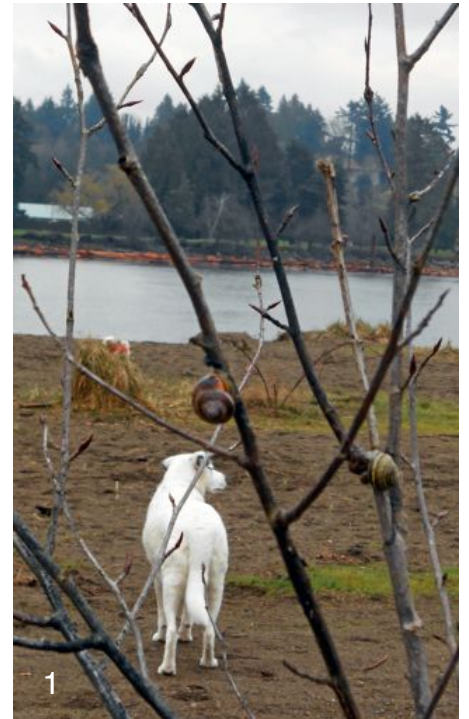


**Watching for *Cepaea nemoralis* to emerge from hibernation adds fun to late winter walks with my dog**  
by George Holm

A fun end of winter and beginning of spring ritual that I look forward to each year is watching for which day the Banded Garden Snail, *Cepaea nemoralis*, in my neighborhood emerge from their winter hibernation. I have done this for six years now, since moving here in 2011. This year, 2017, the snails emerged on March 12. That was seven days later than last year, and one month and two days later than in 2015, when it can be said that winter passed us by, and they emerged on February 10. The latest they have emerged was in 2013 when they awoke on March 14.

The year I moved here was also the year that I adopted my dog Zoe, and it has been the daily walks with her that has led me to make numerous new mollusc discoveries and observations, all of which I have written about in the *Dredgings*. Since dogs walk with their noses, it is Zoe's frequent pauses to check for pee-mails left by other dogs that allows me to scan the immediate area for snails. Since we walk the same half-hour route every morning, rain or shine, it is obvious when something is new or has changed. It is during that walk when I will spot the first snail(s), usually on a white painted fence that we pass by.

*C. nemoralis* throughout my neighborhood begin to emerge at the same time, and that is also so at McDonald Beach, an off-leash park a twenty-five minute drive from my home. Located north of the Vancouver International Airport on the bank of the Fraser River, it is where I walk Zoe in the afternoon. At this site the snails crawl into the trees and bushes after they emerge from the sand. Depending on the year, I have seen as many as a couple of dozen or more snails in a tree at one time. This year, perhaps because of the severe winter we just went through, the snails at McDonald Beach emerged on March 13, one day later than those in my neighborhood and there were also very few of them.



Photos from McDonald Beach. No's 1 and 3 from 2013  
and No. 2 from 2014  
George Holm photos