

## Newsletter

1 December 2021 | Issue 8

### Upcoming Events

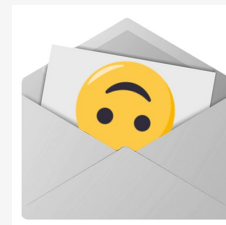
See our [Calendar](#) for nature events happening nearby.



### Newsletter Contributions

Do you have nature stories, news, event details, or photographs you'd like to share with us as we assemble our new club newsletters?

Please send them to [naturenanaimo@gmail.com](mailto:naturenanaimo@gmail.com) with the subject "Newsletter" and we'll be in touch!



### Let's Stay Social

We'd love to hear from you!



## Club Events

### Monthly Meetings

#### November 14th AGM & Meeting

This year's AGM saw the election of our 2021-2022 Board of Directors. We welcomed the

addition of three new Board members - Directors at Large: Ilse Holling, Nancy Twynam, and Allan Webner while we thanked parting Board members: Tom Grauman, Dan Haslam, Karen MacDowell and Sari Saunders. Our returning board members include: President: Doug Fraser, Vice President: Julia Roberts, Treasurer: Paul Courtin, Secretary: Michael Stebbings, Membership: Sally Hofmeier, Webmaster: Lindsay Dealy and Directors at large: Staffan Lindgren and Jennifer Jenkins.

The AGM was accompanied by a wonderful presentation on the Pacific Marten of Haida Gwaii by Melissa Todd. In case you missed it, the Zoom recording can be watched here:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/mcUCW1HNidaEUB\\_e5SDCv2dYjXViGUIGOCACB\\_dZ12wF0Lx0bnIEh3Vm\\_nRuFY8\\_C.0sgr7GGHkQEETZau](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/mcUCW1HNidaEUB_e5SDCv2dYjXViGUIGOCACB_dZ12wF0Lx0bnIEh3Vm_nRuFY8_C.0sgr7GGHkQEETZau)

Passcode: 1\*g\$nGW7



Our next meeting will be on **Thursday, January 20th at 7pm:**


**Nature Nanaimo**

Presents:

**How old are the trees in old-growth forests on Vancouver Island?**

with  
**Bill Beese**

**Thursday January 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**7:00 PM**



Nature Nanaimo is very pleased to announce our first presentation in the coming new year. "How old are the trees in old-growth forests on Vancouver Island?" with Bill Beese, Registered Forestry Professional and retired Professor of Forestry at VIU on January 20th. The coastal temperate rainforests of British Columbia (BC) are dominated by old-growth forests. However, few studies have documented the age of specific areas or forest stands, or trees in BC's old-growth in detail. Bill will describe how studies have helped improve our understanding of old-growth dynamics, particularly in relation to large- and small-scale disturbances and successional development.

Bill Beese is currently an honorary Research Associate at VIU, having taught as a professor in the Forestry Dept at VIU for 11 years. Before joining the VIU faculty, Bill spent over 30 years on the BC Coast as a Forest Ecologist in research and policy development for several forest companies. Bill is internationally recognized for practical implementation of innovative forestry, in particular his landmark work implementing retention silviculture systems, in which trees are left to maintain biodiversity over the long term. This work on variable retention as an alternative to clear-cut harvesting was a team effort that received the Corporate Award from the Ecological Society of America.

Bill has served on numerous advisory committees on research, old growth forests and ecosystem-based management including an international science panel for Forestry Tasmania. He is a co-author of three book chapters and numerous research papers. Among the many awards and recognitions Bill has received, he most recently (2020) was awarded the Canadian Forestry Scientific Achievement Award from the Canadian Institute of Forestry, recognizing "individuals who have made innovative and outstanding achievements in forestry research in Canada."

## Club Outings

### November 17: Salmon Ramble

On Wednesday, November 17, about 8-10 Nature Nanaimo members visited the Nanaimo Hatchery to watch salmon spawn. The spawning channel had a smallish number of chum salmon, some of which were spawning, and we saw a few coho salmon as well (see video on our Facebook page [here](#)). Eagles were plentiful, along with gulls and one great blue heron. The avian highlight was an American dipper.



### January 10 and/or January 15: Brackendale Eagles

Join fellow nature enthusiasts for a trip to Brackendale BC, a location where large numbers of eagles gather from November through January each year. Brackendale is situated near Squamish (about 45 minutes drive from Horseshoe Bay.)



Dates: Monday January 10 and /or Saturday January 15.  
(We will go one or both dates depending on interest)

Time: 7:30 am – 5:25 pm (8:25 am and 3:45 pm ferries) (approx. 3 hour visit in Brackendale)

Transportation: Car-pooling

Estimated Costs:

- \$75 per person assuming 4 people per car (for ferry vehicle reservation, vehicle and passenger costs. Gas costs are extra)
- For the Monday trip, the estimated cost for seniors (65+) is \$40 since ferry cost for senior passengers is free.

Information about Viewing sites can be found at:

[https://www.exploresquamish.com/files/dmo\\_listings/attachments/EagleWatch.Brochure.Map\\_Rev\\_.pdf](https://www.exploresquamish.com/files/dmo_listings/attachments/EagleWatch.Brochure.Map_Rev_.pdf)

There is a volunteer interpretive program from 10-3 pm on weekends. At Eagle Run Dike (41015 Government Road. – opposite Easter Seals Camp – spotting scopes, interpretive discussion. Site #3 on map at website above. Nature Nanaimo will try to arrange something similar for the Monday visit.

Lunch recommendation: Fergie's Café, 70002 Squamish Valley Rd, 604-898-1537 Riverside setting at Sunwolf Resort.

Please let us know:

- What date you are interested in - indicate preferred date and if available for both.
- Are you willing to drive?
- If yes, how many passengers can you take?

## Nature Nuggets and News

### Podcast: Bird Babble

A podcast by volunteers of the Rocky Point Bird Observatory located in Metchosin, BC on southern Vancouver Island. Bird Babble is a podcast aimed at providing the listeners with an informative yet personable look at what goes on at the observatory.

Focusing on the birds, the banding stations, various projects and the people who volunteer, we share stories about Rocky Point Bird Observatory, other avian research programs and talk with guests from around the world.

<https://birdbabblerpbo.podbean.com>



• BIRD BABBLE •

## Monthly Roundup of Nature Events

### Colliery Dam Invasive Plant Bash – December 4



Host: Nanaimo Riding Association  
Where: Colliery Dam park  
635 Wakesiah Avenue, Nanaimo  
When: December 04, 2021, 01:00 PM — 03:00 PM

Greetings, fellow Greens!

Those living in the north part of the Nanaimo North-Cowichan riding will likely know about, and love, the Colliery Dam park in S.W. Nanaimo, which borders our two ridings. The Nanaimo Riding Association invites you to join them in this clean-up operation. We'll meet at the shelter near the lower dam. Parking is available off of 7th St. (635 7th St), or the lot at the end of Wakesiah Rd, at 6th St. (635 Wakesiah Avenue)

Here's what you need to bring:

- Gloves (a must)
- Preferably eye protection.
- If you have clippers or useful tools, label and bring them as well if you wish.
- A snack, a filled water bottle, and a cup for a hot refreshment.

Dress appropriately.

We are going to make this world-class park sparkle!

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## The Curious World of Seaweed – December 7



### Beaty@Home: The Curious World of Seaweed Josie Iselin

 BEATY BIODIVERSITY  
MUSEUM  
[beatymuseum.ubc.ca](http://beatymuseum.ubc.ca)

In this special Beaty@Home session, we're joined by fine art photographer and author Josie Iselin, the creative artist behind The Curious World of Seaweed, the spotlight exhibition currently on display at the Beaty Biodiversity Museum until April 24, 2022.

Click here to register: <https://bit.ly/3p5t8Ye>

In this exhibition, contemporary scans of seaweed collected from the Pacific Coast are layered onto historical lithographs of particular algal species, creating a taxonomic vector from past to present and into an uncertain future.

Visit The Curious World of Seaweed!

In-person: <https://bit.ly/3liYM3q>

Online: <https://bit.ly/3FXknGn>

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This chat is recommended for everyone ages 9+! If your child hasn't used Zoom before or needs help with typing, occasional support from an adult or older sibling may be helpful. We are offering the tours live on Zoom, today's will be recorded. You can watch previously recorded sessions on the Beaty Museum's Facebook page or YouTube Playlist.

If you would like to contribute to the museum, you can pay what you can on the registration page. In addition, we appreciate any donations (tax-deductible), purchasing a membership, planning to visit in person, and sharing information about the museum with friends and family. Thank you for your support of the Beaty Biodiversity Museum!

The Beaty Biodiversity Museum reserves the right to cancel, change or modify Beaty@Home sessions due to unforeseen circumstances, such as staffing conflicts.

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## Bamfield Marine Science Centre Webinar – December 8

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. More episodes and workshops will be added for Fall 2021 and Spring 2022; 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>.

Dec 8, 13:00 PST	<a href="#">Natasha Legay</a>  Ocean Startup Project <a href="#">Gregory Trowse</a>  Luna Sea Solutions Inc.	<a href="#">Register here</a> 	<b>Episode 8: Renewable Ocean Energy</b>
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## RPBO: Introduction to e-Bird with Ann Nightingale – December 4, 11



Join Ann Nightingale from Rocky Point Bird Observatory for an introduction to eBird, a four-part Zoom series beginning Saturday, November 20, 2021

Sessions include:

- 1) Introduction to eBird - Navigating the website to find bird information  
Saturday, November 20, 2021
- 2) Entering your data on the eBird website  
Saturday, November 27, 2021
- 3) Using the eBird mobile app  
Saturday, December 4, 2021
- 4) Advanced features, customization and your questions  
Saturday, December 11, 2021

If you do not already have an eBird account, you will find it worthwhile to create one at <http://eBird.ca>. Account holders have access to more information.

Pro-tip: Choose your username carefully. You cannot change it later!

Introduction to eBird will be offered every week for four weeks,  
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.

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## **VNHS: Ants of British Columbia – December 14**



Victoria Naturalist History Society (VNHS): Natural History Night

(See their full calendar of events at: [http://www.vicnhs.bc.ca/?page\\_id=1518](http://www.vicnhs.bc.ca/?page_id=1518))

### *The Ants of British Columbia: Ecological Giants Shadowed by Invasives*

Ants are one of the most successful groups of animals on the planet. While only approximately 15,000 species have been described, making them a species diversity lightweight within the insects, they contribute more biomass to many ecosystems than any other animal group. Further, the social behaviour of ants is truly fascinating, ranging from weakly social species that feed on the blood of their own young to highly organized slave takers, farmers and ranchers. Rob Higgins will look at some of this diversity in British Columbia and also take a look at new arrivals that are overshadowing this group.

Register in advance for this meeting:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYrdu-trDgpGNX\\_5kmcnHd6a1G-6jLIHl9I](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYrdu-trDgpGNX_5kmcnHd6a1G-6jLIHl9I)

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

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## **Christmas Bird Count (Nanaimo) – December 27**



We have heard that the Christmas Bird Count date for our area has been set - it will be on **December 27th**.

There are several ways to participate and help monitor and conserve North America's birds!

You should be prepared to commit part or all of the count day as either a field observer or feeder watcher somewhere within the count circle. Field observers cover a portion of the count circle on their own or with a small group, counting all birds they find. Feeder watchers count birds at their feeders for a portion of the day. If you don't feel qualified, you can still tag along and help spotting and counting birds, or recording data.

Bird species missed on the count day may be recorded during the count week, which is 3 days either side of count day. These may be rare birds or just something that was missed due to bad weather etc. Owl surveys may be particularly valuable. They consist of early morning or evening surveys by listening for owls inside the count circle.

Note - there are ADDITIONAL counts occurring in our region on DIFFERENT DATES so see the details below . . .

The following Christmas Bird Count dates and contacts are relevant for our members:

**Nanaimo**

**Date: 2021-12-27**

**Contact: [heidi.vanvliet@hotmail.ca](mailto:heidi.vanvliet@hotmail.ca) (cc to Bryan Vroom [bvroom@gmail.com](mailto:bvroom@gmail.com))**

[PDF Map](#)

**Nanoose Bay**

**Date: 2021-12-17**

**Contact: [joecrichton@shaw.ca](mailto:joecrichton@shaw.ca) (Joe Crichton)**

[PDF Map](#)

**Parksville-Qualicum Beach**

**Date: 2021-12-19**

**Contact: [susanknoerr@gmail.com](mailto:susanknoerr@gmail.com) (Susan Knoerr)**

[PDF Map](#)

**Ladysmith**

**Date: 2021-12-19**

**Contact: [rbhay2020@gmail.com](mailto:rbhay2020@gmail.com) (Robert Hay)**

[PDF Map](#)

<https://www.birdscanada.org/bird-science/christmas-bird-count/>



