



Newsletter

September 2022 | Issue 16



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, Sept 15th at 7pm

Beban Social Centre, Rm 2

Nature Nanaimo is very pleased to announce the first speaker of the fall:

Linking Mushrooms with Mycorrhizas

Chanterelles, boletes, hedgehog mushrooms – what do they have in common, other than being highly sought-after edible mushrooms? They all form mycorrhizas with our native trees. But so does a myriad of other fungi, some of which may be quite surprising. In this presentation, we will explore the diversity of BC fungi that form mycorrhizas with our forest trees.

Shannon is an emerita research scientist with the BC Ministry of Environment, an associate member in Land and Food Systems and Botany at UBC, and a founding member of the South Vancouver Island Mycological Society and the Truffle Association of BC.

Nature Nanaimo

Presents:

Linking Mushrooms with Mycorrhizas

with

Shannon Berch

Thursday Sept 15th 7:00 PM
Beban Park, Social Centre - Room 2
and Via Zoom



Club Outings

Tuesday, Sept 6th (full day)

12 Nature Nanaimo members are set to participate in an amazing full-day outing on Sept 6th to Bute inlet to observe grizzly bears feeding on salmon.

The tour information is here: <https://homalcotours.com/tours/great-bears-of-bute/>

Saturday, Sept 24th at 8:30am

David Aldcroft is going to lead us on a Cowichan Estuary Birding outing on September 24th - We will meet at the Dog Park on Beverly Street and Lakes Road at 8:30 AM.

Email Doug at naturenanaimo@gmail.com for more details.



Nature Nuggets and News

Volunteers Needed for Bird Surveys



Can you help? Volunteers needed to survey birds along...

Whatever your birding experience level, you can participate in this survey! This program provides crucial baseline information on the causes and rates of seabird mortality. The results give a good indication of marine ecosystem health, and can...

[Read more](#)

www.birdscanada.org

Toadlets Mass Migration

Large numbers of western toads (*Anaxyrus boreas*) live on Vancouver Island and some of our inland lakes are the original of “mass migration” events when the young toads have completed their metamorphosis from the tadpole stage to their adult body form. Over a matter of days, countless thousands of toadlets then leave their freshwater nursery and venture into the forest for their adult life (returning to the water annually to mate and lay eggs).

The toadlets are extremely vulnerable during their migration so anyone hoping to observe them needs to be very cautious. The safest time to observe this natural event is during the brief time when the toadlets are gathering along lake shorelines and just prior to them beginning to venture into the surrounding forest.

One of our members was lucky enough to time a visit to Allen Lake at just such a time and took some photos of the adorable little toadlets.



Next summer we might want to arrange a carefully planned outing to safely view the toadlets.

A remarkable video and more information about the western toads in the Cumberland area can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5S-lZtE1J6M>

<https://cvcollective.ca/cumberland-a-tiny-toad-superhighway/>

Monthly Roundup of Nature Events

MABRRI Clam Abundance Survey – September 9–11

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS!

CLAM ABUNDANCE SURVEYS

Gain valuable field work experience and contribute to marine sustainability research.

September 9-11, 2022
Nanoose Recreational
Shellfish Reserve



If you live in the Nanoose area, you may be interested in this clam abundance survey running September 9 – 11. Please contact Alanna Vivani Alanna.Vivani@viu.ca with any questions about the survey or how to sign on as a volunteer.

The Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Research Institute ([MABRRI](#)) at Vancouver Island University (VIU) is an organization is dedicated to community engagement, relationship building, and knowledge sharing. We primarily conduct our research and community engagement initiatives within the UNESCO-designated Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region, but uphold VIU's Academic Research Plan by working on projects across Vancouver Island.

MABRRI has partnered with Snaw-naw-as First Nation and the Nanoose Economic Development Corporation to conduct two clam abundance surveys each year, estimating the population of clams species in the Nanoose Bay Recreational Shellfish Reserve. This has become a community volunteer event and MABRRI is looking for keen participants who would like to contribute their efforts to this project. Participants work in small groups to dig for, measure, and identify the various species of clams on site. We record data such as species identification (a guide is provided), length, and location, to help us estimate species richness and abundance.

MABRRI's Fall Clam Abundance Survey is happening over the course of 3 days, **September 9-11, 2022** from **8:00 am – 4:00 pm**. We are in search of **volunteers** who can participate in clam digging, counting, measuring, and identification. All are welcome to attend, and training is provided on-site (no experience necessary). There is an [EventBrite](#) page for attendees to register at, they can pick from any (or all) of the three days available. There is more information about the event that can be found on that page, but you are welcome to

contact the project coordinator, Alanna Vivani at Alanna.Vivani@viu.ca with any additional questions. Keep in mind there are a number of tasks to be completed on those days that we can cater to many different physical abilities!

I have attached a promotional poster as well as a general FAQ sheet.

EventBrite: [Clam Abundance Survey - Volunteer Event Tickets, Nanoose Bay | Eventbrite](#)

Please don't hesitate to reach out to Alanna if you have further questions!

Wet & Wild Bioblitz – September 17 & 18

Welcome to the Wet and Wild Bioblitz!

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/wet-and-wild-bioblitz>

Join the **Invasive Species Council of BC** on September 17th and 18th (2022) for our first annual aquatic Bioblitz! Report native and invasive flora (plants) and fauna (animals) species in freshwater (e.g., lakes, ponds, wetlands, and streams) , riparian , or marine (e.g., oceans, reefs, and intertidal zones) environments. Freshwater ecosystems interact closely with riparian areas – the zones of lush, green, moisture-loving vegetation that surround lakes, streams, wetlands, and rivers. Both freshwater and marine ecosystems are critical habitats for native plants and animals, including threatened species. Community science observations in aquatic ecosystems play a vital role in our understanding of native biodiversity and tracking new infestations of invasive species.

We hope this project will contribute valuable data (knowledge) towards preserving British Columbia's natural beauty and resources. We have some fabulous prizes that will be awarded to the individuals with the highest number of observations each day, and some of the items can be used as tools to help prevent the spread of invasive species. Remember you must join the project to have your observations included and enter the contest.

Prize Packs Include:

- Clean Drain Dry chamois
- Boot brush
- Dry bag
- Water bottle

Visit our Learning Centre to find out more by enrolling in our quick, fun, and interactive courses such as Observing and Reporting and Invasive Species 101 <https://bcinvasives.ca/resources/learning-centre/>.

We hope to see you out there!



Creating Bat-Friendly Gardens – September 21

On September 21 at 1 pm EDT (10 am PST), join Erin Cord from Bat Conservation International and Frank Ridgley from Zoo Miami for a webinar where they'll discuss the basics of creating a bat garden and the importance of urban habitats for bats. Register today: <https://bit.ly/BatWeek2022>

Creating Bat-Friendly Gardens and Urban Habitats to Help Prevent Bat Extinction

September 21 | 1 - 2 pm EDT



Erin Cord

Community Engagement Manager,
Bat Conservation International



Frank Ridgley

Zoo Conservation & Veterinary
Services Manager, Zoo Miami



Bats are a sign of a healthy and functioning ecosystem – they help with pest control, reducing the need for insecticide, and their guano is an excellent organic fertilizer, among many other benefits bats offer to people and nature. With nearly 200 species threatened with extinction, corporate landowners have an opportunity to contribute to bat conservation in a meaningful way. In this webinar, bat experts will share the basics of creating a bat garden, bat-friendly considerations for lighting buildings and landscapes, and the importance of urban habitats such as parks and golf courses.

What you'll learn:

- How to create a bat garden
- The impact of light pollution on bat species
- The role of urban bat habitats
- How to support bats in advance of Bat Week, October 24-31, 2022

Who should take this webinar:

- Corporate site teams that want to protect bat populations
- Anyone interested in learning more about bat habitats

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