



## Newsletter

1 April 2022 | Issue 12



### 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

**Thursday, April 21st at 7pm:**

Nature Nanaimo is excited to announce our April meeting which will be both "in-person" and available via zoom. The feature presentation will be . . .

"Underwater Citizen Science in the Salish Sea" with Tom Hlavac

*SCUBA technology has made participation in underwater citizen science possible for almost anyone. In British Columbia, the recreational dive community has recently driven increased protection of valuable fish habitat and important marine species. Locally, recreational divers participate in citizen science activities such as lingcod egg mass and rockfish surveys, and collecting of research grade observations of marine species.*

*Tom will share knowledge on the accessibility of underwater exploration for the average citizen, recent and current recreational dive community citizen science activities, and marine species observed by divers in the Nanaimo region.*



*Biography: Tom has been a SCUBA diver since 1978. Tom has collected aquarium specimens and harvested marine species as a commercial diver prior to his career as a fishery officer from 1984 to 2017 with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). While with DFO, Tom participated in dive activities such as underwater evidence collection, habitat protection monitoring, and stock assessment. Tom served as fisheries coordinator with INTERPOL's Environmental Security program from 2017 to 2020, leading INTERPOL's Global Fisheries Enforcement team.*

**Nature Nanaimo**

Presents:

**Underwater Citizen Science  
in the Salish Sea**

with  
**Tom Hlavac**

**Thursday April 21<sup>st</sup>  
7:00 PM**



## March Meeting Recording

Here is a link to the recording of our wonderful March monthly meeting presentation, in case you missed it:

**"Salish Seas Salmon: Resilience in a Changing Climate" with Dr. Isobel Pearsall**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/MNEZEmPJFVEWVL1DQ\\_SdWWO3jXsyjPFiSiEiq0cRI1a\\_hfnDZRD\\_4VD1z6sLY.gQ6HAcG4amZWr22C](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/MNEZEmPJFVEWVL1DQ_SdWWO3jXsyjPFiSiEiq0cRI1a_hfnDZRD_4VD1z6sLY.gQ6HAcG4amZWr22C)

Passcode: QahUXL%2

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## Club Socials

We are back to having our June summer picnic event and planning has begun. Here is some info and a request for help . . . .

**Calling for volunteers!**

### Annual Family BBQ, June 25th, 2022

Date and Time: Saturday, June 25, 11:30 until 4:00'ish.

Where: **Wildwood Eco-forest** in Cedar only 20 mins from downtown Nanaimo

Cost: nominal (to cover venue rental and some victuals)

Volunteered to help with social events, but missed the notice?

Don't worry. You still have time.

We want a few people to form a social committee for this event.

If you can help please contact us [naturenanaimo@gmail.com](mailto:naturenanaimo@gmail.com)

WildWood Eco-Forest is an 80+ acre, world-renowned sustainable forest on Quesnel Lake in Cedar. WildWood is teeming with wildlife and native plants, cleared forest trails, and a newly acquired 6-acre old-growth area to explore.

## Club Volunteer Opportunity

### JOIN OUR TEAM!!!

Nature Nanaimo is excited to be offering public nature walks around Buttertubs Marsh this summer - from May-August!

As you know - part of Nature Nanaimo's mission is to educate the public about our natural environment.

What better way to help us accomplish our mission than for you to **volunteer just one or two mornings this summer** helping us by leading a tour.

#### About the tours:

These will be morning walks around the marsh - once a week - on alternating Saturdays and Sundays. Tours will be pitched at an introductory level. Each walk will be approximately 1.5 hours, starting at 9:30 AM. We are expecting between 6-12 participants per volunteer on each walk.

Each tour will have a simple theme such as:

*"Discovering Nature at Buttertubs Marsh"* (this will be our most frequent theme and one that anyone will be able to lead)

*"Birds of Buttertubs Marsh"*

*"Aquatic Life of Buttertubs Marsh"*

*"Nature Photography at Buttertubs Marsh - for Beginners"*

*"Plants of Buttertubs Marsh"*

#### Volunteers:

- First and foremost, will be ambassadors for nature - **simply willing to share their enjoyment of Buttertubs marsh.**
- Will meet and welcome the participants and hand out Buttertubs "guide booklets" and lead the walk around the marsh.
- Will be provided with a "script" to follow so for most walks **volunteers will NOT require any specialized knowledge - you will simply be observing and highlighting the key features in the marsh that match the highlighted features of the guide booklet** - for example pointing out the painted turtles basking log and their egg-laying locations while noting the corresponding descriptions/information in the guide booklet.
- Will have an opportunity to "train" with other members ahead of time - so you will know where key features are located and how they correspond to the information in the guide booklets.
- **ONLY NEED TO COMMIT to 2 HOURS this entire summer!** You can volunteer to do as few or as many walks as you like!

#### WE NEED YOU!!!

- **This is a major opportunity for Nature Nanaimo members** to share our love of nature with the public!
- **We want to show that we have many members willing to share their love of nature** (not just a few individuals)

If you are willing to be a guide or just interested in learning more, PLEASE contact us at [naturenanaimo@gmail.com](mailto:naturenanaimo@gmail.com)

THANK YOU!!!!

# Nanaimo City Nature Challenge – April 29 to May 2

The City Nature Challenge is happening in Nanaimo from April 29 – May 2! It's an international BioBlitz event to discover and catalogue all the biodiversity that exists in and around our cities. All you need is the iNaturalist app and an account and then you are ready to take photos of all the species you can find during the BioBlitz weekend. This year 44 cities and regions across Canada are all participating in friendly competition to connect with the nature around them. Join us in collecting data over the weekend of April 29th to May 2nd, and to optionally support with identifying observations from May 3rd to May 9th with any taxa that you know well.



Drop by Nature Nanaimo's next meeting for more information or if you have any questions!

*-Steven Hayward, Science & Data Coordinator with Invasive Species Council of BC*



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## Sniffers for Invasive Species



## The Role of Our Canine Friends in the Fight Against...

Author: Harleen Bhalla Dogs play an important role in keeping BC free of invasive mussels by detecting invasive mussels and stopping their spread into our local freshwater systems. While transporting a watercraft in BC, it is mandatory to stop...

[Read more](#)  
bcinvasives.ca

## Monthly Roundup of Nature Events

### Wonders of the Salish Sea – April 4, 11, 25

Wonders of the Salish Sea is an educational program designed for the general public that consists of a series of presentations over a 4 week period. Presenters are scientists, naturalists, and environmentalists who share their passion and expertise on a wide variety of topics related to the Salish Sea ecosystem.

Wonders of the Salish Sea 2022  
Mondays, April 4, 11, 25, and May 2, 7 to 9 PM PDT, via Zoom

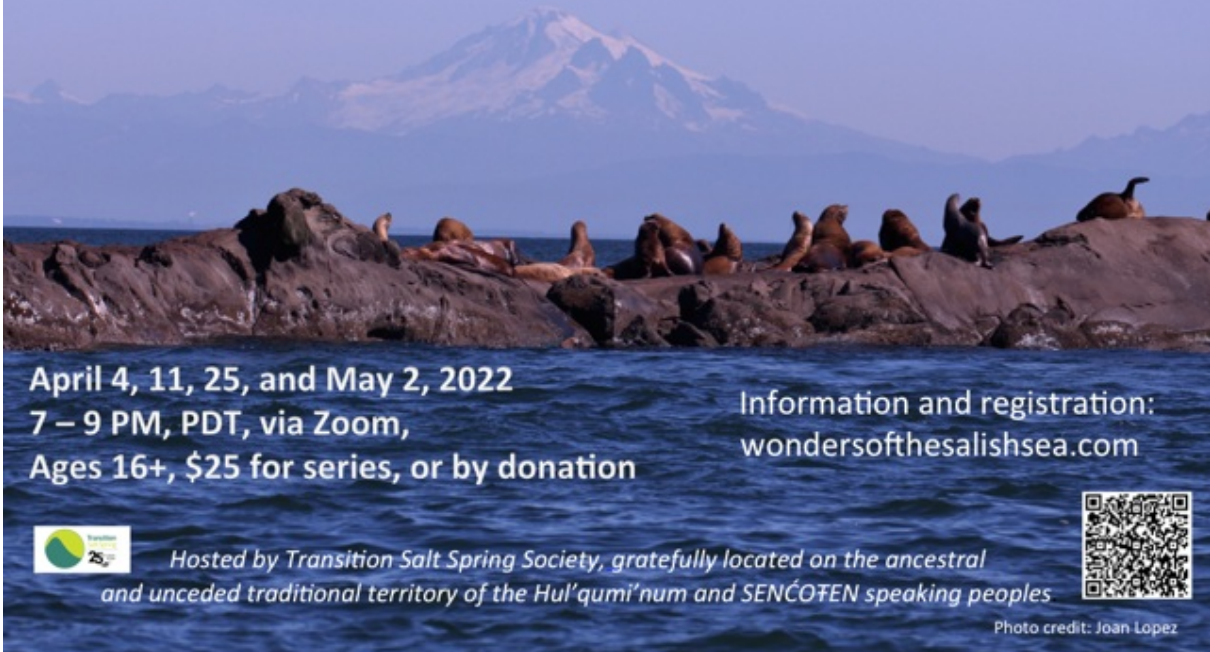
Ages 16+, \$25. for the series, or by donation.

More information at [wondersofthesalishsea.com](http://wondersofthesalishsea.com). Hosted by Transition Salt Spring.

2022 Presentations will cover the following topics: An Overview of the Salish Sea Ecosystem; Oceanography and Plankton Dynamics; Shorebirds, Biofilm and Robert's Bank Terminal 2 Expansion; Fraser River Estuary Restoration and Salmon Recovery; Gray Whales of the Salish Sea; The Curious World of Seaweeds; Toward an Atlas of Salish Sea Biodiversity; and Nudibranchs - Up Close and Personal.

# The Wonders of the Salish Sea

Discover our unique ecosystem with scientists,  
naturalists, and environmentalists.



April 4, 11, 25, and May 2, 2022  
7 – 9 PM, PDT, via Zoom,  
Ages 16+, \$25 for series, or by donation

Information and registration:  
[wondersofthesalishsea.com](http://wondersofthesalishsea.com)



*Hosted by Transition Salt Spring Society, gratefully located on the ancestral  
and unceded traditional territory of the Hul'qumi'num and SENĆOŦEN speaking peoples*



Photo credit: Joan Lopez

## BIRDS: Basic ID and Bird Watching – April 6

### **NORTH ISLAND WILDLIFE RECOVERY CENTRE PRESENTS:**

Basic Bird ID & Bird Watching with Naturalist Dr. Lynne Brookes

SPACES FILLING FAST! Don't miss your chance to participate in this awesome workshop!

Workshop begins at NIWRA.

- 14 yrs to Adult
- Rain or Shine! Dress Appropriately to be outside (Details below)
- Fee includes admission to NIWRA and course materials
- Call NIWRA'S Bear Den Gifts to book your spot! 250-248-8534 ext 3

Bring: (if you can)

- Bird ID Field Guide (suggested: Birds of Southwest BC/Pacific Northwest/BC)
- Binoculars (suggested 8 x 42)
- Water and snacks

Call Bear Den Gifts to book your spot! 250-248-8534 ext 3



# BIRDS

## BASIC ID & BIRD WATCHING

Wednesday, April 6, 2022  
8:00 am - 12:30 pm

Instructor: Naturalist Dr. Lynne Brookes

**Practical Bird Identification Workshop**  
Suitable for beginning/intermediate level participants

**BRANT  
WILDLIFE  
FESTIVAL**



**\$35<sup>00</sup>**  
+TAX

**LIMITED ENROLLMENT • REGISTER TODAY**

## VIU Science and Tech Lecture Series – April 6

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. 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>

April presentations in the lecture series are:

**Can Owls Sink Carbon? Relating Climate Change to a Flag Ship Species in Vancouver Island's Last Native Forests**, presented by Jeremiah Kennedy of Pacific Megacops Research Alliance on **April 6**.

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

## Brant Wildlife Festival – April 1 to 16

Festival Program ([from Brant Festival BC Website](#))

# BRANT WILDLIFE FESTIVAL

### March 15–April 10: “Spot the Brant” – via [Festival Passport](#)

Artistically painted Brant Geese will be strategically located in businesses throughout Oceanside. When you spot one, key in the code, take a selfie with the goose and post it to social media with the tag #spotthebrant. Spot 10 or more and be entered to win prizes including:

- Brome Squirrel Solution 150 Birdfeeder
- One year family pass to the North Island Wildlife Recovery Center
- Two nights at Coombs Country Campground
- Over 10 spotted geese and you're entered to win overnight stay at the Beach Club Resort plus a \$100 service or meal gift Certificate

### April 1–10: Qualicum Beach Museum Display

Enjoy the Museum's display of vintage Brant Goose decoys, learn about the connection between nature and humans at the Fish, Trees, and Folk display. Explore area residents' many cultural, ecological and economic connections to nature. The museum is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1pm – 4pm.

**April 1: Brant Wildlife Festival “Lift Off” event** Raise a glass to nature and learn about the great work of The Nature Trust of BC in this beautiful part of Vancouver Island at the Bayside Oceanfront Resort. The event will take place from 6pm – 8pm. [Purchase tickets here.](#)

**April 2: Little Qualicum River Estuary Tour** Meet at 1pm in the parking area at the far west end of Surfside Drive. Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers will lead a tour of the spectacular spot and the restoration projects that are underway. This tour will also include an opportunity to observe, with experts, the abundant species of birds present at this time of year. [Register for free here.](#)

**April 1–3: Inter-tidal Bio-Blitz** Deep Bay Marine Field Station will be hosting a self-directed “Inter-Tidal Bio Blitz” using the iNaturalist app. [Go to the iNaturalist app. View iNaturalist tutorial video.](#)

**April 2: Field Station Tour Deep Bay Marine Field Station Open House** The Field Station, will open specifically for the Brant Wildlife Festival. Open House is between 10am-2pm. Admission is free. [Register for free here.](#)

**April 3: “Brant in the Bay”** View Brant Geese and other birds at Parksville Community Park from 11am-3pm and view interesting displays provided by The Arrowsmith Naturalists. [Register for free here.](#)

**April 6: Basic Bird ID with Lynne Brookes** Dr Lynne Brookes will lead this enjoyable, practical, beginning to intermediate level workshop from 8am to 12:30pm for participants age 14 and up. You must pre-register to attend this event as there will be a maximum of 15 participants. To register call NIWRA 250-248-8534 Option #3 (Gift Shop)

**April 8: French Creek Estuary Tour** Visit this spectacular area where a creek, estuary, forest, wetlands and beaver pond provide habitats for diverse native plants and wildlife. Watch eagles soar as you walk the trails with two knowledgeable guides. Rain or shine. [Register for free here.](#)

**April 8–10: MABR Bio-Blitz** Join the 6th annual Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Bio-Blitz. You can survey plants and animals and help to contribute to biodiversity research. This will be a self-directed digital bio-blight using the iNaturalist app. Win an identification book on birds, flora and fauna, or edible and medicinal flora on the West Coast! [Go to iNaturalist](#)



[app. View iNaturalist tutorial video.](#)

**April 9: Eagle Release Video** The Annual North Island Wildlife Recovery Centre Eagle Release will be a virtual event this year. After months of specialized care by the NIWRA Animal Care team, a rehabilitated Bald Eagle will be released to return home to the wild skies where it belongs. The event will be filmed and released as part of the Brant Festival! [A link will be provided via the Festival Passport.](#)

**April 9: Englishman River Estuary Tour** Join the Arrowsmith Naturalists at 10am for a walk through forest and riparian areas of the storied Englishman River. Meet at the Shelly Rd parking area. Join us on the Estuary Tour to discover how this invaluable river estuary is being restored to its former glory through the dedication of The Nature Trust of BC, the ongoing stewardship work of volunteers such as the Arrowsmith Naturalists, the research of scientists and the generosity of donors who are devoted to this multi-year recovery effort. [Register for free here.](#)

**April 10: Film Festival at Qualicum Beach Civic Center** Spend an idyllic afternoon from 3pm-6:30pm watching a series of 6 short films and be captivated by the beauty and wonder of nature. [Register by donation here.](#)

**April 16: Hamilton Marsh Tour** Bring your friends and family to explore the largest wetland in the area just outside Qualicum Beach and learn about the flora, fauna, and insect populations. The Friends of French Creek Conservation Society and Arrowsmith Naturalists will be leading guided tours, with many other partners on hand to join in the fun. The tour will take place from 10am-3pm. [Register for free here.](#)

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**Nature Nanaimo** | [naturenanaimo.ca](http://naturenanaimo.ca)

