



Newsletter

1 February 2022 | Issue 10

Upcoming Events

See our [Calendar](#) for nature events happening nearby.

Let's Stay Social

We'd love to hear from you!



Club Events

Monthly Meetings

Our next meeting will be on **Saturday, February 19th at 2pm.**

This will be a Zoom meeting and potentially in-person as well, depending on the situation with the Omicron variant. Stay tuned: more details will be provided by e-mail.

Nature Nanaimo

Presents:

Forest blockades and tsunamis:

Factors that contribute to soil biodiversity in coastal temperate rainforests

with

Dr. Zoë Lindo

Saturday February 19th

2:00 PM



Nature Nanaimo is very pleased to announce our February meeting presentation: **Forest blockades and tsunamis: Factors that contribute to soil biodiversity in coastal temperate rainforests with Dr. Zoë Lindo.**

Coastal temperate rainforests are globally rare and geographically isolated ecosystems. They exist in only a few places on Earth and are mostly threatened by industrial and climate pressures. British Columbia contains the largest area of coastal temperate rainforests in the world and is a biodiversity hotspot for soil organisms like oribatid mites (Acari: Oribatida). Factors that contribute to this high biodiversity include large accumulations of organic matter

that extend into the canopy of ancient forests. Historic and current social and geologic events such as the 'war-in-the-woods' over forest harvesting and earthquake-induced tsunamis across the Pacific Ocean might seem unrelated, but both have long-lasting impacts that shape the composition of oribatid mite communities in the coastal temperate rainforest.

Dr. Zoë Lindo is a Professor at Western University, Department of Biology. Growing up on Vancouver Island was formative for Zoë's connection to coastal temperate rainforests. While completing a BSc, Zoë was introduced to soil ecology and soil biodiversity which led to a MSc at the University of Calgary examining forest harvesting effects on oribatid mites (Acari: Oribatida) in mixed- wood boreal forests. Eager to return to the forests of home, Zoë completed a PhD at the University of Victoria in 2008 examining oribatid mite communities in canopy habitats of coastal temperate rainforests on Vancouver Island. After a postdoctoral position at McGill University, Zoë started as Assistant Professor at Western in 2011. While the majority of their current research examines how peatland soil biodiversity is affected by climate warming, Zoë's 2017 sabbatical was spent looking for rare oribatid mite species on southern Vancouver Island and in beach debris on Haida Gwaii. While Zoë and her partner live in London, Ontario, they spend as much time as possible in the forest at their property on Denman Island.

Nature Nuggets and News

Nanaimo Goose in the Windy City!?



'It's really a mystery:' Nanaimo-tagged Canada goose...

NANAIMO - Why did the chicken cross the road? No-one knows, but the bigger question for VIU biologists with a focus on banding, tagging and tracking local Canada geese is why did the goose cross the continent?

[Read more](#)

nanaimonewsnow.com



The Great Backyard Bird Count



Join us February 18-21, 2022.

Show Transcript Birds are everywhere, all the time, doing fascinating things! Participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count for four days in February to watch, learn about, count, and celebrate birds. People from around the world spend these four...

[Read more](#)

Monthly Roundup of Nature Events

Bamfield Marine Science Centre Webinar – February 2 & 16

BMSC Climate Action:

Join us as we transport you to the coastal waters and temperate rainforests of the traditional territory of the Huu-ay-aht First Nations. Engage with climate and ocean experts, indigenous knowledge holders, fishers, scientists, ocean tech companies, and policy makers to uncover the potential of coastal community-based climate action.



Please register for each workshop and webinar individually by clicking the registration links within the [table](#).

Schedule is subject to change. Please check back regularly or sign up for email updates.

Links for registration are provided on the calendar:

<https://www.bamfieldmsc.com/climate-action/bcas-registration>.

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| Feb 2, 13:00 PST | <p>Kristie Signer , City of Victoria</p> <p>Rena Viehbeck , ICLEI Canada- Local Governments for Sustainability</p> | Register here  | Episode 10: Rising Seas & Coastal Extremes |
| Feb 16, 13:00 PST | <p>Dr. Kim Juniper , Ocean Networks Canada</p> <p>Moronke Harris , Ocean Science Intern</p> | Register here  | Episode 11: Deep Sea and Oceanographic Changes |

VIU Science and Tech Lecture Series – February 2, 9 & 16

VIU Science and Tech Community Lecture Series for the Spring 2022:

This spring's lecture series mainly focuses on the many varied aspects of climate change research and delve into topics such as investigating snowpack in Coastal BC, water resource management on Vancouver Island, tracking past shifts in sea levels and changes to wildlife. The series runs on Wednesdays, from 7-8 pm, from January 19 to April 6. (There is no lecture on February 23, during VIU's Reading Week.) Lectures are offered in-person at Building 355, Room 203 at VIU's Nanaimo campus and most lectures will be live streamed via Zoom. In-person attendance is at a reduced capacity of 50% and attendees must provide proof of vaccination and wear masks. To register for any of the in-person lectures or to access Zoom streaming details go to the Science and Technology Community Lecture Series website. <https://scitech.viu.ca/lecture-series>

February presentations in the lecture series are:

Water Balance Model for Vancouver Island: Insights about Water Management in a Changing Climate, presented by Dr. Alan Gilchrist, a VIU Geography Professor, on February 2.

Planes, Drones and Snowmobiles: Measuring Snowpack in Coastal British Columbia in the 21st Century, presented by Dr. Bill Floyd, Director of VIU's Coastal Hydrology Research Lab, on February 9.

HarmCheck: High Impact, Quantitative, Harm Reduction Drug Checking, presented by Dr. Chris Gill, a VIU Chemistry Professor and Co-Director of VIU's Applied Environmental Research Laboratories, on February 16.

To learn more about the upcoming lectures and register for these events please visit the VIU Science and Technology Community Lecture Series website.

<https://scitech.viu.ca/lecture-series>

VNHS Natural History Night: Extinct Insects – February 8

Natural History Night: Extinct Insects
February 8, 2022 @ 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm
On Zoom

NATURAL HISTORY NIGHT

A new, extinct suborder of insects closely related to dragonflies and damselflies, and the world they lived in fifty million years ago

British Columbia's diverse fossil insect record continues to surprise. A team including Royal BC Museum (RBCM) research associate Bruce Archibald and RBCM emeritus entomologist Robert Cannings recently described the Cephalozygoptera, a new suborder of Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies). They are like damselflies in many ways, but most importantly their heads differ from the conservative damselfly shape. For over a century and a half, paleontologists have described many fossil species of this group, but always classified them as damselflies, thinking that their odd head shape was only the product of distortion produced by pressures during fossilization. Now, this is understood to be their actual shape in life. We now see the Cephalozygoptera stretching back to the early Cretaceous alongside the dinosaurs and across the Northern Hemisphere, thriving after the dinosaurs were gone until they are last seen about ten million years ago in Spain. Their greatest diversity appears to have been in the ancient temperate uplands of southern BC and northern Washington about 50 million years ago. In this talk, paleoentomologist Bruce Archibald describes these insects, their discovery, and the world that they lived in. The monograph describing the Cephalozygoptera may be downloaded free here: <https://www.mapress.com/zt/article/view/zootaxa.4934.1.1>

Please register in advance for this meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0kcu2rrDwtGtVFVHSmXpQftYDsqEBw1uT7>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

[See more details](#)

Introduction to Backyard Birds – February 16

The Great Backyard Bird Count is coming up!

Join **Ann Nightingale** to go over the rules and procedures, and to gain confidence in

identifying birds in Victoria yards and neighbourhoods! Out-of-towners are welcome, too!

February 16, 2022

7:00 pm Pacific Time

[Register in advance for this meeting:](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



Chestnut-backed Chickadee
Photo Credit: Ann Nightingale

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