



Newsletter

10 July 2022 | Issue 15



Upcoming Events

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

Let's Stay Social

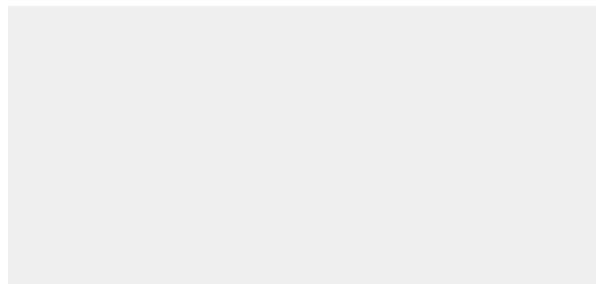
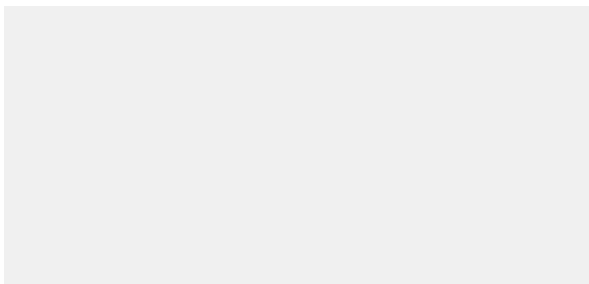
We'd love to hear from you!



Club Events

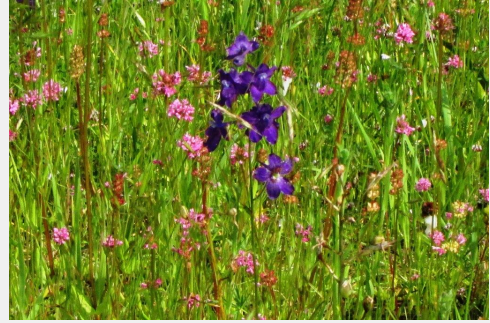
Harewood Plains Ramble, Take 2 – June 13

Six members ventured to Harewood Plains, accessing the area from McKeown Road. It was still quite wet from the recent rains, which turned out to be the perfect conditions for the plants we were hoping to find. Fortunately, a member plant expert for this area (Julie) was along to help spot and identify the flowering plants three weeks on from the previous ramble. Bog bird's foot trefoil, *Hosackia pinnata* was blooming in several areas together with other plants of note including: white-tipped clover, *Trifolium variagatum*; Menzies' Larkspur, *Delphinium menziessii*; and Fools onion, *Triteleia hyacinthina*. As an added bonus at our lunch site, we observed many tadpoles and newt or salamander larvae as well as insect larval forms. Whilst walking back to the cars we were discussing the biological control of Tansy Ragwort – and there it was – a Cinnabar Moth!





Fools Onion
(*Triteleia hyacinthina*)



Menzies Larkspur
(*Delphinium menziesii*)



White tipped clover
(*Trifolium variagatum*)



Hosackia pinnata



Cinnabar moth
(*Tyria jacobaeae*)

Nature Nuggets and News

Bumblebee Therapy

Nature Nanaimo member **Lynda Stevens** shares with us a story of her recent learning endeavour: the identification of local bumblebees in a neighbour's herb

garden. In this blog, she provides some information she's learned so far about the interesting lives of bumblebees. The photographs she's included of the five local bumblebee species she's encountered so far are *stunning!!!*

Read Lynda's piece about bumblebees on our website here:

<https://natureanaimo.ca/2022/07/bumblebee-therapy-or-how-bee-watching-kept-me-sane/>



Invasive Rabbits in BC: Status, History, and the Future for Management

Join Naomi Nichol, Senior Policy analyst at the Fish and Wildlife Branch of the Ministry of Forests as she provides overview of invasive rabbit species and their effects on the environment. Where do these rabbits exist, what is the problem, and what can we do about it? Rabbits come with the added difficulty of the public seeing them as pets, and so resist methods used to control other invasive species. An exploration of the legislative, educational, and control methods we have in our toolbox, and how we need all three to address issues with invasive rabbits.

Recording from May 19, 2022:

European Rabbits



All About Sponges

Many thanks to Staffan for sharing his super informative blog about sponges! This is a great introduction to the different classifications of sponges, their various growth forms, cell types...and some fun facts about sponges, including their amazing regenerative powers (there's a link to a video where a sponge is cut up and forced through a sieve...and the cells manage to reassemble into a sponge again!).



Sponges - one of the earliest forms of multicellular life.

We have heard a fair bit about sponges lately. I presented a "Nature Nugget" on the glass sponge reefs of the Salish Sea and Hecate Strait at the March public meeting, and Tom Hlavac mentioned the glass sponge reefs in his informative presentation...

[Read more](#)
naturenanaimo.ca

Raising An Anise Swallowtail Butterfly by Lynda Stevens

Last September, at one of our local marshes, Julie Devereaux and I found several caterpillars of the Anise Swallowtail Butterfly. Although I had seen and photographed our other two swallowtails-the Western Tiger Swallowtail and the Pale Swallowtail, the Anise Swallowtail had eluded me. So, I decided to bring one of the caterpillars home and see if I could raise it into a butterfly although I had never tried this before. The caterpillar formed into it's chrysalis and after a long 8 1/2 months of worrying and waiting my butterfly finally emerged on Friday, June 2. After letting it rest for a few hours so that it's wings could harden, I removed it from the enclosure and it rested on my hand for a moment before taking flight and landing in my neighbours wisteria bush. It stayed there for half an hour allowing me to get a few photos. I have put the entire process on my SmugMug site so if you would like to see more photos here is the link:

<https://lyndas.smugmug.com/Miscellaneous/Raising-An-Anise-Swallowtail-Butterfly-Sept-2021-June-2022/>



Interpretive Walks This Summer at Buttertubs Marsh

Nature Nanaimo will be hosting interpretive walks at Buttertubs Marsh. These will take place once a week - alternating between Sundays and Saturdays from 9:30 - 11:00 AM. The "ad" for the activities is in the City Parks and Rec Summer Activity Guide; it is featured below and is available on our website (naturenanaimo.ca).

These tours are intended to be pleasant strolls around the marsh, introducing people to life in the marsh and providing a chance to learn about and appreciate nature.

Please consider joining us on the tours. We wish to know ahead of time how many people are planning on attending so we are asking people to "register" via email.

Please let us know if you can make it - just provide your name and the tour date.

Discover BUTTERTUBS MARSH



HOSTED BY NATURE NANAIMO

Everyone is invited to tour and learn about Buttertubs Marsh Conservation area - an area rich in history, flora and fauna and found right in the middle of Nanaimo.

All tours are FREE with tours starting at the Miner's Cottage (located at the south entrance into park off Jingle Pot Rd).

DISCOVERING NATURE AT BUTTERTUBS MARSH: Tour Buttertubs Marsh and observe and learn about this beautiful natural oasis.

- Sat, Jun 18, 9:30-11 am
- Sun, Jun 26, 9:30-11 am
- Sun, Jul 24, 9:30-11 am
- Sun, Aug 7, 9:30-11 am
- Sat, Aug 13, 9:30-11 am
- Sat, Aug 27, 9:30-11 am

BIRDS OF BUTTERTUBS MARSH: Try spotting and learning about some of the 180 different species of birds found here. Bring binoculars if you have them.

- Sat, May 7, 9:30-11 am
- Sun, May 29, 9:30-11 am
- Sat, Jul 2, 9:30-11 am

INSECTS OF BUTTERTUBS MARSH: Come and observe the many insects and other tiny animals found all around and how they are vitally important to the marsh ecosystem.

- Sat, Jul 16, 9:30-11 am

AQUATIC LIFE AT BUTTERTUBS MARSH: Learn about the many fascinating kinds of aquatic plants and animals that call Buttertubs Marsh home.

- Sun, May 1, 9:30-11 am
- Sun, Jul 10, 9:30-11 am

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY AT BUTTERTUBS MARSH: Join us to look for interesting subjects to photograph. This is for beginners, so you don't need a fancy camera.

- Sat, Jul 30, 9:30-11 am

PLANTS OF BUTTERTUBS MARSH: From towering oaks to tiny floating duckweed, Buttertubs Marsh is home to 175 different plant species. Come and learn what lives here and how they support other abundant forms of life.

- Sat, May 21, 9:30-11 am
- Sat, Jun 4, 9:30-11 am

INVASIVE SPECIES AT BUTTERTUBS MARSH: From bullfrogs and pet store turtles to numerous plant species, find out their impact and what is being done to control them.

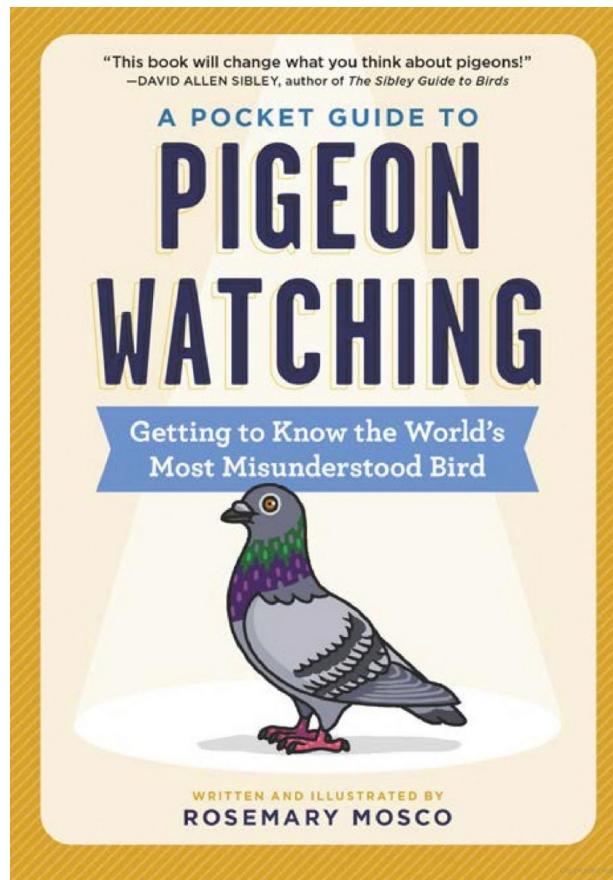
- Sun, May 15, 9:30-11 am
- Sun, Jun 12, 9:30-11 am



Tours are free. For more information, see naturenanaimo.ca

A Pocket Guide to Pigeon Watching...?

In case you need to buy a gift for that one friend who is hard to shop for... or maybe you're just looking for something light to read on the porch this summer!



A Pocket Guide to Pigeon Watching

Part field guide, part history, part ornithology primer, and altogether fun. Pigeons are amazing, and until recently, humans adored them. We've kept them as pets, held pigeon beauty contests, raced them, used them to carry messages over...

[Read more](#)

shop.environmentamericas.org

Monthly Roundup of Nature Events

An Evening With Bats! Family Friendly Event – July 10

Sunday, July 10, 2022, 7:00 PM to 10:15 PM

Ecoforestry Institute Society

2929 Crane Road, Ladysmith, BC

Join us for a great family-friendly evening dedicated to our native nocturnal neighbour, the Little Brown Bat! From pest control to pollination find out what these little critters can do for their environment and what YOU can do to make sure their populations are protected for years to come!

Take a guided tour through our old-growth forest with Wildwood Naturalist Alex Smith. Learn about the plight of these amazing flying mammals and how to spot and observe them in their naturally occurring forest habitat. The walk is around 1km long on an uneven forest trail and is not suitable for strollers or walkers. Then head down to our homestead for a presentation on bat ecology by Bat Specialist Trudy Chatwin. Finish the evening as dusk rolls in and bats fly out from their bat boxes by participating in a bat count. The data collected will be shared with Community Bats of BC as part of their Annual Bat Count.

WHAT TO EXPECT?

Arrival - 7:00pm

Bat Games for children (and kids at heart) 7:00pm- 7:30pm

Wildwood Bat Tour 7:30pm- 8:20pm

Option to leave for those not staying for the bat count 8:20

Bat Presentation with Trudy Chatwin 8:30pm- 9:00pm

Bat Count 9:15pm - 10:15pm

If you are coming with small children and can't commit to stay up to 10pm, there will be an option to leave at 8:20.

Do you have accessibility needs? Please let us know to see how we can facilitate your visit, be it by riding our TrailRider down the forest path or by joining the group at the homestead where you can be seated.

Register here!

Adults- \$20

Ages 4-17- \$10

Ages 0-3- Free



Nanaimo Horticultural Society – July 13

All are invited to a free gardening club meeting on July 13th at 7pm featuring a NALT presentation about pollinator focussed gardening:

[July meeting of the Nanaimo Horticulture Society | Facebook](#)

Our speaker will be Linda Brooymans from Nanaimo and Area Land Trust (NALT), who's giving a presentation on pollinator gardens, with an emphasis on using native plants while avoiding invasives.

Meeting address: 595 Townsite Rd, Nanaimo, BC V9S 1K9

Science in the Park – July 13 & 14

Nanaimo Science is hosting a family-oriented event at Departure Bay
July 13 & 14, 10-1pm:

[Science in the Park - Departure Bay Beach | Facebook](#)

Science in the Park are free drop-in programs with science activities for children of all ages with their families!

Join Nanaimo Science educators at Departure Bay Beach for intertidal exploration around low tide. Challenge yourselves with a nature scavenger hunt, view animals in our observation tank, or create an anemone craft. We will also have our digital microscopes and ID guides so you can take a closer look at all your beach discoveries.



Inspiring curious minds

Hummingbird Virtual Book Club – July 21

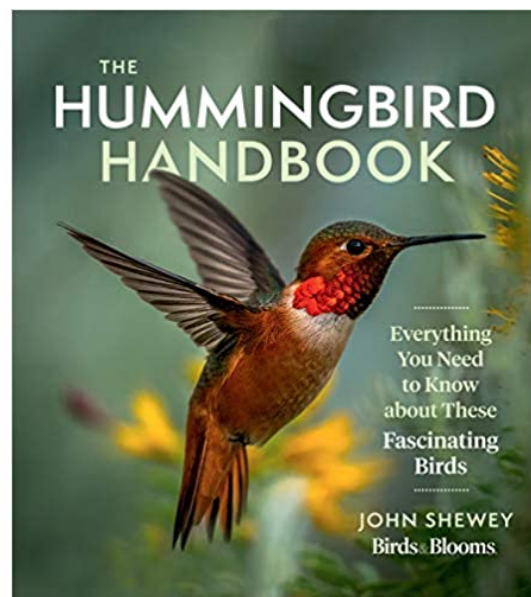
Environment for the Americas

<https://environmentamericas.org>

HUMMINGBIRD WEBINAR

Few things delight us as much as hummingbirds. We cannot wait to be joined by John Shewey, author of *The Hummingbird Handbook*, for a virtual discussion about these unique birds. Get your hummingbird questions ready and join us Thursday, July 21st for this free session.

[Register here](#)



North Island Wildlife Recovery Centre – July & August

NIWRA Presents:

DISCOVER RAPTOR PRESENTATIONS



**JULY & AUGUST
MON, WED, FRI
1:00 - 2:00 PM**

Join our glove-trained animal ambassadors and their handlers for an up-close-and-personal look into the fascinating world of raptors.



Normal admission costs apply. Reservations are not required.
1240 Leffler Rd. Errington, BC
www.niwra.org

Nature Nanaimo | naturenanaimo.ca

