



BC NATURE CONFERENCE & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING PROGRAM
“Nature in the Rain Shadow – grasslands, forests and wetlands”

Hosted by the Nicola Naturalist Society - May 22-24, 2025
 Merritt Civic Centre – 1950 Mamette Ave, Merritt, BC V1K 1R6

*We acknowledge that we are meeting on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories
 of the Nlaka'pamux and Syilx people*

Registration opens Thursday, January 2, 2025 (online and mail-in)

| Date | Event |
|-------------------------|--|
| Thursday, May 22 | |
| 1:00 – 7:30 pm | Registration Desk Open |
| 1:30 – 3:30 pm | BC Nature Board of Directors meeting |
| 4:00 – 6:00 pm | Council of Club Representatives meeting (light dinner provided) |
| 6:00 pm | Dinner is on your own |
| 7:00 – 9:00 pm | RECEPTION and PRESENTATIONS a) <i>Introduction to nature in the rain shadow</i> (Alan Burger) b) <i>Wildlife videos from the BC Interior</i> (Frank Ritcey) c) <i>Nature macro-photography in the Nicola Valley</i> (Leanne Cleaveley) |
| Friday, May 23 | |
| 6:00 – 8:00 am | Early morning birding (Pre-registration required) |
| 8:00 – 9:00 am | Registration desk open (tea, coffee and light snacks) |
| 9:00 – 9:30 am | Official welcome by Merritt Mayor (Michael Goetz), Nlaka'pamux and Syilx representatives and BC Nature president (Dr. Nancy Flood). |
| 9:30 – 10:30 am | Feature presentation: Dr. Jill Harvey – <i>Wildfire in the BC Interior – past, present and future</i> |
| 10:30 – 11:00 am | Break: coffee, tea and Snacks |
| 11:00 – 11:45 am | Concurrent presentations: a) Dr. Karl Larsen – <i>Wildlife research in the BC Interior</i> b) Dr. Tom Willms – <i>Thermal refuges for salmonids in the Nicola Valley rivers</i> c) Peter Ballin – <i>The wisdom of turtles</i> |
| 11:45 - noon | Field trip instructions |
| Noon – 1 pm | Light Lunch is Provided |
| 1:00 – 4:00 pm | Field trips (pre-registration required) |
| 4:15 – 8:00 pm | Meetings – BC Nature Committees and BC Naturalists' Foundation 4:15 – 5:30 PM: Education Committee 5:30 – 6:45 PM: BC Naturalists' Foundation 6:45 – 8:00 PM: Conservation Committee |
| 6:00 pm | Dinner is on your own |
| 8:00 – 11:00 pm | Night outings (pre-registration required) a) Moths with Bob Scafe and Dr. Dave Holden b) Owling – location to be determined c) Great Basin Spadefoots at Pennask Lake Road |
| Saturday, May 24 | |
| 6:00 – 8:00 am | Early morning birding (Pre-registration required) |
| 8:00 – 9:00 am | Registration Desk Open (coffee, tea and light snacks) |
| 9:00 – noon | Field Trips (Pre-registration required) |
| Noon | Light Lunch is Provided |
| 1:30 – 4:00 pm | BC Nature Annual General Meeting |
| 5:00 – 6:30 pm | Social Hour – beer and wine tickets obtained from registration desk |
| 6:00 – 9:00 pm | Banquet (extra cost, pre-registration required, silent auction, awards) Keynote speaker: Lennard Joe – <i>First Nations' stewardship – a history and current applications in the BC Interior</i> |
| Sunday, May 25 | |
| 9:00 – noon | Farewell Field Trips (pre-registration required) |