



Newsletter

1 May 2022 | Issue 13



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, May 19th at 7pm:

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

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

Less than 5% of the rare Garry Oak ecosystems exist in their natural form on Vancouver Island. Despite their rarity, they perform valuable ecological, cultural and economic functions in our urban areas. Protecting and managing Garry Oak ecosystems in these urban areas is a challenge, for many reasons. Examples of successful management will be discussed from urban areas in Victoria and Saanich. These examples could be beneficial if applied to the mid-Island range of Garry Oak ecosystems in the Nanaimo area.

Thomas Munson holds a Bachelor of Environmental Studies degree from the University of Waterloo, and a Restoration of Natural Systems Diploma and Masters of Science degree from the University of Victoria. He has worked with First Nations in the Yukon Territory, British Columbia, and Colombia, South America for much of

the past 20 years. Thomas worked as an Environmental Technician for City of Victoria Parks, in restoration, and management of Garry oak ecosystems. Now, as Senior Environmental Planner for the District of Saanich, he works to protect these same ecosystems from development activities.

Nature Nanaimo

Presents:

Garry Oak Ecosystems Benefits to Urban Areas

with

Thomas Munson

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



April Meeting Recording

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

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

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/n1dFiuEbtGKI5JO9ACJp46FKesssla_z5bA21-LfbbiTeC79P5YG4hsNVUfTxSSb.OfRdbv6iVx0Fj1q5

Passcode: LFwiN1\$b

Club Outings

Mitlenatch Island Tour, May 26th

Nancy and Doug have been working on a very exciting opportunity. Nature Nanaimo is offering a tour to Mitlenatch Island - a provincial park and protected area famous for its very large numbers of nesting sea birds and wonderful spring wildflowers!!! If you are not already familiar with this island - it is a very special place. [CLICK HERE](#) for all the details as well as links to additional information about the island.

The tour will be on May 26th out of Campbell River. The cost will be approximately \$150 per person. It is about a 1-hour boat ride each way and then we hope to spend about 3 hours on the island. There are no guarantees but at this time of year, the weather is usually quite nice.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- **priority will be given to those people that had their Herring Spawn/Wildlife boat trip canceled due to poor weather** BUT we hope to be able to accommodate anyone interested in going. There is a maximum capacity of 12 on

the boat so if we have enough for two or more boats we will try and arrange for an additional trip(s).

- as with all our outings - non-members are welcome - they simply need to sign a Nature Nanaimo liability waiver and pay a nominal \$2 "day membership" fee.

Please email [Nancy](#) if you wish to join us!

Club Socials

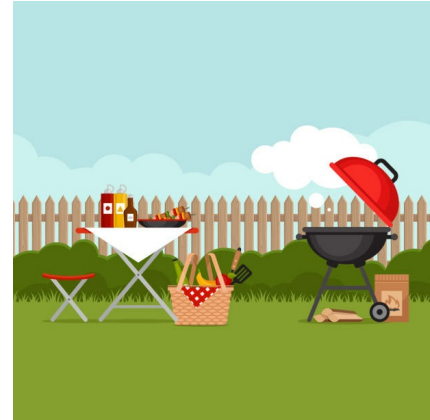
Annual Family BBQ, June 25th

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

Club Volunteer Opportunities

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

THANK YOU!!!

Nature Nuggets and News

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 will be in the City Parks and Rec Summer Activity Guide; it is featured below and is available on our website (naturenanaimo.ca). The first walk is this Sunday, May 1st. The theme is "Aquatic Life of Buttertubs Marsh." Staffan and Doug will be conducting the tour.

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

World Migratory Bird Day 2022: Focus on Light Pollution

Artificial light is increasing globally by at least 2 per cent per year and it is known to adversely affect many bird species. Light pollution is a significant threat to migratory birds, causing disorientation when they fly at night, leading to collisions with buildings, perturbing their internal clocks, or interfering with their ability to undertake long-distance migrations.

Solutions to light pollution are readily available. For instance, more and more cities in the world are taking measures to dim building lights during migration phases in spring and autumn. Best practice guidelines are also being developed under the Convention on Migratory Species to address this growing issue and ensure that action is taken globally to help birds migrate safely.

Stay tuned on how you can get involved and visit back our website soon to find more materials and register your events.

Related content:

CMS COP13 Resolutions and Decisions on Addressing Light Pollution

[Resolution 13.5 - Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife](#)

[Annex of Resolution 13.5 - National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife including Marine Turtles, Seabirds and Migratory Shorebirds](#)

[Decisions 13.138 to 13.139 - Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife](#)

(Content from worldmigratorybirdday.org)



Nanaimo City Nature Challenge

Reminder: 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.



-Steven Hayward

Science & Data Coordinator with Invasive Species Council of BC



Short-tailed Albatross: Research That Hits Close to Home



Albatross came back to Vancouver Island to feed over...

The short-tailed albatross were creatures of habit, according to a new study that found they returned to Vancouver Island to feed for generations over a 4,200-year period before being driven to the precipice of extinction by feather hunters.

[Read more](#)

vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca

Colour Banded Gull Sightings

Thanks very much to Dorothy for sharing this information about a project that's happening locally. Here is a note that she recently received:



We at the landfill are participating with a research project with Environment and Climate Change Canada, on Salish Sea Gulls. They have visited us a few times to catch and band some birds. They just sent me this:

'This year, we banded the gulls with colour leg bands (see attached image example) to investigate their movements, habitat use, and site fidelity through citizen science. To amplify this important aspect of the gull project we created the following form to report colour banded gull sightings: <https://forms.office.com/r/i9PG9zHCfs>. Please feel free to distribute throughout your networks.'

If you have seen any banded birds and wondered what they might indicate, now you know. Please feel free to share within your birding friends or naturalists societies.

Monthly Roundup of Nature Events

Shoreline Botanicals Workshop – May 3

Nanaimo Art Gallery

- Date: May 03, 2022
- Time: 6:00pm - 9:00pm PDT
- Cost: \$55.00

<https://nanaimoartgallery.ca/shop/programs/adults/shoreline-botanicals-draw-paint-collage-text/?mibextid=Bog7XT>

Join artist, educator and marine biologist Christy Wilson and dive into visual storytelling about the seashore and the ocean. Using paint, drawing, collage and text, you will create mixed media artworks that respond to plankton, seaweed and shoreline vegetation. Weave image and text to create work that speaks to your relationship with the sea.

This is one of two evenings of Shoreline Botanicals inspired by Diyan Achjadi's solo exhibition *Carried Through the Water*. Sign up for one or both!

Clam Abundance Survey Volunteer Event – May 13, 14

Join the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Research Institute (MABRRI) in conducting a clam abundance survey along the Nanoose Bay Recreational Shellfish Reserve! The survey will be conducted across two days, Saturday May 14th and Sunday May 15th, running from 08:00am – 3:00pm each day. This volunteer event will contribute to a sustainability research project by comparing the abundance of clam species before and after the peak harvesting season. Participants will work in small groups to dig for, measure, and identify the various species of clams on site. By using rakes, participants will dig 1m² quadrats, 20 cm deep, strategically placed throughout the Recreational Shellfish Reserve. Participants will record data such as species (with the help of an identification guide), length, and location. This information will provide our research team with the tools to estimate species richness and abundance, prior to the peak harvesting season.

All are welcome to attend, and training will be provided on site. All equipment will be provided; however, volunteers should bring their own water, lunch, and weather-appropriate attire. We recommend wearing gumboots as you will be navigating throughout the mudflats. Please note that there are no washroom facilities at the site. Reminders will be sent out to registrants prior to the event, and will include volunteer waiver forms as well as directions to the site.

This event is a great way to engage with your community and get involved with citizen science research. We hope to see you there!

Please direct any questions to MABRRI Senior Research Assistant, Jacob Frankel, at Jacob.Frankel@viu.ca

CLAM ABUNDANCE SURVEY VOLUNTEER EVENT



RPBO Victoria Bird Week – May 8-13 & May 14

Rocky Point Bird Observatory presents:

**Victoria Bird Week
May 8-13, 2022
&
World Migratory Bird Day
May 14, 2022**

Rocky Point Bird Observatory invites everyone to join us during Victoria Bird Week and World Migratory Bird Day. This 7-day, Sunday-to-Saturday event is designed to bring awareness to bird conservation and it's guaranteed to bring you closer to nature and enhance your learning about the birds you may discover there.

Julie Howe, RPBO's Education and Outreach Coordinator, says "The celebrations begin on May 8 with a series of bird-related activities offered in-person and online. The week culminates on May 14 with a very special event at Beaver Lake in celebration of World Migratory Bird Day.

"May 14 marks a Global Big Day – an annual celebration of the birds around you and around the world. No matter where you are, you can join in virtually by sharing the birds you find on eBird. Participants are encouraged to submit bird observations and support conservation worldwide," Julie says. "Victoria Bird Week celebrations have something for everyone as various community partners come together to celebrate the diversity of bird species in the region."

There will be amazing opportunities to take part in Victoria Bird Week with lots of great online, bird-themed presentations throughout the week, covering many topics such as bird communications, or an FAQ talk about bird feeders. Bird Walks in a variety of locations will be open to anyone interested.

During the week, RPBO will feature social media posts of visits to local bird-watching areas, hosted by RPBO volunteers. This is your chance to discover new places to enjoy bird-watching. And if that wasn't enough, find out bird facts daily through social media posts throughout the week!

To learn more about World Migratory Bird Day or Victoria Bird Week events, or visit RPBO's Online Presentations page.

Share your Victoria Bird Week explorations with Rocky Point Bird Observatory on social media using the hashtags #RPBOBirdWeek #SingFlySoar #LikeABird #WMBD21 and #yyj.

Twitter: @RockyPointBird
Instagram: @RockyPointBird
Facebook: @RockyPointBird

Introduction to Birding Workshop – May 14, 21 & 28

From their [Facebook event page](#):

BIRD is the WORD

Have you ever wondered which bird species it is that is frolicking in your yard, along the shoreline or in the forest? On each of our birding walks participants tell us that they would love to dive deeper into the feathery topic.

That's you?
Keep reading

In May Greenways will put on a three-day birding course for beginners - six hours in total. The course will be taught by our fabulously knowledgeable and entertaining birding expert-duo Ray Allan and Kyle Fitzpatrick.

The workshop will teach:

- > which kinds of birds you can spot in the Campbell River area,
- > how to identify them,
- > and where to find them.

Visiting different bird watching spots around town, the course takes place over three Saturdays in May: 14, 21 and 28, from 10am until 12/noon. All three workshop days will start off at our Greenways office [1195-C Fir St / close to Home Hardware]. There is a fee of \$60 [\$50 for members], which covers all three sessions. Advanced registration is required - attendance is limited to 10 seats.

__ Become a Greenways 2020 member [<https://www.greenwaystrust.ca/get-involved/>]

__ Receive our monthly eNewsletter [<https://us4.list-manage.com/subscribe...>]

For more information and to register, contact the Greenways Land Trust [250-287-3785 or info@greenwaystrust.ca]. Participants must provide their own binoculars.

This course will take place in Campbell River. Tickets available here:
<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/introduction-to-birding-workshop--tickets-328302841637>.



Introduction to Birding Workshop

Three Saturdays:
May 14, 21 and 28
10 am - 12/noon

GREENWAYS LAND TRUST



Project Dragonfly Webinar – May 18

Join researchers from Ducks Unlimited Canada and our partners for an hour-long, free webinar to learn fascinating facts about dragonflies in Canada and biodiversity in the ecosystems that support them!

This webinar will also kick-off the Project Dragonfly initiative on iNaturalist and show you how to contribute your observations to help build awareness and support for conservation through citizen science!

Event date: May 18, 5:00 P.M. PST

Introducing the Project Dragonfly Webinar presenters:

James Pagé

Species at Risk and Biodiversity Specialist, Canadian Wildlife Federation
James leads the Canadian Wildlife Federation's initiatives on species at risk and biodiversity conservation. He works on various projects at CWF, including turtle recovery work, rare species surveys, bat recovery and citizen science. Working with the developers at iNaturalist.org, James has been the lead in the creation and management of iNaturalist Canada.

Colin Jones

Provincial Zoologist of Invertebrates, Ontario Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry
Colin is a lifelong naturalist and is the Provincial Zoologist of Invertebrates at the Natural Heritage Information Centre, Ontario Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry in Peterborough, Ontario where he deals primarily with rare species. Colin is coordinator of the Ontario Odonata Atlas project and is the co-author of A Field Guide to the Dragonflies and Damselflies of Algonquin Provincial Park and Surrounding Area, now in its 2nd edition.

James Paterson

Research Scientist, Ducks Unlimited Canada
James is a quantitative ecologist and conservation biologist who studies biodiversity at DUC's Institute for Wetland and Waterfowl Research. He is passionate about conservation, species-at-risk and collaborative science. James' current research focuses on the biodiversity benefits and associated ecosystem services of wetland conservation.

Janine Massey, DUC's chief marketing and communications officer, will be your

event emcee.

Free webinar!

May 18, 2022 8PM EDT / 7PM CDT

Learn about dragonflies, biodiversity and how to share your observations. **Register now.**



James Pagé

*Species at Risk and
Biodiversity Specialist
Canadian Wildlife Federation*



Colin Jones

*Provincial Zoologist of Invertebrates
Ontario Ministry of Northern Development,
Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry*



James Paterson

*Research Scientist
Ducks Unlimited Canada*



Janine Massey

*Chief Marketing
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Ducks Unlimited Canada*

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