



Newsletter

1 July 2021 | Issue 3

Upcoming Events

See our [Calendar](#) for local (and virtual) nature-related events.



Let's Stay Social

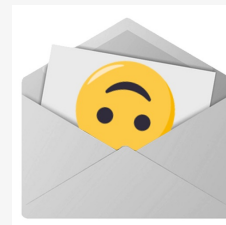
We'd love to hear from you!



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 with the subject "Newsletter" and we'll be in touch!



Club Events

Monthly Meeting

June Zoom meeting

We had a fun "members" Zoom meeting in June. Members shared some of their fun nature experiences from the past year as well as suggesting possible outings, both short and long, for the future now that restrictions are being eased.

We had many wonderful suggestions for destinations/themes for the coming year. A sampling included trips to view grizzlies feeding on salmon, whale watching, visiting the Reifel bird sanctuary, the Brackendale eagles, and hawk watching at Beachey Head as well as exploring the west coast of the island from Bamfield to Tofino.

We encourage all members to send us suggestions for future local Rambles and beyond!

Members also participated in a challenging Nature Quiz but unfortunately, a computer glitch at Doug's end prompted a last-minute cut-off of the meeting, and scores were not tallied. Thanks to all that attended and participated - you are all winners!

There is no monthly meeting for the month of July. Instead, we're having...

A Summer Picnic!

We have planned a wonderful Summer Picnic event for **July 24th on Saysutshun (Newcastle) Island.**



This is a "bring your own picnic basket" event so please pack a lunch/snacks and drinks - noting there is a "canteen" open on the island if you wish to purchase food and beverages when you are there.

Nature Nanaimo Summer Picnic details:

- Only \$10.00 per person. Youth 12 and under \$5.00.
- Register now and pay to be assured of your place for this event. (Deadline: July 10th)
- Only 50 registrations available. Make sure you are one of them!
- For Members of Nature Nanaimo and their families, on a first-come first-served basis.
- Turn up on time at 11:00 am for the ferry from Maffeo Sutton Park (or you'll miss the boat and have to catch the next one, at 11:30).
- Many activities are planned, eco-tours, scavenger hunts, photo competitions and more. We will keep you up to date on what's coming up.

To register:

Send your name(s) by email to Paul at pjc.blrgwr@gmail.com (noting if any are under 12 years of age) and let him know how you will be making a payment.

Payment options:

Online by e-transfer to the same email address (pjc.blrgwr@gmail.com) for direct deposit to Nature Nanaimo; Be sure to send the required "password" to Paul in a separate email.

OR you may mail a cheque made out to "Nature Nanaimo" to Paul Courtin at 220 Blairgowrie PI, Nanaimo, BC, V9T 4P5



Club Outings

While we don't have any Rambles planned right now, we are tentatively planning an evening moth/bat outing on July 10 or 11 (weather dependent), so interested members should watch for an invitation.

Mid-day tides will be very low July 2-8 and 20-26 (including during our picnic on Satsutshun) so these are good times for intertidal exploration.

We experienced some of the lowest tides of the year in late June and scheduled two "Nature Rambles" to explore the intertidal zone. They were at the Cedar Boat Ramp beach on June 24th and at Willow Point in Campbell River on June 25th. The first Ramble was well attended with 11 participants enjoying excellent low tide conditions and witnessing a myriad of interesting creatures on and among the rocks. We were lucky to have Rick Harbo in attendance – an expert on seashore life. He offered his expertise in identifying many fascinating organisms. The intertidal zone never disappoints with a staggering variety of different organisms. Some highlights included tunicates and nudibranchs, a wonderful variety of crabs, large sea cucumbers, and midshipmen fish guarding their eggs.

The intense temperatures and long drive the following day may have deterred members from heading to Willow Point. Doug was still able to make the trip and was rewarded with an equally fascinating but different variety of intertidal life. There was a great abundance of red and green sea urchins, some marvelous daisy brittle stars, various chitons, and unusual tube worms.



Nature Nuggets

Find the Birds

A free educational mobile game about birds & conservation!



Monthly Roundup of Nature Events

Introduction to eBird – July 3 & July 10

Join Ann Nightingale for an introduction to eBird, a four-part Zoom series beginning Saturday, June 19.

Sessions include:

- 1) Introduction to eBird - Navigating the website to find bird information
Saturday, June 19, 2021
- 2) Entering your data on the eBird website
Saturday, June 26, 2021
- 3) Using the eBird mobile app
Saturday, July 3, 2021
- 4) Advanced features, customization and your questions
Saturday, July 10, 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.

Introduction to Birding (Online) – July 10

On Saturday, July 10, 2021 from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM

Resource person: learn@vandusen.org

Location: Via Zoom

Description:

This seasonal favourite is now being offered online by long-time VanDusen birding guide Jeremy Gordon. During this introduction to birding, he will share the best resources such as binoculars and field guides, provide tips on how to identify birds, and highlight hot birding spots in Vancouver. Jeremy will present some of the many species of birds in the Garden, and test your newly acquired ID skills in engaging ways.

This course will take place online, and recordings will be available for a limited time to participants. Pre-registration required.

Price: \$22.00 Taxes not included

Notes: This course will take place online, and recordings will be available for a limited time to participants. Online course log-in details will be sent within 24 hours before course date. More information: Instructor: Jeremy Gordon

[Register here](#)

Science and Nature Summer Camp 2021, Ages 5 to 7 – July 19-23

Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre

Our outdoor summer day camps introduce your children to the birds and animals of the Cowichan estuary. Children will learn about the birds, animals and plants, explore the clam beds, eelgrass meadows, mudflats, and the beaches at Hecate Park, and have the same fun we have every summer with all the required Covid-19 physical distancing and health and safety protocols in place a safe, learning-filled camp experience for children in small groups of no more than 12 campers. Each camper will have their own learning package, including their own bucket and shovel to find out who lives here on the beach and in the estuaries waters. They'll also get to know the regions inter-tidal and sea creatures in our salt water aquarium and observation tank and have an opportunity to get acquainted with young Coho salmon in our fresh water aquarium. There'll be lots of other fun age-appropriate hands-on science activities, games, hikes, and crafts, where campers can play, learn and explore nature together and at a safe distance.

More information about 2021 Science and Nature Summer Camps:

<http://www.cowichanestuary.ca/programs/camps/>

Forest Saplings

@ Roy Stewart Morrison Nature Park – July 6, 13, 20 & 27

Lake Trail Community Education Society invites caregivers with children aged 3 – 6 years to join us for the second year of Forest Saplings Family program. Knowledgeable nature educators from Hand-In-Hand Nature Education join us for an engaging and fun nature connection journey with forest play, games, stories, songs, and art to help develop sensory awareness skills for you and your little ones.

The Forest Saplings program takes place in Roy Stewart Morrison Nature Park where families have the opportunity to connect with others and the natural environment.

Our program welcomes limited families with children aged 3-6 years old and their caregivers (younger siblings are welcome to attend). Pre-registration is required. Covid safety practices in place.

When: Tuesdays from 9:30-11:00am

Dates: 6 weeks: July 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th, August 3rd & 10th. Register for one or all sessions.

Cost: Suggested \$5/child per week. **If cost is a barrier, please don't hesitate to get in touch programs@ltces.ca

Ages: 3-6yrs of age, Caregiver involvement required.

Registration: Each family is required to register. You will be asked how many children and adults in your family.

Facilitators: Nature Educators from [Hand in Hand Nature Education](#).

Location & Access: We will meet at 9:30am by the entrance to Roy Stewart Morrison Nature Park, located at the far end of the upper Lake Trail school field. Please park alongside the field on Lake Trail Road and walk through the yellow gates.

Register [here](#).

Nature Nanaimo | naturenanaimo.ca

