News from



Newsletter of the Nanaimo & Area Land Trust Society

August 2015

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Many Nanaimoites make their way down to the Nanaimo River for relief from the heat of an unusually dry summer.

Photo: Jessica Wolf

The Long Hot Summer of 2015

It started early, with a much drier-than-normal spring, and became a parched summer for the record books. We have all experienced the fire restrictions, wildfire reports and the otherworldly days of smoke-filled air. We have struggled to decipher differing drought-level ratings and watering restrictions within our region. And many of us find ourselves experiencing a hitherto unknown sensation—the fervent wish for rain and the end of this driest of summers.

As we watch the skies hopefully, looking for clouds not smoke, NALT has begun getting ready for the fall season. First up is the 10th annual *Run for the Mountain (see poster on back page)*. Event organizer Mike Thibodeau is pulling out all the stops to make this milestone run special. Next, Deryck Cowling, on behalf of the Nanaimo River Watershed Roundtable, has been working in conjunction with Deb Beck, Recreation Coordinator at the City of Nanaimo, to plan another fun and informative Rivers Day event—including more guided tours of the Nanaimo River Watershed. And don't forget to come to Bowen Park for NALT's famous salmon burgers (see story page 6).

Looking a little further into the future, initial planning has begun for the 3rd annual Wine & Cheese Soiree, in the upstairs lounge at Lucky's Liquor Store, on Friday November 13th. Mark the date in your calendar!

Speaking of calendars, you may note that in the NALT Calendar, in the month of August, it states that the 15th Annual Picnic at the Van Kerkoerle's is to be announced (TBA). Well, here is the announcement: we are holding off the picnic to celebrate when the life-estate agreement on the Van Kerkoerle property is finally ready to be signed. That date remains TBA.

So enjoy the dog days of summer, pray for rain, and get ready for NALT's fall events.

NEWS FROM NALT is published by the Nanaimo & Area Land Trust

NALT's Mission is: to promote and protect the natural values of land in the Nanaimo area

The Nanaimo & Area
Land Trust Society
was registered as a B.C. Society
in 1995, and subsequently was
granted charitable tax status
and the right to hold
conservation covenants.
Charitable tax #:
893193771

Staff

Executive Director: Gail Adrienne
Executive Assistant/
Volunteer Coordinator:
Paul Chapman
Administrative Assistant:
Jenny Webb
Financial Manager: Sheila Downey

Cleaning Services

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Pro-bono Services

Conservation Covenant Specialist:
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Dean Gaudry (Chair)
Allan Hawryzki
Linda Nichol
Charlee Touchette
Wally Wells
Fraser Wilson
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New Board Directors

On March 18th, two new Directors were elected/acclaimed to the NALT Board: Linda Nichol and Charlee Touchette.

Linda has lived in Nanaimo with her husband and two sons since 2001. She first became involved with NALT as a donor to the Linley Valley Acquisition campaign. Linda is a marine wildlife biologist. Her time spent in remote wild areas has reinforced her belief that protecting landscapes for their natural values is a key way to support ecosystems and biodiversity, and, through organizations such as NALT, habitat protection is essential and locally achievable. Linda brings to the NALT Board table previous experience writing proposals and developing plans, her biologist training, and experience working with all levels of government.

Charlee grew up in Northern BC. Recreating and working in the vast wild spaces around her hometown of Smithers, Charlee learned to respect nature and make environmentally sound practices a part of her everyday life. Charlee's parents instilled in her the importance of giving back to the community.

Charlee originally became involved with NALT as part of a habitat enhancement and restoration field crew, funded in part through the Canada-British Columbia Labour Market Development Agreement: Job Creation Partnerships. After she left the crew to take a job with the Nanaimo Multi-cultural Society, Charlee remained active as a NALT volunteer. In addition to her Board duties with NALT, Charlee is also a member and sits on the Board of Nanaimo Search & Rescue.

Linda and Charlee join Holly Blackburn, Jennifer Davidson, Dean Gaudry, Allan Hawryzki, Wally Wells, Fraser Wilson and Jim Young on the NALT Board. They have both been elected for two-year terms.

Bottles for the River

On Saturday, July 4th, NALT volunteers gathered once again to sort bottles and cans in support of Nanaimo River stewardship. A cheerful crew worked under the hot sun to greet supporters who dropped off their refundable containers. For the day's efforts, \$ 1,100 was raised.

Thanks to everyone who was able to stop by and drop off their refundables. Special thanks to the volunteers who waded in (at times, elbows deep!) to sort everything into its rightful place. Thanks again to Lucky's Liquor Store for the use of their space to hold the event, and thanks also to Country Club Centre. Thanks to Starbucks at University Village for the caffeinated fuel that kept us moving, and to Quality Foods at University Village assisting with the volunteer lunch ingredients as well. Thanks also to the Running Room and Alberni Outpost for their tents to shelter us from the sun. Last, but certainly not least, thanks to Dave from Mistaken Identity Vineyards for once again providing a very generous donation of wine for our hard -working volunteers.

NALT's next *Bottles for the River* will be on October 17th, again located at the parking lot beside Lucky's Liquor Store. Hope to see you there!

Eat. Speak. Earth Week.

In lieu of the Wild Foods Festival (see *April 2015 News from NALT*), NALT co-hosted a ½-day workshop with the City of Nanaimo on local food security and resiliency. Along with the co-hosts, the Nanaimo Foodshare was also involved in planning and facilitation of the event.

The afternoon began with a delicious gourmet meal, created by Foodshare Chef Francois de Jong, that featured local and wild ingredients—including wild salmon garnished with pickled fir tips, a wild greens salad with an elderberry vinaigrette dressing, a nettle soup, and nettle pesto. After sharing the meal, workshop participants got to work.

Twenty four people, representing food producers/sellers, restaurateurs, local not-for-profit organizations, public health agencies and other concerned citizens, enjoyed a presentation by Snuneymuxw First Nation Elder Geraldine Manson about some traditional uses of native food plants. Resource people from various facets of the local food web introduced themselves and their points of view to the group. After identifying who was in the room, the task was to identify who was not—in an effort to build an expanded list of contacts for a follow-up meeting in the fall. The group developed a collective meaning of food resiliency, and went about identifying many of the crucial elements that exist or are not yet fully implemented to support our local food network. Next, participants broke-out into smaller groups to explore specific parts of the puzzle. Productive discussions were had on each individual topic, then highlights were presented to the whole.

Next steps will involve scheduling a meeting for October to increase participation, expand on the topics discussed, focus on key actions and build community momentum.

Extraordinary General Meeting

Over the past few years, NALT has focused a significant amount of its efforts to improve our financial accounting and transparency. To that end, our Finance Committee, working with our new Bookkeeper Sheila Downey, who began her contract with NALT in April of this year, is constantly reviewing every aspect of our financial practices and reporting, and working to improve NALT's financial accountability. As a result, there have been some significant changes made to the year-end Financial Report since it was presented at our AGM in March. These changes include the way NALT's endowment funds and our property in Qualicum Bay are recorded.

To adopt changes to the revised year-end report for reporting to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), NALT held an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) on Wednesday, July 5th at 4:45 pm at the NALT office. The program began with some social time and refreshments starting at 4 pm, followed by a brief meeting, with the key agenda item being the revised 2014 Year-end Financial Report. The revised 2014 Year-End Financial Report was unanimously approved by the 10 Board directors and 7 other NALT members present.

If you were unable to attend the EGM, or if you were there but need any clarification of the revised report, please feel free to drop in to the NALT office, #8—140 Wallace Street, or give us a call at 250-714-1990.

Hiking Mount Benson

Many people have had the experience of trying to hike up Mount Benson, getting confused by the web of trails, getting turned around, and generally getting discouraged from trying again. In the past, this was often the case—but that was then; this is now.

If you haven't been up the mountain lately, now is the time to try again. You'll be amazed to find how much has changed about the hike up Mount Benson. The first thing you'll notice as you arrive near the end of Benson View Road is the gravel parking lot with back-in angled parking to

accommodate many cars. On most weekends, this is full to overflowing and you'll still see cars parked alongside the road. An upside of so many park-users is that you will meet a lot of folks who know the way if you have any questions or concerns; and most are more than happy to assist. After you park, proceed to the kiosk at the trail-head. There is a map. information about the park and the hike, as well as recognition of the many donors who made the dream of a park become a reality. No longer does the trail skirt the far end of Witchcraft Lake across several private properties; now a floating walkway crosses the lake at its narrowest point and starts your hike off with a picture-worthy view. A couple of winters ago, the ice froze thick enough that the lake was full of impromptu games of shinny.



Throughout all the seasons, Witchcraft Lake is a beautiful beginning to the hike up Mount Benson.

After you cross the lake, your hike begins _____

in earnest. Square orange trail markers and directional signage lead you along a flat path alongside the lake to the beginning of the Witchcraft Lake

Regional Trail. This trail is a result of an agreement between the Regional District of Nanaimo and woodlot manager VIU, with approval by the Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations who hold title to this crown land. It provides the only public access to the Mount Benson Regional Park. I often joke with people at this point of the hike that "the fun is over." That's because the uphill climb begins here. At no point on the marked trails to the summit do you need technical expertise, nor will you find yourself on an exposed rock face; but it is quite an uphill grind, interspersed with a few short flat runs along the way. Another thing I tell folks after they've completed the Regional Trail and are inside the Park boundary is that "the first half is the worst half" – meaning that although there will still be stretches of steep uphill ahead none of it will be as unrelenting as what you have just conquered. There will be plenty of opportunities to catch your breath, and catch great views too.

From this point, you have a few different choices about which route or combination of routes to take you to the summit. Want the shortest distance between two points? Combine Straight-to-the-Top Trail with Rafe's Way, then Gordie's Trail to the summit. If you want to take a little more time, follow the Logging Road to Te'tuxw'tun Trail that leads to the summit from the east. Check NAL-T's trail map for other options. These routes are all marked with yellow, orange or red trail

(Continued on opposite page)

markers corresponding to colour-coded maps located at each trailhead. All routes have their challenges and vistas—and quiet beauty too.

At the summit, take some time to enjoy the 360° views, pose for a few pictures for posterity, call a friend, eat some lunch, enjoy seasonal foliage such as glacier lilies, camas, flowering sedum, tiger lilies and penstemon, and soak it all in. Revel in the thought that it's all downhill from here.

Ugh! It truly is all downhill from here. If your leg muscles and lungs burned on the way up, your toes, knees and hips will feel the hike down. Allow yourself as much time going down as it took to go up. Enjoy your time, stop at view points to break the descent, and encourage the folks you pass on their way up. Allow yourself four to eight hours to complete the hike.



This area of older forest along the Te'tuxw'tun Trail is just one of the many trails to choose from while hiking in Mount Benson Regional Park

With the growing popularity of



Fairy slipper orchid—
Calypso bulbosa.

the park, there are some things we can do to lessen our impact on the natural areas we pass through. Number one is stay on the trails. Trail widening and braiding increases the width of the trail, and the compaction of the trailside soil—harmful to tree roots and the

delicate flowers that spring up along the way (like fairy-slipper orchids). Bushwhacking a new way through the undergrowth fractures natural areas, and stresses the animal and plant communities in the park. Soon, a rogue path becomes an established trail, and the areas where nature can thrive unmolested start to shrink.

Hiking maps from NALT are available for just \$2 at the Backyard Wild Bird & Nature Store, at the Tourism Info Centre at Northfield Road and the Parkway, at Valhalla Pure Outfitters, and at the NALT Stewardship Centre, #8 - 140 Wallace Street. Happy trails to you!

AQUAPARIAN Environmental Consulting Ltd.

Popular River's Day Watershed Tours Return—including WildPlay! A Variety of Interesting Tours Organized by the Nanaimo River Watershed Roundtable

Once again we have organized a number of tours that will explore the Nanaimo River watershed —so you can experience firsthand why the Nanaimo River is so significant to our community. The tours are designed to raise awareness about the watershed, and to promote the Nanaimo River Watershed Roundtable—a collaborative group that NALT has brought together to encourage the development of shared strategies around the many values of the watershed and its estuary.

A highlight will be a repeat of last year's sold-out tour of the local forestry operations of TimberWest and Island Timberlands, as well as day-to-day operation of the Jump Creek reservoir—source of the City of Nanaimo water supply. This is the only activity that is *not* scheduled on the actual River's Day. The bus will leave Bowen Park's Wall Street parking lot at 9:00 am on Friday, September 25th, and will take you on a seven-hour tour led by three knowledgeable guides, for only \$25.

Five other tours are planned for River's Day itself—on Sunday, September 27th. These will



Jump Creek Reservoir holds Nanaimo's drinking water. Photo: Deryck Cowling



Folks enjoy a guided walk through the Nanaimo River estuary on Rivers Day 2014. Photo: Deryck Cowling

include a guided walk on the Nanaimo River Estuary, a visit to the historic Morden Colliery Mine site, as well as an exciting new tour of the Wildplay Element Park (formerly known as the "Bungy Zone") at Cassidy, where you will get a chance to try some of their aerial adventures. NALT's own Dean Gaudry will lead a guided walk through the little-known Nanaimo River Regional Park near the Nanaimo Fish Hatchery, and will point out some of the unique riparian flora and fauna that can be found there—including a fine example of a culturally modified cedar tree. Finally, for those who prefer to float rather than hike, Don Cohen from VIU's Outdoor Recreation Department will lead a rafting excursion of the Nanaimo River **Estuary**—the largest estuary on Vancouver Island—and will point out some its important features. Be prepared for a little bit of paddling.

Full details and registration for these tours can be found in the *Fall Activity Guide* of the City of Nanaimo's Parks and Rec programs, which is available at many locations around town, including Parks and Recreation facilities, or at www.nanaimo.ca ireg.nanaimo.ca. When you check out the Guide, be sure to check out all of the other Rivers' Day activities planned for Bowen Park on the 27th.

Pre-registration for tours is mandatory, and you can register on-line or by phone. These tours will fill up quickly, so don't delay!

Nanaimo River Watershed Roundtable: Update

On June 3rd, 17 participants attended a meeting of the Nanaimo River Watershed Roundtable. As part of a practice of rotating hosts, this meeting was held at the Beban Park Social Centre, hosted by City of Nanaimo representatives on the Roundtable.

As always, one of the main functions at a meeting is the sharing of information among those in attendance. Information about sub-tidal eel grass restoration, coal tenure applications, creek restoration, climate change planning, and heritage and beautification projects were discussed. NALT Executive Director, Gail Adrienne reported on presentations to Nanaimo Council and the RDN Board to update them on Roundtable activities. There was also an opportunity to present to a community group in Cedar. At all venues, the presentation was well-received, thoughtful questions were asked and answered, and in Cedar, a great conversation between audience and presenters occurred.

The Education and Awareness Committee, led by Deryck Cowling, is moving forward with planning for watershed tours on and around World Rivers Day in late September. As Rivers Day nears, look for more information about these activities or about the Nanaimo River Watershed Roundtable at http://nanaimoriverwatershed.com/



This photo by Ron LePage of the Nanaimo River estuary graced the cover of NALT's 2015 calendar

2016 NALT Calendar

The deadline for submitting your photos for the 2016 NALT calendar has come and gone. Thanks to the contribution of many great photos, we now have our work cut out narrowing it down to the final lucky 13. If your photo is selected for the calendar or any other NALT fundraising items (such as note cards, postcards and posters) you will be asked to sign an agreement granting NALT limited rights to use your photo(s). And, you will receive recognition each and every time your photo is used.

We will be working over the summer to guide the calendar through all its draft incarnations, and plan to have it available for sale in the early days of fall.

Last year's calendar was a great success for NALT, and we hope to build on sales and satisfaction with the 2016 Calendar. Stay tuned for an announcement of the beginning of sales, and thanks to all of you who contributed.

~ THANK YOU ALL ~

Many thanks to all the individuals, organizations and businesses who have donated their time and skills as volunteers, contributed items or services, made financial donations, renewed or started a membership, or begun a monthly pre-authorized contribution (PAC).

April 21, 2015 to August 12, 2015

<u>Donations – Moorecroft Acquisition Phase II:</u> Lynda Hackney and TELUS Charitable Giving Program.

Donations – Mt. Benson Phase II: Lorne & Michele Catley, Clara Johnson, and Delicado's.

Donations – Nanaimo River Watershed Roundtable: Timber West.

Donations – Nanaimo River Acquistion: Clara Johnson.

Donations – Linley Valley Phase II: Helping Hands Club of WorkSafeBC,

<u>Donations and In-kind Goods – Natural Abundance Native Plant Nursery:</u> Frank & Ann, Bill Betak, Ruth Caspell, Deryck Cowling, Susan Fisher, Jule Gatin, John Gordon, Doris & Peter Hinkle, Pat Hogue, Elise Hoy, Kim Leduc, Lynn Leduc, Wayne Morgan, Anneke Van Kerkoerle, Joan Wagner & Bruce Patterson, Allison & Nick Wood and Ingar Wyatt

<u>Individual Donations & New Memberships – NALT</u>: Jan Cook, Diana Dugas, Sheila Downey, Megan Farquhar, Inge Fleet, Douglas & Norah Forrest, Gina Gall, Holland Planning Innovations Inc., Estate of Erika Berta Lockwood, Keith Paton, Betty Penston, Gary Smart, TELUS Charitable Giving Program, Charlee & Eugene Touchette, Wendy Van Oldenborgh, Dr Lawrence Winkler & Robyn Winkler

<u>Business & Organization Donations – NALT Donated Goods & Services:</u> Alberni Outpost, Country Club Centre, Lucky's Liquor Store, Mistaken Identity Vineyards, Quality Foods (University Village), Running Room and Starbucks (University Village)

Volunteers from April 21, 2014: Gail Adrienne, Deb Beck, Holly Blackburn, Ruth Caspell, Paul Chapman, Don Cohen, Linda Collins, Deryck Cowling, Doug Creba, Dave Cutts, Allan Davidson, Jennifer Davidson, JP Deland, Susan Fisher, Dean Gaudry, John Gordon, Josiah Green, Taylor Hamilton, Allan Hawryzki, Mike Hills, Pat Hogue, Barbara Hourston, Bill Jackson, Trish Jennings, Peter Jeremy, Maria Kawahara, Anne Kerr, Joe Materi, Pattie Mitchell, Wayne Morgan, Geoff Mumford, Susan Murphy, Crystal Nguyen, Linda Nichol, Tianna Perry, Darcy Rabideau, Ellis Richer, Harriet Rueggeberg, Parker Schachtel, Chris Scorah, Thomas Smith, Beth Stanley, Marjorie Stewart, Eiko Taku, Mike Thibodeau, Charlee Touchette, Bruce Ward, Wendy Ward, Catherine Watson, Marshall Weane, Jenny Webb, John Wells, Wally Wells, Fraser Wilson, Inger Wyat and Jim Young.

"As soon as any man says of the affairs of the State "What does it matter to me?" the State may be given up for lost." — Jean-Jacques Rousseau

> "Every election is determined by the people who show up." — Larry J. Sabato



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NALT Donation Form THE MOORECROFTERS' CAMPAIGN

to raise money for Park ammenities at Moorecroft Regional Park

Ι,
would like to donate to the Moorecroft Stewardship Committee
My donation of \$is enclosed; cash, cheque or credit card (circle one)
caon, oneque en circuit cara (en ere ene)
/ISA/ MC#
Expiry/Signature
Mailing Address:
City/ Town:
Postal Code:Phone:
Email:
Cheques should be made payable to "NALT – Moorecroft Stewardship Committee"
Charitable receipts will be issued for all donations of \$20 or more. NALT's charitable tax # is 893193771
Please record this contribution in the name of, if other than yourself:
would like to remain anonymous on all NALT lists and iterature (circle one) NO / YES
Thank You for Your Support!

<u>Donation/Pledge Form</u> THE MOUNT BENSON CAMPAIGN II



DONOR CATEGORIES

	\$50,000 or more	Ultimate Benefactor of Benson		
	\$10,000 to \$49,999	Benefactor of Benson		
	\$5,000 to \$9,999	Hero of Benson		
	\$3,000 to \$4,999	Grand Champion of Benson		
	\$1,000 to \$2,999	Champion of Benson		
	\$500 to \$999	Patron of Benson		
	\$100 to \$499	Friend of Benson		
	less than \$100	Sponsor of Benson		
M	y donation of \$	is enclosed		
cas	sh, cheque or cred	lit card (check one) AND/OR		
۱w	ould like to pledge	e \$ in(#)		
payments made monthly/annually/other				
Make cheque payable to NALT- Mount Benson Acquisition.				
Visa/M	[C#	Exp Date:		
Tax receipts issued for donations of \$20 or more.				
My nar	me is			
(for tax	receipt)			
Please	record this contril	bution in the name of :		
(if diffe	rent)			
My stre		anonymous (Check Here) 🗆		
		postal code		
		mail:		
Thank you for your continued support!				

OFFICE ONLY: TR #____



Nanaimo River Donation Form

I wish to donate to the Nanaimo River Project, to assist with the costs of developing a Nanaimo River stewardship strategy

Donation Categories

\$5,000 to \$9,999	Benefactor
\$1,000 to \$4,999	Hero
\$500 to \$999	Champion
\$100 to \$499	Patron
\$25 to \$100	Friend
less than \$25	Supporter

My donation of \$_____ is enclosed as cash,

cheque or credit card (circle one)

Cheques should be made payable to **NALT – Nanaimo River Strategy Project** OR provide credit card info

Strategy Project OR provide credit card into
VISA/ MC#
Expiry/SignatureCharitable receipts will be issued for all donations of \$20 or more. TO receive your tax receipt and be on our contact list, please fill ou the section below. NALT's charitable tax # is 893193771
My Name :
Mailing Address:
City/ Town:
Postal Code:Phone:
Email Contact: If this donation is being made in the name of someone other than yourself, please give their contact information
Their Name
Mailing Address:
City/ Town:
Postal Code:Phone: I would like to remain anonymous on all NALT thank you and recognition lists NO / YES (circle one) NALT Thanks You for Your Support!

(OFFICE ONLY) TR#_____



NALT MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please send this completed form to: Nanaimo & Area Land Trust #8-140 Wallace St. Nanaimo, BC V9R 5B1 I would like to: a) Renew my NALT Membership b) Begin a NALT Membership (Check the category that applies to you) Senior/Low Income/Student -\$10 __ Individual/Family - \$20 Business- \$50 c) \square I would like to become a monthly donor: (Please see Pre-Authorized Contribution PAC form) d) \square I would like to make a one time donation of: Make cheque payable to: Nanaimo & Area Land Trust Please charge my Visa or Mastercard: Credit Card #___ Signature:_ PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY name mailing address Postal code____ email address_ telephone Would you like to remain anonymous? Tax receipts will be issued for contributions of \$20 or more. NALT does not sell, trade or loan our database of donors, members or contacts to individuals or other organizations Thank you for your continued support!

OFFICE ONLY: TR #____



Pre-Authorized Contribution (PAC) Includes Annual Membership

Complete this section ONLY if you want to become a monthly donor.

bank	authorize NALT to automatically withdraw from my account on the 1st of each month beginning ate(yr/month/day):		
; ''''s c ¦	\$10.00		
	\$20.00		
	\$30.00		
;	\$40.00		
. □ ! □	Other amount:		
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	OR		
	authorize NALT to charge my Visa OR MasterCard the each month:		
	\$10.00		
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	\$30.00		
	\$40.00		
	Other amount:		
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sendii Please	nay change or cancel your contribution at any time by ng NALT written notice. The note: You will receive one tax receipt for the total amount of the gifts after the end of each tax year.		

Thank you for your continued support!

Your membership & monthly contribution are

greatly appreciated.

RUI FOR THE MOUNTAIN

WESTWOOD LAKE 6 KM RUN/WALK SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2015 9:00 AM START

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\$20 Adult & Master Registration \$5 Youth Registration (until Sept 4)

\$25 Adult & Master Registration \$5 Youth Registration (after Sept 4)

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WESTWOOD



















