



Newsletter

1 June 2022 | Issue 14



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

May Meeting Recording

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

"Garry Oak Ecosystems: Benefits to Urban Areas" with Thomas Munson

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/x1wT9yzEIA50mpjIntyhRf0KU6bsDrJGYe3RrfbIpTJIx93I0wMCH5KL-S1FZFUL.1iCQDMs69GD0_EqH

Passcode: xP?5^Gcg

Nature Nanaimo

Presents:

**Garry Oak Ecosystems
Benefits to Urban Areas**

with

Thomas Munson

**Thursday May 19th
7:00 PM**



Club Outings

Harewood Plains Ramble, May 16

Thirteen members and non-members enjoyed the perfect sunny day to stroll around and enjoy the many blooms and birds at Harewood Plains. We were not disappointed as many of the spring plants were in bloom: Shooting star (*Dodecatheon pulchellum*), Fairy slipper (*Calypso bulbosa*), Spring gold (*Lomatium utriculatum*), Heart-leaved Twayblade (*Neotia cordata*) and many more. The plan is to return when *Hosackia pinnata*, formally *Lotus pinnata*, is blooming.

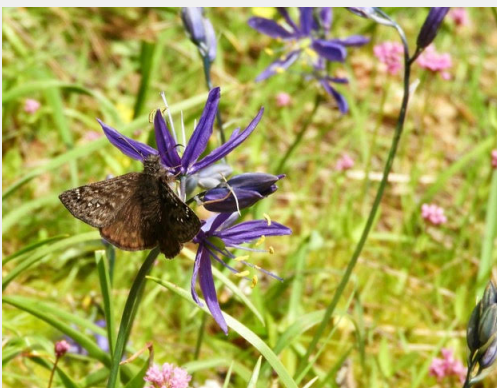
Photo credits to Sally and Vicky.



Shooting star (*Dodecatheon pulchellum*)



Fairy slipper (*Calypso bulbosa*)



Camas with Butterfly



Camas and Spring gold (*Lomatium utriculatum*)



Intertidal Ramble, May 17

Nature Nanaimo took advantage of the low tides on May 17 for a ramble to look for intertidal organisms. About 10 members met at Oak Leaf Community Park in Nanoose Bay shortly before the lowest tide. As we approached the water two divers emerged, one of whom was our April speaker Tom Hlavac! As it turned out, the beach was not the easiest to explore, so we decided to move on to Wall Beach a short distance away. Our success rate was mixed, but we did find lots of Plainfin midshipman fish (*Porichthys notatus*) that were spawning, so virtually every rock where we encountered them had two individuals under it. This species is a deep water fish that migrates to shallow water to breed. They are characterized by their photophores <http://www.elkhornslough.org/plainfin-midshipman/> (which they use to attract prey and after which they are named, reminding some of a naval uniform's buttons). Another fascinating fact is that the males grunt to attract mates <https://dosits.org/galleries/audio-gallery/fishes/plainfin-midshipman/>! During

spawning these fish provide a good opportunity for some easy pickings by herons and eagles, and apart from the spawners we found numerous dead and dying fish. After the ramble, some of the attendees went to the pub. Below are some photos from the ramble.



Mitlenatch Island Tour, May 26th

Mitlenatch Island is a provincial park and protected area famous for its very large numbers of nesting sea birds and wonderful spring wildflowers. Nature Nanaimo arranged a tour on May 26th out of Campbell River. It was about a 1-hour boat ride each way and about 3 hours on the island.

"Calm weather, a little rain but pleasant temperature made for a nice day."



Tour Boat



Assembly Before Departure



Preparing For Adventure



Invasive Saskatoon



Beautiful View



Scrambling Over Rocks

Additional wildlife photos from Mitlenatch Island, kindly shared by Staffan:



© B. Staffan Lindgren



© B. Staffan Lindgren



© B. Staffan Lindgren

Club Socials

Annual Family BBQ, June 25th

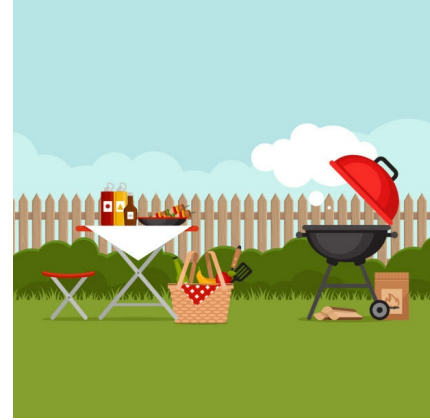
This is a pot-luck family picnic with barbequed smokies, and salmon provided.
Bring your own dish to share - Salad, Savouries or Dessert

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: only \$10 per person (adults) children free.

WildWood Eco-Forest is a 77-acre, world-renowned sustainable forest on Quesnel Lake in Cedar. WildWood is teeming with birds, wildlife and native plants. There's cleared forest trails and a new 6 acre parcel of old growth forest to explore. Interpretive Eco-tours of the forest will be provided.



Be prepared! This is a green affair; so No disposables please! Do bring your own utensils, plates, mugs, drinks and chairs or blankets to sit on. There is no smoking anywhere in the Wildwood forest.

Fancy yourself as a Master Chef? We are looking for 3 or 4 seasoned BBQ chefs with their own portable BBQs to help us feed everyone. If this is you please contact a committee member as soon as possible.

Registration is now Open!

We're making it easy. Three ways to register

- On-line with e-transfer
- by mail, or
- sign-up at the May Members' Meeting

Register on-line - send an e-transfer to Paul Courtin <pjc.blrgwr@gmail.com> (to deposit direct to Nature Nanaimo's bank account). Please label it "Family BBQ"

Mail your cheque made out to Nature Nanaimo - send to "Family BBQ" c/o Paul Courtin 220 Blairgowrie Pl, Nanaimo, BC, V9T 4P5

Nature Nuggets and News

New City of Nanaimo Signage

"As beautiful as they are, some of our native wildflowers can be toxic. You may come across a sign like this in our parks, please follow instructions and not pick the flowers and remember to stick to the paths."

You can read more about some of the wildflowers here in Nanaimo
<http://ow.ly/cAMW50Jmu4G>

NATIVE POLLINATOR MEADOWS



This area provides food, nesting and resting for pollinators.
Allow these plants to grow so future generations can enjoy them, too!



Common Camas



Fawn Lily



Chocolate Lily



Western Meadowrue



Nodding Onion



Whole Leaf Saxifrage



Sea Blush



Yampah



Western Buttercup



Monkey Flower



Menzies Larkspur

Photos courtesy of Lynda Stevens



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
www.nanaimo.ca



Canadian Wildlife Federation WILD Webinars

Check out the many WILD webinars available on the Canadian Wildlife Federation website: <https://cwf-fcf.org/en/resources/downloads/webinars/>

"With topics relating to conservation, wildlife and habitat, we provide a relevant online learning platform, typically for grades four to six, but of benefit to any age. WILD Webinars are informative, engaging and just the right length at 20 to 30 minutes. Our Hinterland Who's Who iconic species series is just one example of the quality content we have to share."

Composting and the Food Web:



Interpretive Walks This Spring/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
Butterubs 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
Butterubs 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 Butterubs 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, Butterubs 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

Coming Together for Community Science

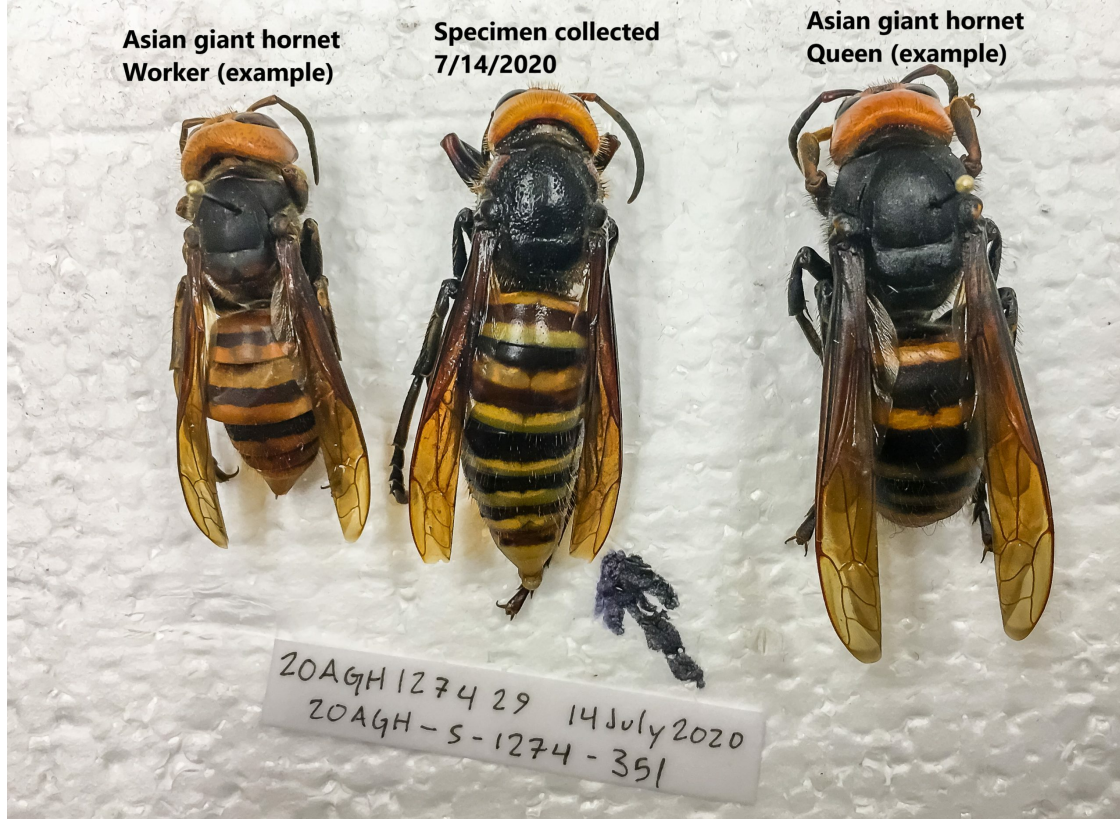


The City Nature Challenge (April 29th - May 2nd) was a huge success this year! Participants across Canada recorded approximately *1.7 million observations* of *50,000 different species* including species at risk, invasive species and native species. A big shout out to the *1,610 observers* who participated in BC and contributed to community science! Your observations continue to help track overall biodiversity, the abundance and distribution of species and how invasive species are interacting with their environments. Keep up the good work!

[READ THE REPORT](#)

Asian Giant Hornets: What You Can Do

Dr Nick Wong, ISCBC's Senior Lead, Science, describes the insect's unique features that make it easy to recognize: "While on the lookout for Asian giant hornets, look for a large orange head with prominent black eyes and large jaws. Queens can be up to 4-5 cm in length with a black and orange striped abdomen. The thorax (where the legs and wings attach) is dark brown or black, and the wings are tinted dark brown."



Asian Giant Hornet Queens: A Not-So Royal Spring Arrival ...

We're not the only ones looking forward to the return of warm spring weather- Asian giant hornets (*Vespa mandarinia*) may soon be poking their heads out to enjoy the sunshine, too. This invasive insect is the largest species of hornet in the...

[Read more](#)
bcinvasives.ca

Mother Bear & Cubs Visit Nanaimo Neighbourhood



Conservation Officers, Nanaimo RCMP contain family of...

Officers with both the BC Conservation Officer Services and the Nanaimo RCMP have helped diffuse a situation and contain a family of black bears that were wandering within the community on Saturday. The black bears were reportedly seen in the...

[Read more](#)

www.cheknews.ca

Monthly Roundup of Nature Events

World Oceans Week – June 1–8

WOW
World Oceans Week
June 1 — 8, 2022

BC MARINE TRAILS
Help clean a beach in your area!
Share your photo and your story with BC Marine Trails.

SCAN ME

www.bcmarinetrails.org | wow@bcmarinetrails.org

BC Marine Trails strives to secure water access for public recreation for present and future generations and links coastal communities together by water. To show our love of the coast, BC Marine Trails is working in partnership with other organizations to promote World Ocean Week, June 1st – 8th, 2022. How can you contribute? Simply share a photo and a few words describing how you are taking action to preserve the natural beauty of our coastal environment.

We invite all BC Marine Trails members to choose an activity during World Ocean Week (WOW) that focuses on the theme “Caring for our Coasts”. We have a few ideas, you are welcome to add others:

- Submit a picture and a short description to WOW@bcmarinetrails.org. BCMT will use these submissions on our website and in our monthly newsletters to show the many ways BCMT paddlers ‘care for the coast’.
- Lead or join a Shoreline Cleanup through Ocean Wise.
- Submit a Site Conditions Report (SCR) to BCMT and include a photo showing your actions in returning the site to its natural state (removing debris,

dismantling a fire ring above high tide, etc.).

With increasing use of outdoor recreation areas, it is more important than ever that we be proactive in protecting these areas to ensure we have continued access. Our BC Marine Trails Code of Conduct was specifically developed to promote respect and care of our sensitive marine environments. It is equally applicable to all watershed areas along our coasts. We invite you to adopt our Code of Conduct, pack a pair of gloves and a litter collection bag each time you head out and then share your “WOW” moments with BCMT to celebrate your contributions to preserving the beauty and the access to our coastal communities for now and for future generations.

ISCBC Youth Mini Summit – June 2

Date: June 2, 2022

Location: Virtual

Protecting the environment isn't all field work. A LOT can be accomplished through effective communication!

Young adults aged 15 – 30 from across British Columbia are invited to join this summit and learn how to be an effective science communicator. The SciCATS will walk you through how to use storytelling techniques to make your message more powerful and impactful!

REGISTER TODAY

2022 National Invasive Species and Climate Change Symposium – June 7 & 8

Location: Virtual

Increased negative impacts from invasive species is a growing concern directly related to climate change. Mitigating impacts, sequestering carbon, and taking action to protect critical habitats from invasive species is more important than ever.

Canada's 1st National Invasive Species and Climate Change Symposium will bring together policymakers, researchers, and practitioners to discuss this issue and begin to identify next steps to address it.

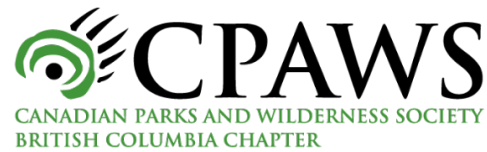
This is one you don't want to miss! Indigenous peoples and those attending a secondary or post-secondary institution can purchase tickets for a stellar deal of only \$10!

REGISTER TODAY

Defending the Great Bear Sea – June 9

The Great Bear Sea, also referred to as the Northern Shelf Bioregion, is found off the north

and central coasts of BC next to the famous Great Bear Rainforest.



Join CPAWS-BC on Zoom on June 9, 2022 to learn about the incredible and unique marine life that lives here. Hear about how coastal First Nations are leading the process with the Canadian and BC governments to create a marine protected area (MPA) network for the area. Thanks to people like you advocating for strong ocean protection, we have a plan to build on the existing three MPAs here to create a whole network of protected areas to further support important habitats. These connected MPAs increase the resilience to impacts and protect the health of the Great Bear Sea for present and future generations.

Register to join for a live presentation followed by Q&A.

Questions? Please contact info@cpawsbc.org or call 604.685.7445

[Click here to register today.](#)

Under the Surface (Oceans Day for Kids 3–6) – June 12

From the [Nanaimo Spring 2022 Activity Guide](#):

A fun activity for parents and kids 3 to 6 years old at Pipers Lagoon Park on Sunday, June 12.

Under the Surface 3 to 6 Years

Celebrate Oceans Day with us and discover the mysterious world living just beneath the surface of our oceans and streams and along the surrounding shoreline. Discover what that slimy stuff is that gets stuck between your toes and much more. This is a parent participation class.

Instructor: Judy Wickland

Sun, Jun 12 | 9:30-10:45 am | \$10 | 69594

Sun, Jun 12 | 11 am-12:15 pm | \$10 | 69595

Pipers Lagoon Park

Black Swift Webinar (Birds Canada) – June 16

Birds Canada's Black Swift zoom webinar will take place on June 16 at 7pm. Attendees will need to register via this link beforehand the Zoom link to the webinar will then be accessible via the eventbrite email.

**You're invited to learn about one of the most
secretive bird species in the province:**

The Black Swift



Cascade Falls. Credit: David Bradley



Credit: Tim Ludwick



Credit: Terry Gray

On June 16 at 7pm

**Join Birds Canada and other outdoor enthusiasts, bird lovers,
and waterfall chasers for a free online webinar. You will learn
about the elusive behaviour of the Black Swift, as well as Birds
Canada's exciting new project that will help us understand this
Endangered species and the threats it faces**

[Please register for the event here](#)



[REGISTER HERE](#)

Project TEACH – June 23

The [Coastal Douglas-fir \(CDF\) biogeoclimatic zone](#) is the smallest and most endangered of 16 such zones in BC. It is also among the least protected, and this protection consists mostly of small disconnected patches. The ecological communities within this zone are among the most biodiverse in BC, with some of the greatest carbon storage capacity, yet they are the most at risk of ongoing development. Its neighbouring zone, the Coastal Western Hemlock (CWH) is now

well-known across the country due to the ongoing destruction of iconic old growth forests making news headlines over the past year. These places are unraveling from former levels of diversity and abundance. We must work together toward local solutions.

Project TEACH seeks to inform and mobilize members from scientific, First Nation, and resident communities throughout the range of the CDF and CWH zones. Together, we will learn about local conservation challenges and explore pathways for mobilizing this knowledge to influence stronger environmental protections.

This series combines efforts across institutions, non-governmental organizations, and the community, creating opportunities for new relationships, increased knowledge sharing, and an improved support network. By making science accessible and providing opportunities to engage with experts and policy-makers. We hope that these sessions will empower community members to participate in local decision-making thus contributing to the “culture of conservation” our project partners are working together to encourage.

Register for the in-person session

Date: Thursday, June 23, 2022

Time: 1PM to 4PM

Location: University of Victoria, room number TBD

If you can't make this in-person session, we will be streaming it live and sending the link to those registered for the webinar series here:

<https://www.raincoast.org/project-teach/>

Nature Nanaimo | naturenanaimo.ca

