p>		<p>Location Key: ● Whale Parking Lot (1st lot on Lighthouse Loop) ● Big Beach (Picnic Shelter) ● Lighthouse (Tent) ● Whale lot am, Lighthouse pm</p>		<p>Location Key: ● Whale Parking Lot (1st lot on Lighthouse Loop) ● Big Beach (Picnic Shelter) ● Lighthouse (Tent) ● Whale lot am, Lighthouse pm</p>	
<p>4 DAILY Lighthouse 10 am</p> <p>Roots & Poop WALK Explore slugs, bugs and soil with a Naturalist</p>		<p>12 WALK: Whale Lot: 10 am</p> <p>Wild Safe BC 10-1pm: Lighthouse</p>		<p>6 • Kelp Forests 10am to 4pm</p> <p>raincoast EDUCATION SOCIETY</p>		<p>7 WALKS 10 am daily Meet at the lighthouse</p> <p>Walking Trees WALK Can cedars climb a hill?</p>		<p>1 WALKS 10 am daily Meet at the Whale Parking Lot</p> <p>Talking Trees WALK Why are the world's biggest trees on the Pacific Rim?</p>		<p>2 10 am</p> <p>Ucluelet AQUARIUM</p> <p>Big Beach Talk</p>		<p>3 9 am daily</p> <p>Birding Walk Lighthouse</p>		<p>10 PASS OF MELFORT</p> <p>Shipwreck WALK 10 am Whale Lot Special Guest Silva Johansson</p>	
<p>11 DAILY Lighthouse 10 am</p> <p>Skulls by the Sea KID FRIENDLY Discovery Tent</p>		<p>19 Whale Parking Lot: 10 am</p> <p>Fishy Forest WALK How can fish feed forests? August 12, 19 & 26th</p>		<p>13 Intertidal Life</p> <p>20 Shorebirds</p> <p>27 Bears</p> <p>raincoast EDUCATION SOCIETY August 6, 13, 20 & 27th</p>		<p>14 Discovery Tent: 10-12:30 Tree talk 1-4 pm Salmon Trail</p> <p>Salmon Trail Station REDD FISH RESTORATION 1-4 pm DAILY Aug. 7-28</p>		<p>15 10 am Whale Lot WALK</p> <p>Parks Canada Interpreters DAILY: 12:30 to 3:00pm Aug. 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29</p>		<p>9 10 am</p> <p>Ucluelet AQUARIUM</p> <p>Tidepool WALK Rocks not suitable for toddlers</p>		<p>17 Lighthouse: 9am</p> <p>Special birding expert Ian Cruickshank</p>		<p>24 Lighthouse: 9am</p> <p>Birding Walk 10 am Whale Lot Special Guest Silva Johansson August 10, 24 and 31</p>	
<p>18 DAILY Lighthouse 10 am</p> <p>Skulls by the Sea KID FRIENDLY Discovery Tent</p>		<p>26 WALK: Whale Lot: 10 am</p> <p>Fishy Forest WALK How can fish feed forests? August 12, 19 & 26th</p>		<p>20 Shorebirds</p> <p>27 Bears</p> <p>raincoast EDUCATION SOCIETY August 6, 13, 20 & 27th</p>		<p>21 Discovery Tent: 10-12:30 Tree talk 1-4 pm Salmon Trail</p> <p>Salmon Trail Station REDD FISH RESTORATION 1-4 pm DAILY Aug. 7-28</p>		<p>22 10 am Whale Lot WALK</p> <p>Parks Canada Interpreters DAILY: 12:30 to 3:00pm Aug. 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29</p>		<p>16 10am Talk at Big Beach</p> <p>Ucluelet AQUARIUM + Parks Canada Lighthouse 10am-4pm daily</p>		<p>24 Lighthouse: 9am</p> <p>Birding Walk 10 am Whale Lot Special Guest Silva Johansson August 10, 24 and 31</p>		<p>31 Shipwreck WALK Special Guest Silva Johansson August 10, 24 and 31</p>	
Lighthouse: 10-4pm tent		Lighthouse: 10-4 pm tent		Lighthouse: 10-4 pm tent		Lighthouse: 10 am-4 pm		Tent: 10 am-3 pm		Lighthouse: 10-4 pm tent		Birding booth 10-1 pm			

Also watch for Naturalist walks from our tent, ask us!

Thanks to our partners: Redd Fish Restoration, Ucluelet Aquarium, Raincoast Education Society, Pacific Rim National Park Reserve & WildSafe BC. **Funded by donations** to the Wild Pacific Trail Society. Plus Special Guests Silva Johansson and Ian Cruickshank

On average WPTS staff spent approximately 18 hours per week at the tent, plus 5 one-hour guided walks per week, plus Friday mornings at Big Beach, and extra time spent roving when no events were scheduled.

Slugs and Bugs Tent Display: Learn about the decomposers along the trail. Why is the soil so poor on the wetcoast? Go on a mini-walk to search for slugs!

Skulls by the Sea Tent Display: Which carnivores are on the Wild Pacific Trail? Who has the strongest bite. Enjoy our carnivore skulls collection. Try out scat match.

Talking Trees and Walking Cedars Tent Display: Come talk about trees with us at the tent. Learn how to identify plants. Test your ID skills with barks, leaf, cone match. See the walking trees on a mini-walks!

Roots and Poop Walk ‘Slugs Bugs Soils’:

This new walk takes visitors from the lighthouse towards Inspiration Point and gives people a closer look at the underworld of the forest.

Walking Trees Walk: Investigating the cedar tree survival strategy of layering and living forever amidst severe storms.

Talking Trees Walk: Why do the trees grow so large on the Pacific Rim?

Big Beach Talk and Tidepools Explorer with Ucluelet Aquarium: When tides are unfavourable we run the Big Beach talk program, which brings guests on a walk above the high-tide line, exploring creatures, seaweeds etc. We also have a display table setup on the beach and bring along the birding scope. When tides are favourable, we have tidepool walks onto the rocks to learn about the inter-tidal creatures.

Sea Arch Walk: A new walk bringing guests to the sea arch lookout area. Learn about oceanography, the trail ecology, sea caves, sea arches, sea stacks! Visit several lookouts and spot wildlife with our naturalist.

Photo Fridays: Combining art and natural history, learn about Big Beach ecology, identify the plants, trees, and creatures that you have photographed. Get help with your camera from our naturalist who is also an experienced photo instructor.

Bogs and Bears Walk: Explore the woodland bog section and learn about the local bears.

Birding Walks:

Our birding walk brings visitors along the lighthouse loop, using two sections depending on schedule. One birding walk features birds of prey, with eagles as the star; the other has a shorebirds/coastal birds theme. These are more authentic birding walks where looking for birds is the goal, using the trail from the lighthouse up to Inspiration Point. Big Beach and Spring Cove are now being used for bird walks with great success as we can explore much more than the lighthouse loop and have a greater variety of birds.



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Educational Partnerships:

Our educational partnerships are amazing and truly enhance the experience for visitors and locals alike. Year after year, we have organizations requesting to return to this incredible classroom, eager to connect with and provide educational content to visitors.

1. **WildSafeBC** has been at the tent four times this Summer with an impressive, comprehensive display. Their theme this season was 'Preventing unwanted wildlife interactions'. **Total Interactions: 600**
2. **Redd fish** has brought their Salmon Trail Booth and also done Fishy Forest Walks each week this Summer. **Total Interactions: 500**
3. **Raincoast Education Society** has presented weekly themes on Tuesdays at the Discovery Tent, from bears, to inter-tidal zones, kelp forests, they have great interactive displays. **Total Interactions: 750**
4. **Parks Canada Coastal Stewards** have been at the lighthouse one day each week this summer, educating the public about surge channels and staying on the trail. **Total Interactions: 1049**
5. **Parks Canada Interpreters** have been coming one day each week to the lighthouse with their Southern Resident Killer Whale display. **Total Interactions: 1074**
6. **Ucluelet Aquarium** did tidepool walks and big beach talks along with WPTS Naturalists each Friday throughout Summer. **Total Interactions: 274**



Special Guests and Events

7. **Ian Cruickshank** has led 4 bird walks this Summer. The first two were on the lighthouse loop with great success as the birds were active with courtship and nesting. We are having real birders come to these walks which is a boost to the town as birding boosts the local economy. September saw a new Spring Cove Walk with 17 people, was a fun group and we had great views of several species.
8. **Silva Johansson** did 3 Pass of Melfort Shipwreck Walks in August.
9. **Birds Canada** Coastal Seabird Walk and Presentation. We received a coastal seabird identification field guide, two copies, one of which was given to Ucluelet First Nations for assigning bird names in the local Nuu Cha Nulth language.
10. **Oceanwise Whale Bioblitz** on the Wild Pacific Trail was a great event featuring Ucluelet Aquarium, Reddfish, Oceanwise, and WPTS naturalists. We engaged the public and promoted citizen science.
11. **Ukee Days** was successful this year. We had 315 interactions and much local networking.
12. **Pacific Rim Arts Society Summer Heritage Festival Arts and Culture Walks** were a hit with over a dozen local artists, musicians, First Nations language station teachers, which the public could enjoy while strolling the lighthouse loop.



Data- Season Totals

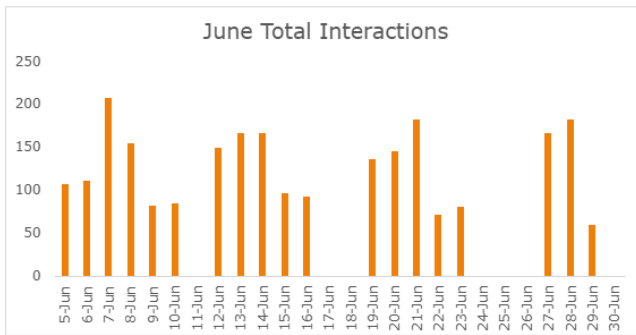
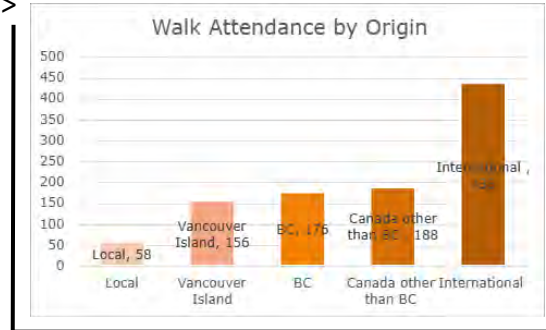
Walk Attendance by Origin: The majority of our visitors are international, followed by Canadians from outside BC, Vancouver Islanders, and lastly, locals. >

Total *Partner* Interactions: 4,247

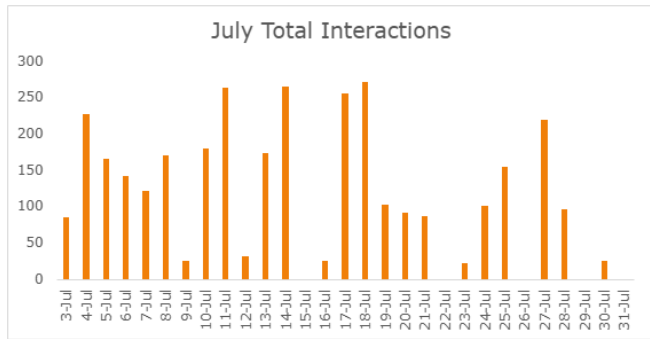
Total *Special* Guest Events and Walk Interactions: 1000

Total *WPTS* Naturalist Interactions: 5,726

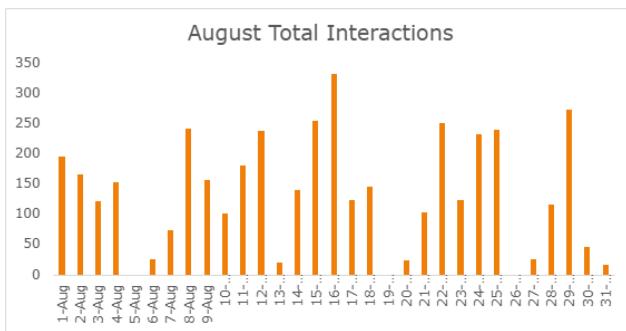
Total Interactions for 2024: 10, 973



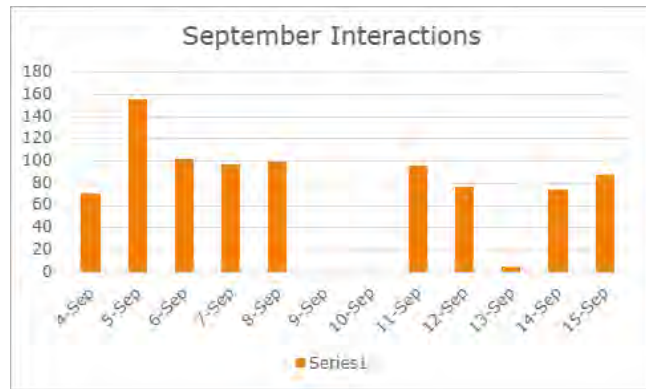
^June: 2443 Interactions



^July Interactions: 3301



^August Interactions: 4115



^September Interactions: 1044

August was our busiest month, followed by July, then June, and September last (Some data left to report). Walk attendance has been higher in September with up to 25 people coming out for walks compared to approximately 10-15 people per walk in peak season. Tidepool walks are the most popular with up to 30 participants, and this event attracts the most locals. September is much different, with the majority of participants being retired people; very few families with kids visiting the tent or attending walks in September. This has been a record year for interactions and number of events held.

The Wild Pacific Trail Society would like to thank and acknowledge Ucluelet First Nation upon whose traditional territory we live and work.

We would like to thank the District of Ucluelet and the Recreation Department. Our partnership is extremely valuable and we wish to continue our working relationship into the long-term future. We are grateful for being permitted to place our advertisement calendars on district boards.

We would like to thank our generous donors for their support.

We would like to thank our partner organizations and special guests for their hard work and dedication to providing free educational outreach to the community and visitors to the West Coast.

TRAIL PROJECTS

In addition to educational programs the trail society worked on future trail routes, new directional signage, new interpretative signs coming soon to Ancient Cedars, and the future staffing of Amphitrite House for year round Interpretive programs.

Thanks to all who have worked to further our motto, "Inspiring through Nature".

Sincerely,

Wild Pacific Trail Society.

