



Newsletter

1 March 2022 | Issue 11



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, March 17th at 7pm:

Nature Nanaimo is pleased to announce our next monthly meeting presentation: Salish Sea Salmon: Resilience in a Changing Climate with Dr. Isobel Pearsall.

Climate change is the greatest threat to wild Pacific salmon in our fresh water and marine ecosystems. Rivers and streams throughout B.C. are warming and flow patterns are changing. Warming temperatures change rainfall and snowmelt patterns often causing impassable waters for salmon. The warming waters of the Salish Sea affect the entire food web resulting in less food for salmon, increased disease and stress, and impacts to nearshore habitats. The Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF) works with experts across British Columbia to uncover and deploy action-based solutions to help wild Pacific salmon to adapt and survive. Isobel will speak to impacts of climate change on Coho and Chinook in the Salish Sea, and some of the actions that are being taken to increase survival and resilience of these iconic species.

Dr. Isobel Pearsall is the Director of PSF's Marine Science Program. She co-ordinated the Pacific Salmon Foundation's Salish Sea Marine Survival Project, and is the Manager of the PSF/UBC Strait of Georgia Data Centre. She holds a first class degree in pure and applied biology from Oxford University, a M.Sc. in ecology from the Department of Biology at Dalhousie University, and a PhD. in ecology from the Department of Plant Science, UBC. After her PhD studies, she taught at San Diego State University, and was then a post-doctoral fellow in ecosystem management at the Pacific Biological Station, Department of Fisheries and Oceans,

Nanaimo. Since 1995, she has worked as a scientist on numerous programs for government, non-profit organizations, and private industry. She is an adjunct professor at UBC.

Nature Nanaimo

Presents:

Salish Sea Salmon: Resilience in a Changing Climate

with

Dr. Isobel Pearsall

Thursday March 17th

7:00 PM



February Meeting Recording

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

Forest blockades and tsunamis: Factors that contribute to soil biodiversity in coastal temperate rainforests with Dr. Zoë Lindo.

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/r3bE2GzF6-0ufl9roQZ-dhtqlY3Dom6_E_CJYENJ8qkhNG2MJL9yn9y6lX1eIDb6.Bgrpbak0fVYMzrib

Passcode: G6%150@=

Nature Rambles

Twelve members enjoyed a spring ramble at the Morrell Sanctuary on February 18th led by Bob Harvey (member).

Bob has been involved with the Morrell Sanctuary for many years and has a wealth of information about the ecology of the area: the trees, ferns, lichens, mosses and fungi and animals that interact and call this area home.

Bob outlined the history of the area and led the group on a "forest bathe" along the Yew Trail which has, and is, undergoing restorations and onto the Deer Fern Trail, onto Bob's Trail and the Rocky Knoll Trail before returning to the Nature house.

No flowering plants this early in the season, but so many interesting lichens and mosses; step moss and electrified cat tail moss, forking bone lichen and lungwort!

Thanks Bob!



Nature Outings

After a great response from membership, we have reached our full capacity* for the Herring Run/Wildlife boat trip!

We have 36 people going on Saturday, March 12th. There will be three groups of 12 - leaving on a 9 AM, 12 PM, and 3 PM boat tour aboard the Sun Corona and lead by Grant Scott - from Conservancy Hornby Island.

IF you want your name put on a wait/cancellation list please let Nancy know ntwynam@gmail.com

Fingers crossed we will be in the middle of the herring run and the weather will be warm, sunny and the water like a sheet of glass :-)

Even if we don't hit the peak of the spawn event there will be lots to see. For those interested in an overview of what to expect in terms of bird activity associated with the herring spawn please read the following - shared, with much thanks, by a local FB birder Abu Anka.

**edit: as of February 24th, due to a cancellation, there are now two spots available on the 3pm tour. E-mail Nancy at ntwynam@gmail.com for more information.*



Black Birders Week & Intersectional Environmentalism



Why-and How-to Be an Intersectional Environmentalist -...

Environmental racism and environmental justice BIPOC and other marginalized communities are disproportionately exposed to polluting industries, such as dumps, landfills, pipelines, and factories-both around the world and in Canada. Sarnia,...

[Read more](#)
www.alive.com

BCFO Young Birder Awards 2022



Young Birders - British Columbia Field Ornithologists

The BCFO Young Birder Award welcomes talented young birders into the BC birding community providing them with recognition, opportunity, encouragement, and mentoring. The Young Birder Awards are presented to youth who meet certain qualifications.

[Read more](#)
bcfo.ca

Nature Nanaimo adopts a no-gambling funding policy

Ethical no-gambling funding:

While the government of B.C. becomes increasingly addicted to the lucrative business of organized gambling at the expense of vulnerable British Columbians and continues to expand its gaming activities, it has proceeded to break a social contract made with B.C.'s citizens. Critics say that casinos result in social problems for the most defenseless sector of our society.

Nature Nanaimo cannot and should not support this exploitation of the weak.
Nature Nanaimo should be looking for other forms of funding, both governmental and private agencies.

Food For Thought

“As scientists attempt to understand a living system, they move down from dimension to dimension, from one level of complexity to the next lower level. I followed this course in my own studies. I went from anatomy to the study of tissues, then to electron microscopy and chemistry, and finally to quantum mechanics. This downward journey through the scale of dimensions has its irony, for in my search for the secret of life, I ended up with atoms and electrons, which have no life at all. Somewhere along the line life has run out through my fingers. So, in my old age, I am now retracing my steps, trying to fight my way back.”

(Albert Szent-Györgyi, *Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1937*)

A Prescription for Nature



B.C. doctors can now prescribe a year-long pass to...

Doctors across several Canadian provinces can now prescribe patients a pass to the country's national parks system in a bid to improve their mental and physical health. On Monday, Parks Canada said it was joining the national nature prescription...

[Read more](#)

www.tricitynews.com

Monthly Roundup of Nature Events

Fish & Wildlife Comp. Program Events – March 4, 10 & 30

Murphy Creek Spawning Channel

When: Friday, March 4, noon–1 p.m. PT / 1 p.m.–2 p.m. MT



Take a virtual tour of the Murphy Creek Spawning Channel, near Trail, which provides essential habitat for rainbow trout and other species. It's managed through a partnership between the Okanagan Nation Alliance, Trail Wildlife Association, and the FWCP, and could be a model for improving spawning habitat in the region.

Presenters:

Eleanor Duifhuis, B.Sc. Field Biologist – Columbia Region, Okanagan Nation Alliance

Karen Trebitz, Ph.D., Trail Wildlife Association

[Register now](#)

Salmon futures: science, stressors, and stewardship of salmon watersheds

When: Thursday, March 10, 12 noon – 1 p.m. PT / 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. MT

Climate change and multiple other stressors are key threats to biodiversity and ecosystem health. Salmon watersheds and fisheries are struggling, and during this presentation, professor Dr. Jonathan Moore will talk about glacier retreats, sea level rises, the function of estuaries, and the importance of forward-looking science, collaboration, and co-development to align

research priorities and approaches with local communities in this era of rapid change.
[Learn more](#)

[Register now](#)

Conserving at-risk Stone's sheep in the Peace region

When: Wednesday, March 30, noon–1 p.m. PST / 1 p.m.–2 p.m. MST

Join the Wild Sheep Society of B.C. for an update on an ongoing project to assess sheep health and examine population demographics, behaviour, distribution, and habitat in the Peace Region. Results from this multi-year project could inform future conservation and enhancement actions for Stone's sheep.

[Register now](#)

Bamfield Marine Science Centre Webinar – March 9 & 30

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. 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>.

Mar 9 @, 13:00 PST	Sean Holman  , University of Victoria Abeer Siddiqui  , McMaster University	Register here 	Episode 12: Climate Education and Misinformation
Mar 30, 13:00 PST	Nova Harvest Ltd 	Register here 	Episode 13: Regenerative Ocean Farming

VIU Science and Tech Lecture Series – March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

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

March presentations in the lecture series are:

- **Ocean Acidification in British Columbia's Coastal Waters**, presented by Dr. Wiley Evans from the Hakai Institute on **March 2**.
- **Humans and the Holocene: Navigating Climate Change and Shifting Sea Levels in the Ancient Pacific Northwest**, presented by Dr. Rhy McMillian, a UBC Post-Doctoral Fellow and a VIU Grad, on **March 9**.
- **Computational Simulations of Ice Sheet Flow and Sea Surface Temperatures**, presented by Dr. Sam Pimentel, an Associate Professor at Trinity Western University, on **March 16**.
- **Advances in Environmental Psychology in Relation to Climate Change and Community**, presented by Dr. Lindsay McCunn a VIU Psychology Professor, on **March 23**.
- **Tropical Forest Transformation, Regrowth, and Loss: Implications for Carbon Sequestration and Emissions**, presented by Dr. Sean Sloan VIU's Canada Research Chair in the Human Dimensions of Sustainability and Resilience, on **March 30**.

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

<https://scitech.viu.ca/lecture-series>

Raincoast Speaker Series: Giant Squid – March 10

7pm Thursday, March 10th via Zoom

What is a giant squid? Many different species have been referred to by this name, from the “calamar gigante” that Danna studied in Mexico and California to other species alternately known as warty squid, clubhook squid, and colossal squid. Danna will give a tour of the unique features and record-holders of each species, with plenty of attention to the one most strongly associated with the name “giant”: *Architeuthis dux*. She'll also present her research on Humboldt squid, a smaller but still formidable cousin, and discuss the crucial roles all of these “monsters” play at the center of oceanic food webs.



Join Danna Staaf, a marine biologist and author with special expertise in cephalopods. After falling in love with octopuses at age ten, she kept two of these amazing animals in a home aquarium, learned to scuba dive, and eventually earned a PhD in Humboldt squid reproduction and development (or “squid sex and babies”) from Stanford University’s Hopkins Marine Station. Now a freelance science communicator, she wrote *Monarchs of the Sea: The Extraordinary 500-Million-Year History of Cephalopods* (previously titled *Squid Empire*, and named one of the best science books of 2017 by NPR). Her next book, *The Lady and the Octopus: How Jeanne Villepreux-Power Invented Aquariums and Revolutionized Marine Biology*, is coming out in October. She also created the science outreach program *Squids4Kids*, and visits schools at every grade level, as well as venues from museums and libraries to tech companies.

See more on Danna when you RSVP below.
(Image: ourmarinespecies.com)

RSVP for Giant Squid

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