

CAMOSUN BOG

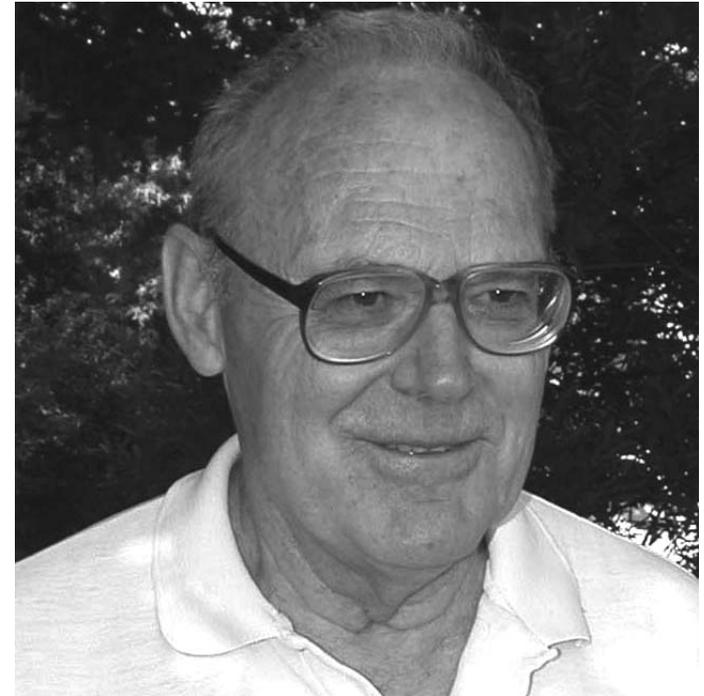
Camosun Bog is a small peatland sitting on the edge of Pacific Spirit Park (formerly Endowment Lands of the University of British Columbia). The formation of this wetland took thousands of years, achieving “bogdom” approximately 2,000 years ago – only a small remnant remains; in less than a century, logging, fires, and more seriously, urban development changed the landscape. Altered hydrology had a detrimental impact on the unique bog plants, in fact very little *Sphagnum* persisted by 1985.

Almost as soon as Pacific Spirit Park was established in 1990 the Greater Vancouver Regional District and the Vancouver Natural History Society took action and had 150 hemlock trees removed by helicopter. This of course did not solve the problem and indeed created new ones, but with the trees out of the way work could begin.

In 1995 the Camosun Bog Restoration Group was established. This dedicated group of volunteers (aka crazy boggers), have worked tirelessly removing debris and re-establishing the wetland. A combination of substrate removal to bare peat (lowering the water table) and various experiments on *Sphagnum* and peatland rehabilitation are successfully bringing this bog back to life.

Today you can see it as a work in progress. A boardwalk was constructed three years ago around the perimeter offering views from all angles. You can see areas of well-established *Sphagnum*, recent transplants, sites being prepped for planting, as well as areas where invasives, such as *Juncus* and *Dulichium*, are in the process of being removed. Bog plants you can find include: numerous species of *Sphagnum*, cranberry (*Vaccinium oxycoccus*), Labrador tea (*Rhododendron groenlandicum*), sundew (*Drosera rotundifolium*), bog laurel (*Kalmia microphylla*), blueberry (*Vaccinium myrtilloides*, *V. ovalifolium*, *V. uliginosum*), shore pine (*Pinus contorta*), and cloudberry (*Rubus chamaemorus*). Camosun Bog is again a natural wonder.

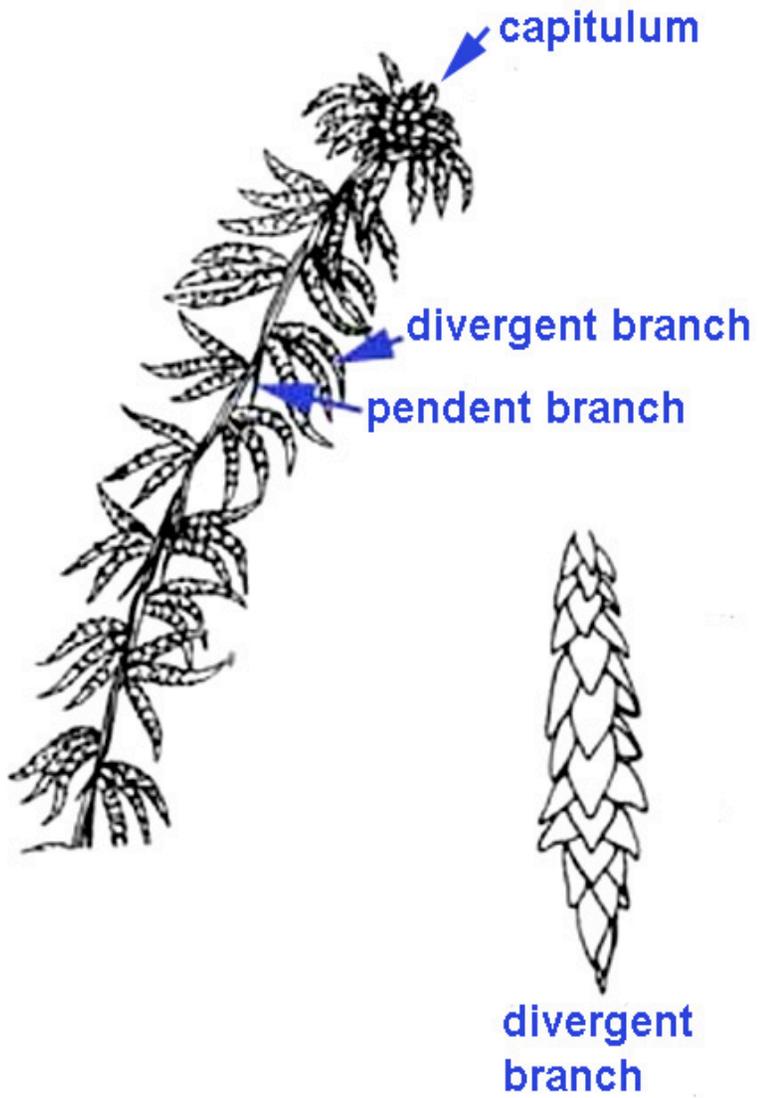
SALMONBERRY DAYS 2009 BRYOPHYTE WALK



CAMOSUN BOG AND FOREST WALK with Shona Ellis

SPHAGNUM STRUCTURE

NOTES



REFERENCES

Schofield, W.B. 1992 "Some of the Common Mosses of British Columbia" Royal British Columbia Museum.

Schofield, W.B. 2003 "Field Guide to Liverwort Genera of Pacific North America" University of Washington Press

Pojar, J. and A. McKinnon (eds) 1994 "Plants of Coastal British Columbia including Washington, Oregon, and Alaska" Lone Pine Publishing

Hermansen, S. and W. Graeme 2005 Reflections on the nature of an urban bog. *Urban History Review*

WEBSITES

Camosun Bog and the Restoration Project:
<http://www.naturalhistory.bc.ca/CamosunBog>

Pacific Spirit Park Society:
<http://www.pacificspiritparksociety.org/pacificspiritparksociety.org/Home.html>

Burns Bog Conservation Society:
<http://www.burnsbog.org/>

Richmond Nature Park:
<http://www.geog.ubc.ca/courses/klink/g448/2000/rnp/rnp.htm>

OUR FRIEND WILF

My fieldtrip companion and friend Wilf Schofield passed away last November. He and I have done many fieldtrips and workshops together over the years, including Salmonberry Days Moss Walks; I miss him, but feel him with me when I walk in the woods or see mosses in my neighbourhood.

Wilf would be happy to be with us today investigating the magical world of mosses and liverworts. He got pleasure from sharing his knowledge and took great delight in watching enthusiasm in others as they expressed their fascination with the miniature features of mosses and their kin.

Wilf's life work was the investigation of the biology, distribution, and taxonomy of mosses. Dr. Schofield, a professor in the Botany Department at the University of British Columbia, was a world-class expert and authority of bryology. He was also a wonderful teacher, who inspired his students to explore and appreciate the botanical world. This year's bryophyte walk is in his honour.