



# Nature Nanaimo Summer 2025 Newsletter

Welcome to the Summer 2025 edition of the Nature Nanaimo Newsletter! In this issue, we are excited to bring you a variety of engaging content, including the announcement of the Nature Nanaimo Student Award 2025, details about our upcoming Annual Summer Picnic, and highlights from the Nanaimo Magazine Monthly Columns. You'll also find information about our Conservation Presentations 2025, Club Outings and Rambles, and the benefits of Membership and Volunteerism. Additionally, we are thrilled to spotlight Nanaimo's Natural Wonders and express our heartfelt gratitude to our community for their continued support. We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and join us in celebrating the beauty and importance of nature in Nanaimo. Visit us at [NatureNanaimo.ca](http://NatureNanaimo.ca)

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## Nature Nanaimo Student Award 2025

### **Nature Nanaimo Student Award 2025**

We are thrilled to announce the Nature Nanaimo Student Award 2025, designed to recognize and inspire students who share our passion for nature and conservation. This prestigious award includes a \$500 prize and a complimentary one-year membership to Nature Nanaimo. The recipient will be honored at a special Nature Nanaimo Meeting.

**Who Can Apply?** The award is open to students in good standing who are currently enrolled in grade 11 or 12. To apply, please visit our website at [naturenanaimo.ca](http://naturenanaimo.ca) for detailed information and a direct application link.

Spread the Word! We need your help to reach deserving students. If you know a family member, friend, or acquaintance who fits the criteria, encourage them to apply. Your support can make a significant difference in a student's life and help foster a love for nature.

**Application Deadline:** The application process **closes on August 15th**. Don't miss this opportunity to make a positive impact!

## Annual Summer Picnic, 2025 – This coming weekend

### Join Us for the Annual Summer Picnic 2025!

We are excited to invite you to our Annual Summer Picnic, a delightful event filled with fun, food, and festivities! Mark your calendars for **Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup>**. **Walk starts at 11:15am, picnic begins at 12:00 noon to 3:00 PM** at the beautiful **Bowen Park**. Contact Sally Hofmeier to RSVP

### What to Expect:

- **Delicious Food:** Enjoy a variety of tasty treats and refreshments.
- **Nature Walks:** Explore the scenic trails and natural beauty of Bowen Park.

**Location:** 500 Bowen Rd, Nanaimo, BC V9R 1Z7, Canada

**Attendance Fee:** \$5 per person- **Contact:** For more information, please contact Sally at [membership@naturenanaimo.ca](mailto:membership@naturenanaimo.ca)

**Spread the Word!** Invite your friends and family to join us for an afternoon of fun and community spirit. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Nanaimo Magazine Monthly columns

Welcome to the Nanaimo Magazine Monthly Columns, where we bring you a diverse range of articles that celebrate the beauty and importance of nature in Nanaimo. Here are some highlights from this month's edition:

### **Discover Buttertubs Marsh – Nanaimo’s Nature Paradise**



By Doug Fraser. Buttertubs Marsh Conservation Area is a 55-hectare natural paradise located in the middle of Nanaimo offering easy access for people to quietly observe and enjoy an abundance of plant and animal life. More than 180 different bird species have been spotted here, making it a haven for birdwatchers and nature enthusiasts.

### **Help Save Harewood Plains**



By Staffan Lindgren. If you travel past Nanaimo on the Nanaimo Parkway, you will drive past an area where you get glimpses of meadows interspersed with stands of Douglas-fir and scattered Garry Oak. For most of the year, the area seems unremarkable, but at the end of spring, it transforms into a vibrant landscape filled with wildflowers and unique plant species.

### **Nature Nanaimo Beginnings**



By Gary Gauthier. In 2017, an audience attended a talk on birds by John Neville. Then President of BC Nature, Alan Burger, invited attendees to form a nature club in Nanaimo. Under the stewardship of Michael Stebbings, Staffan Lindgren and Doug Fraser, Nature Nanaimo has grown into an active club with 150 members.

### **Upcoming for July edition, Nanaimo Magazine [ LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE ]**



By Judy Wickland. Discover Nature at Your Back Door - The proximity of beauty and nature experiences around Nanaimo is a national treasure. So many remarkable places to explore, choosing just one is nearly impossible. Let us start close to home.

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## Monthly Meeting Presentations 2025,

Join us for a series of enlightening conservation presentations that explore the diverse and fascinating aspects of nature in Nanaimo. Our expert speakers will share their knowledge and insights on various topics, from grasslands to amphibians, and more.

**Look at these presentations from earlier this year.**

### **May 15, 2025 - The Special Grasslands of BC**

Discover the varied grassland areas of BC and their importance with Mike Dedels. Learn about the major threats facing these unique ecosystems and what we can do to protect them. See the full story at [NatureNanainmo.ca](http://NatureNanainmo.ca)

### **April 17, 2025 - Unlocking the Mysteries of the Black Swift**

Join Paul and Christine as they delve into the natural history of the Endangered Black Swift in Canada. Their recent findings shed light on this elusive species and its conservation needs.

### **March 20, 2025, - Western Red Painted Turtle with Lynda Brooymans**

Explore the state of our Western Painted Turtle population at Buttertubs with Linda Brooymans. How many turtles are there? Are their numbers holding steady, increasing, or declining?

### **January 16, Meeting - Beautiful Flowers on a Dangerous Bully. What to do about Scotch Broom? With Joanna Sales**

Join Joanne Sales, Founder and Executive Director of Broombusters, as she discusses the impact of Scotch Broom on our local ecosystems and what we can do to manage this invasive species. Joanne is an organic blueberry farmer in Coombs and an award-winning columnist.

## **Upcoming Presentations – September, October, November 2025**

### **Thursday, 18 September·7:00 – 9:00pm - Why It's Tough Being a Toad on Vancouver Island - Elke Wind**

Learn about the nine native amphibian species on Vancouver Island and their sensitivity to human disturbance with Elke Wind. Discover the ecology of our local amphibian populations, with an emphasis on the Western Toad.

### **Thursday, 16 October; 7:00 – 9:00pm - Mosses of Vancouver Island - Randall Mindell**

### **Thursday, November 27th, Pending - Mushrooms with Andy MacKinnon**

**Spread the Word!** Encourage your friends and family to attend these informative presentations and help us raise awareness about the importance of conservation.

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## **Explore Nature with Our Club Outings and Rambles!**

Join us for a series of exciting outings and rambles that showcase the beauty and diversity of Nanaimo's natural landscapes. Whether you're a seasoned nature enthusiast or just looking for a fun way to spend your day, there's something for everyone!

### **Regional Outing: Photography Exhibit by Lynda Stevens**

Discover the stunning photography of Lynda Stevens at the Shaw Centre for the Salish Sea. This exhibit captures the essence of Nanaimo's natural beauty and is a must-see for all nature lovers. Date: TBD.

### **Day Outings:**

#### **Turkey Vulture Migration at East Sooke Park, Beechey Head**

Witness the incredible Turkey Vulture migration at East Sooke Park. This event is a unique opportunity to observe these majestic birds in their natural habitat. Date: Late September or early October (TBA around mid-September).



### **Salmon Run at Quinsam River Hatchery in Campbell River**

Experience the awe-inspiring Salmon Run at the Quinsam River Hatchery. Watch as thousands of salmon make their journey upstream, a true spectacle of nature. Dates: Thursday, October 23 and Saturday, October 25. Leader: TBA.

### **Rambles:**

#### **Fall Colours & Marine Wildlife at Cable Bay Trail to Dodd Narrows**

Enjoy the vibrant fall colours and marine wildlife along the Cable Bay Trail to Dodd Narrows. This ramble offers breathtaking views and a chance to connect with nature. Date: Thursday, September 11. Leader: TBA.

#### **Fall Colours & Low Tide at Saysutshun Island**

Explore the beautiful fall colours and low tide at Saysutshun Island. This ramble is perfect for those who love to discover the hidden treasures of Nanaimo's natural areas. Date: Wednesday, October 8. Leader: TBA.

#### **Mushroom Walk at Morrell Nature Sanctuary**

Join us for a fascinating mushroom walk at Morrell Nature Sanctuary. Learn about the diverse fungi species that thrive in this area and enjoy a day of discovery. Date: Mid-November. To be confirmed.

**Spread the Word!** Invite your friends and family to join us for these wonderful outings and rambles. Let's explore and celebrate the beauty of nature together!

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## **Membership and Volunteerism**

### **Welcome to new members for 2025**

Hitomi Kimura, Jeffery Pugh, Shane Gross, Karen Barry

Kayla Dalla Rosa: Ian Knipe, Cindy Hlus and Kevin Hood.

**Shout out to Shane Gross:** His photo, “The Swarm of Life “, taken at Cedar Lake on Vancouver Island, captured the 2024 World Wildlife photographer of the year award.

## **Nanaimo’s Natural Wonders**

### **Get Involved**

We encourage everyone to become part of Nature Nanaimo’s community of changemakers. Whether you volunteer your time, donate to support our initiatives, or simply explore and appreciate Nanaimo’s natural areas, your involvement makes a meaningful difference.

### **Volunteering Opportunities**

Join us at Buttertubs Marsh where Nature Nanaimo members are currently conducting weekend guided tours. No experience necessary, just a willingness to learn and lead a small group around the trail for a short visual experience around one of Nanaimo’s natural wonders.

If you prefer. Take in any number of rambles, trail guide tours, or habitat monitoring that interest you. It’s a great opportunity for families, friends or groups, to experience the abundance and beauty of nature at your back door.

### **Membership Benefits**

Become a member of Nature Nanaimo to access exclusive benefits, including monthly presentations by leading authorities on what’s happening in Nature right here on our neighbourhood. Enjoy workshops, and regular local outings and events. Make connections with like minded and interesting people. Membership is a fantastic way to stay connected to the community and support our work.

### **Thank You**

We are deeply grateful for the unwavering support of our community, partners, and dedicated volunteers. Your contributions have made a significant impact on our efforts to foster a brighter, greener future for Nanaimo and beyond.



Thanks to your support, we have been able to organize successful events and outings such as the Cable Bay Trail to Dodd Narrows trip and the Low Tide at Satsutshun Island. Conduct informative conservation presentations and offer guided tours at Buttertubs Marsh. These initiatives have brought our community closer to nature and raised awareness about the importance of conservation.

As we look forward to another year of remarkable achievements and unforgettable moments in nature, we encourage you to continue your support and involvement. Together, we can make a difference and create a lasting impact on our environment.

### **A Tribute to Bill, Allan and John**

We note with sadness the recent passing of Bill Merilees, Allan Hawryzski and John Neville.

As you will know, Bill "was" Buttertubs Marsh and a champion of conservation in our region A wonderful Nature Nanaimo member and past speaker. He had also received a lifetime honorary membership.

Allan was a founding member of Nature Nanaimo, a former board member and the recipient of our first Honorary Lifetime Membership. Most notably, Allan was a wonderful person and an inspiring true lover of nature.

John Neville was instrumental in encouraging the formation of Nature Nanaimo. You can read more about Nature Nanaimo Beginnings In Nanaimo Magazine, March 2025 edition'.

We are currently compiling a set of biographies that will list some their many and varied accomplishments. This will soon be posted at [NatureNanaimo.ca](http://NatureNanaimo.ca)