



## Newsletter

10 November 2021 | Issue 7

### Upcoming Events

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



### Let's Stay Social

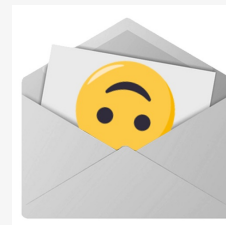
We'd love to hear from you!



### 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](mailto:naturenanaimo@gmail.com) with the subject "Newsletter" and we'll be in touch!



## Club Events

### Monthly Meetings

#### AGM & Presentation by Melissa Todd on Sunday, November 14th

Our AGM is this coming Sunday at 2 PM in Room 2 at the Beban Park Social Centre

As detailed below, we will have a presentation on Pacific Marten by Melissa Todd! And we promise, as in other years, our AGM portion will be efficient and quick!

It will be held both "in-person" and via zoom. The zoom link can be found below.

Please note:

- Only people with current memberships are permitted to vote and to stand for a position on the Board of Directors so if you have not already done so, please plan on renewing your membership on or before the 14<sup>th</sup>.
- We are still looking for people who would be interested in being on the Board of Directors. If you are interested or know someone you wish to nominate, please contact Julia at [jmroberts449@gmail.com](mailto:jmroberts449@gmail.com)
- At the AGM we will be voting on a resolution proposed at our last Board meeting. A copy was distributed via email.
- In the next day or so Doug will be sending out copies of reports from the President, Treasurer, Membership Director and the Executive Secretary. Please review them prior to the meeting.
- Again - a reminder to email me to let Doug know if you plan to attend IN-PERSON so we have a sense of the number of people to expect. Hope to see you Sunday!

Topic: Nature Nanaimo AGM Meeting

Time: Nov 14, 2021 14:00 Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89357961974?pwd=S0hqQ3hWa3ZRdkVTUVNKeDZ3ZlgzUT09>

Meeting ID: 893 5796 1974

Passcode: 454747



Photo from [Haida Gwaii Observer](#).

We are excited to announce the speaker for our upcoming AGM on Sunday, November 14th at 2 pm. The meeting will be held “in-person” at the Beban Park Social Centre and available via zoom.

Melissa Todd, a Research Wildlife Ecologist and an excellent speaker will be presenting:

## **Pacific marten in coastal BC:**

**Why are they so fat in Haida Gwaii and why does it matter?**

Melissa will be presenting on behalf of research team: David Breault (UNBC), Chris Johnson (UNBC), Rich Weir (MOECC Conservation Science), Berry Wijdeven (FLNRORD Haida Gwaii District), David Nagorsen (RBCM)

Smaller carnivores – often referred to as “mesocarnivores”, including members of the mustelid family like martens – contribute in unique ways to the simplified food webs of coastal islands, which are sensitive to the pressures of industrial land use and introduced species. Coastal populations and sub-species of Pacific marten (*Martes caurina*) in Washington, Oregon and California are at risk due to human activity. But what happens when a mesocarnivore is the top predator? In the island archipelago of Haida Gwaii, there are only three mammalian carnivores – all mustelids (Pacific marten, river otter, and Haida ermine). Aside from black bears, there are no large mammalian carnivores present. We studied marten response to introduced prey species, such as the Sitka black-tailed deer and red squirrels, and to patterns of land use on Graham Island in Haida Gwaii. She will discuss marten condition, diet, distribution, implications for the conservation of endemic species that martens may compete with or prey on in Haida

Gwaii, and implications for Pacific marten conservation in coastal BC.

Note: for those attending in-person ***please RSVP so we know how many to expect*** and note the following Covid protocols will be in place:

- Attendees are to be fully vaccinated (“vaccine passports” will be checked at the door)
- Attendees are asked to sign-in for “tracking purposes” if necessary.
- Attendees are to wear a mask at all times (extra masks will be available if you forget yours).
- Attendees are asked to maintain a physical distance of 2m apart - chairs will be set up accordingly.

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## Club Memberships

Membership fees are now due for the coming fiscal year. These cover the fiscal year starting September 1, 2021 and include full membership in the Federation of BC Naturalist (BC Nature).

### Membership fees:

- Single Membership \$30
- Family Membership (couple or parent(s) plus dependent children) \$35
- Student \$25
- Youth (person under 16 years old) \$20

There are a few options for achieving this:

- 1) Mail a cheque payable to “Nature Nanaimo” to: Sally Hofmeier, Membership Director, Nature Nanaimo, c/o 4026 Magnolia Dr., Nanaimo, BC, V9T 6B9 (I will confirm after receipt)
- 2) Arrange an e-transfer with the club treasurer, Paul Courtin, as shown below:
  1. Initiate Interac e-Transfer to [pjc.blrgwr@gmail.com](mailto:pjc.blrgwr@gmail.com) using the sender’s bank’s e-Transfer system.
  2. Send a separate email to [pjc.blrgwr@gmail.com](mailto:pjc.blrgwr@gmail.com) with the answer to a security question which he/she has chosen to secure the transfer. Without this key the transfer cannot be completed.

If you have any questions, please email our membership director Sally at [sallyhofmeier@gmail.com](mailto:sallyhofmeier@gmail.com).

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## Club Outings

### October 23rd Mushroom Outing

Our recent mushroom outing with Terry Taylor and Karen guiding us attracted 18 hardy members of Nature Nanaimo in spite of the ominous skies. As it happens, we lucked out with the weather and hardly got wet at all! we saw a fair number of mushrooms and Terry explained diagnostic features and whether or not they were edible (=not necessarily tasty) or poisonous. Most were small mushrooms along with some bracket/shelf fungi (Mostly red-belt) and some lovely honey mushrooms (*Armillaria ostoyae*). *Armillaria* is a major tree killer with a rather broad host range in the interior, but is not so bad here on the coast, perhaps because of abundant moisture.

Thanks to Lynda for sharing some fantastic photographs from the outing:



Nature Nuggets and News



## Carousel at Buttertubs Marsh

Issuing puffs of steam in the morning chill,  
a calliope of red wing blackbirds pulls out all stops.  
Their human audience circles the marsh  
Soaring and dipping on the undulating path

The travelers push through cotton candy clotheslines strung by enterprising spiders  
Doilies to be hung in anticipation of high tea  
A constellation of mayflies dance,  
untroubled by a living asteroid hurtling through.

Brightly painted scenes accompany the travelers.  
Corrugated by wind, water mirrors the sky.  
The engine room is sunken  
under the infield of circus maximus.

Swallows wheel on vaporous arcs,  
daredevils in an aerial skatepark  
winging on fickle currents,  
gyroscopes locked in steely resolve.

Grampa Te'tuxwtun sits motionless on basalt haunches  
Gliding on tectonic plates, innards pulsing like fireflies.  
From his lap, the Millstone River spills to the marsh and beyond  
to pat the heads of Grandpa's precocious children.

Dizzied by their rounds,  
centripetal forces escort the patrons  
to the waiting embrace of their sun warmed cars  
while the world rotates on its wobbly axis.

The disc of the night sky spins on its turntable.  
With carnival revelers tucked away,  
the graveyard shift slips into gear  
making rounds, probing the fastness of doors.

- *Nature Nanaimo member*

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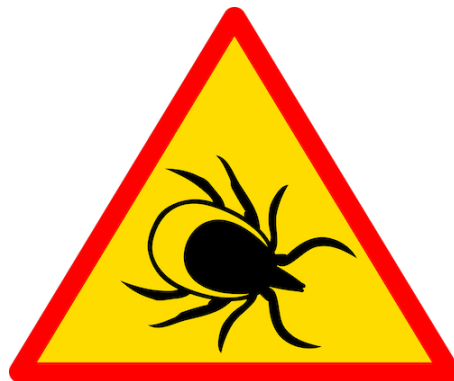
### Life in the underwater seagrass meadow

As I looked over the side of the boat into Cowichan Bay off Vancouver Island, I was hit by a wave of dread. The water looked like mud. There was zero visibility. Decades ago, this used to be a seagrass "meadow" but humans destroyed it by building ...

[Read more](#)

[www.theglobeandmail.com](http://www.theglobeandmail.com)

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### Lyme disease: A Canadian context

For my whole life, I've had it drilled into me to check for ticks after coming back from a hike or a long day outside. I never really understood why this was a big deal until I got older and learned about Lyme disease. So, what exactly is it?

[Read more](#)

[blog.scienceborealis.ca](http://blog.scienceborealis.ca)

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### Canadian doc 'Nature's Big Year' shows how wildlife has...

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March 2020, wildlife ecologist Jason Fisher and his colleagues at the University of Victoria predicted there would be fewer people in nature and that animals would take back their territory.

[Read more](#)

[www.vancouverislandfreedail...](http://www.vancouverislandfreedail...)

## Monthly Roundup of Nature Events

### YES: The Joy of Wild Salmon by Alexandra Morton – November 11



### The Joy of Wild Salmon

A Presentation by Alexandra Morton Thursday November 11, 7pm

Presented by Yellow Point Ecological Society (YES): <https://yellowpointecologicalsociety.ca>

Free. To register, click [here](#)

Alexandra Morton has been called “the Jane Goodall of Canada” because of her passionate thirty-year fight to save British Columbia’s wild salmon. Her book *Not on My Watch: How a renegade whale biologist took on governments and industry to save wild salmon* is an inspiring roadmap of resistance.

Alexandra came north from California in the early 1980s, following her first love—the northern resident orca. In remote Echo Bay, in the Broughton Archipelago, she found the perfect place to settle into all she had ever dreamed of: a lifetime of observing and learning what these big-brained mammals are saying to each other. She was lucky enough to get there just in time to witness a place of true natural abundance, and learned how to thrive in the wilderness as a scientist and a single mother.

Then, in 1989, industrial aquaculture moved into the region, chasing the whales away. Her fisherman neighbours asked her if she would write letters on their behalf to government explaining the damage the farms were doing to the fisheries, and one thing led to another. Soon Alex had shifted her scientific focus to documenting the infectious diseases and parasites that pour from the ocean farm pens of Atlantic salmon into the migration routes of wild Pacific salmon, and then to proving their disastrous impact on wild salmon and the entire ecosystem of the coast.

Alex stood against the farms, first representing her community, then alone, and at last as part of an uprising that built around her as ancient Indigenous governance resisted a province and a country that wouldn’t obey their own court rulings. She has used her science, many acts of protest and the legal system in her unrelenting efforts to save wild salmon and ultimately the whales — a story that reveals her own doggedness and bravery but also shines a bright light on the ways other humans doggedly resist the truth. Here, she brilliantly calls those humans to account for the sake of us all.

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## RPBO: Owls of Southern Vancouver Island – November 14

### Owls of Southern Vancouver Island and RPBO's Nocturnal Owl Monitoring Project Presented by Ann Nightingale and Jannaca Chick

*You are invited to join this RPBO presentation about the various owl species found on southern Vancouver Island. We will also talk about the Northern Saw-whet Owl monitoring project that has been conducted by Rocky Point Bird Observatory since 2002. We will include our 2021 season which finished recently - it was our second busiest year to date, with 1,225 owls banded!*

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.  
When: Nov 14, 2021  
5:00 PM (Pacific Time)

[Click Here](#)  
to register in advance for this meeting

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

#### [RPBO Website](#)

- [Click here](#) to join or renew your membership.
- [Click here](#) to subscribe to RPBO email bulletins and presentation announcements





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## Bamfield Marine Science Centre Webinar – November 17

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>.

Nov 17, 13:00 PST	<a href="#">Lauren Eckert</a>  University of Victoria  <a href="#">Dr. Jonathan Moore</a>  Simon Fraser University  <a href="#">Kasey Stirling</a>  University of British Columbia  <a href="#">Huu-ay-aht First Nations</a>  Watershed Renewal Project	<a href="#">Register here</a> 	<b>Episode 7:</b> Pacific Salmon & 2-eyed Seeing in Fisheries Management
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## RPBO: Introduction to e-Bird with Ann Nightingale – Nov 20, 27



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 Marine Night on Zoom – Nov 29

Victoria Natural History Society  
MARINE NIGHT on Zoom

[http://www.vicnhs.bc.ca/?page\\_id=1518](http://www.vicnhs.bc.ca/?page_id=1518)

**Sponge lives matter! Understanding the behaviour of a diversity of marine and freshwater sponges.**

Sponges are common colourful inhabitants of Pacific Northwest lakes and coastal waters. They are important habitat formers, and they filter vast amounts of water. In this talk, however, Dr Sally Leys, University of Alberta, will introduce you to their less well-known, but remarkable, behaviours.



Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMrfu6orDgsE9Wv9asdmbiFBy9nigeM64gy>

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

