



Kamloops
Naturalist
Club



2026 CONFERENCE AND AGM

Hosted by Kamloops Naturalists Club

May 22 – 24, 2026



*“Nature Where
the Rivers Meet”*



Male Rufous Hummingbird , Photo: G. Dreger

Photographs

**Thank you to Glenn Dreger and Doug Smith from the
Kamloops Naturalists Club for the photographs
throughout the Annual report
Cover includes photographs from Glenn Dreger and Doug Smith**



BC Nature 2025-2026 Annual Report

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Presidents Report

Submitted by Nancy Flood, BC Nature President

Another year, and it my pleasure to write another report on this year's activities—Amy third as president of BC Nature (BCN). For those of you who may be thinking, “but wait, the term of a BCN president is supposed to be only two years,” let me explain. Knowing that this past year would see some significant changes in staffing (more on that later), the board decided that extending my term as president, and thus Harold's Seller's as vice president, and Alan Burger as past president, would help ensure continuity. Harold and Alan and I have worked very closely together the last year (for which I am very grateful)—but I get the job of writing the report! Overall, it has been a year of lows, but also highs—for both BCN and nature itself. The state of the world, and of our country, has been challenging for non-profits in general; every day I get a least three emails from various fundraising organizations

acknowledging this and offering an array of services and suggestions for how to overcome the problem. As you no doubt know, early in the fiscal year we faced financial issues that forced us to appeal to the membership for help. And boy, did you come through! We are so grateful. Although, of course, the state of the world hasn't changed, hard work on the part of our staff and board in recent months has secured sufficient new funding from various sources (e.g., BC Community Gaming, the BC Conservation & Biodiversity Awards Foundation, the Watershed Security Fund) to continue with our current conservation projects and to keep our office lights on into the future.

As I wrote in my report for the Spring Magazine (<https://bit.ly/3QhRZt2>), these are scary times for nature too—not just for ENGOs like BCN. Various bills recently enacted at both the federal and provincial level have prioritized development over the protection of nature. New mines, pipelines, and LNG facilities have been greenlit, and AI data centres, which place heavy demands on power and water supplies, seem to be springing up all over.

In that report, I urged people to put their “elbows up” for nature—and the emails and articles that come into my inbox tell me that many of you have done so. So there is good news too. On March 31, 2026, just as funding for all previous projects ended, the federal government announced 3.8 billion in funding for nature. *A Force of Nature: Canada's Strategy to Protect Nature* (<https://bit.ly/4tJEcdi>) describes how this funding will be used to protect 30% of Canada's land and water by 2030. Many organizations across the country—including BCN—congratulated the government on this commitment—at least partly to ensure that they know we've paid attention and are watching! Nature Canada feels cautiously optimistic about the announcement: it was more money than expected, but what exactly it will be used for and how to access it is still unclear. We will have to be on guard.

Closer to home, there was more good news on April 3, as the private member who proposed Bill M216, designed to speed up housing development at the expense of environmental assessment in B.C. announced he would withdraw it (<https://bit.ly/3OIUFW2>). I know that many BCN members and clubs wrote to their MLAs and other government officials about this! As I noted in the spring magazine, we certainly need more housing, hospitals and schools, but they should be built in ways and places that take the environment and biodiversity into account. I'll take this as a win; let's keep working to ensure more positive, and fewer negative, news stories.

BCN's Clubs and Collaborations.

We have continued to grow: BCN now has 65 federated clubs/organizations spread throughout the province. As is true of my own club in Kamloops, I know that most, if not all, of these groups collaborate with other local or provincial ENGOs, community groups, and all levels of government to get the job(s) done. Stewardship requires collaboration!

BCN is also keen on collaboration. In October 2025, I attended Nature on the Hill, an annual event organized by **Nature Canada**. As described in the BCN winter magazine (<https://bit.ly/4msrMEi>), it brought together representatives from all over the country to meet with MPs, Parliamentary Secretaries, and Cabinet Ministers to advocate on behalf of nature. It was inspiring to meet so many people of different ages and backgrounds, working on a diversity of projects for an array of organizations--all with the goal of protecting ecosystems and biodiversity. It would be nice to model this in B.C., as has been done in Ontario!

On the topic of collaboration-at-home, BCN is a member and supporter of the **Outdoor Recreation Council of BC (ORCBC)**, and I will be attending their 50th anniversary AGM in May—just before BCN’s own, hybrid AGM in Kamloops. We have a special representative appointed to the ORCBC, as we also for the province’s, **Fish, Wildlife and Habitat Coalition**, which brings together many groups with shared interests. This year we became a partner of the **Kootenay Conservation Program** and worked on a funding application with the **Thompson Nicola Conservation Collaborative**. And the newest staff member of **NatureKidsBC (NKBC)** recently began working in the BCN office Mondays and Fridays—which can only lead to more communication between our two groups. I know that many BCN member clubs, like mine, work closely with a local NKBC group. If yours hasn’t yet, do think about it! And if you don’t have a NK group in your area, perhaps helping to organize one would be a good idea!

BCN Staff and Projects

Speaking of collaboration, it is definitely in the skill set of **Liam Ragan**, our KBA Project Manager. His work involves working closely with many First Nations across the province, as well as with BCN member clubs, other ENGO and government staff to identify and monitor biodiversity across the province. I’ll let his excellent report in this Annual Report speak for itself—it clearly demonstrates that he “plays well with others.” I should also note that fundraising (grant writing etc.) is also part of Liam’s job and he has stepped up brilliantly this year; the funds he raises pay for his own work, as well as that of KBA field coordinator **Aiva Noringseth**, as well as helping to support BCN’s operations.

The same is true of our Municipal Protected Area Program (MPAP) Project Manager **Andrew Banks**. He and his assistant **Molly Tilden** (replacing Julia Carr, who went to other things in 2025) have been very successful at bringing municipalities across the province on board to add city parks and other lands to the nation-wide data base of protected areas—and thus, the amount of land protected in Canada. They too are experts at collaboration and fundraising! Again, I encourage you to read Andrew’s report in this booklet. We humans benefit enormously from having accessible protected areas near where we live, as well as in more wildness areas. And so does the rest of the more-than-human world.

As always, Office Manager **Mish Stone** and Financial Administrator **Mary Shannon** keep the whole organization running. They assist the rest of the staff, the board, the clubs and you the members, and we would be lost without them! I cannot sufficiently express our gratitude for their stellar work. We had expected the legendary **Betty Davison**, our longest serving employee, to retire in December of 2025. She has graciously renewed her contract, for which we are very glad! In addition to being a resource on the history of BCN, she produces the magazine, the enews (*Nature’s Voice*), social media posts, etc.! Finally, BCN’s first (and only) Executive Director (ED), **Stewart Guy** retired in August—just before a well deserved 6-week trip with family and friends through Europe. We cannot thank him enough for his service to BC Nature. His leadership gave us a model of what we need in an ED, and it will be very difficult to replace him. Doing just that—hiring a new ED is a high priority, when we reach a point where our financial status will allow it. We are hoping that is just around the corner!

The BC Naturalists’ Foundation (BCNF)

We wouldn’t be where we are today without the ongoing support of the BCNF (<https://bit.ly/4eirc9W>), our stalwart partner in protecting nature. As it says on their website, “a strong foundation is good for nature.” This year, their generosity—to the tune of almost \$43,000—allowed BCN to fund 17 projects, proposed by 16 different clubs. Check these out on our website (<https://bit.ly/3QhTzes>), where you can read about past projects as well. Might your club have a project in mind for next year? Don’t forget, donations to BCNF also support BCN!

The BCN Board at Work

In the absence of an ED, our staff have worked extra hard to fill the gap as much as possible—and board members have stepped up to help. Vice President Harold Sellers, Past President Alan Burger, and I formed an Operations Committee to try and deal with certain issues in a timely manner—and we have the full email inboxes to prove it. Alan also chairs the Nominations and Governance Committees and Harold does yeoman’s work chairing the Human Resources Committee. I represent BCN on the board of the BCNF, and chair our Fundraising committee, which has been doing a lot of deep thinking, listening and learning this year. And as an added bonus, I get to sit as an ex-officio member on every other BCN committee!



Photo: G. Dreger

Mountain Bluebirds - Male (L), Female (R)

Jennifer Dowd has become chair of the Conservation Committee—to give Peter Ballin, the long-term, legendary chair of this committee, the opportunity to do other BCN work. This is a very busy committee, and Jennifer has her work cut out for her. She is passionate about the role, however, as you can see from the advocacy work undertaken by the committee in 2005/26 (<https://bit.ly/48HSDpY>)—and that is just the tip of the iceberg as far as the work of the committee goes. A long-term member of the Education Committee, Dave Leman, has stepped up to not only chair that committee, but take a seat on the board. He too is injecting a lot of enthusiasm into the roles.

Walter Thorne remains Northern Clubs coordinator and joins me as the second BCN representative on the BCNF board. Gary Hunt continues as the coordinator for the Thompson Okanagan Shuswap region

and Stewart Wilson remains coordinator for clubs in the Kootenays. Viktorija Juciūte decided to remain the board after all, but is now assisted in the job of trying to coordinate the large Lower Mainland region with new board member Jennifer Luther. Brian Wilkes, long-time coordinator of the island clubs is retiring this year. He will be hard to replace, especially since he has played a vital role in supervising intern Steewa Philip in the production of a *Climate Adaptation Handbook* for BCN clubs. Your club may have participated Steewa's survey on what has been done by BCN and you should have received a first edition of the digital handbook. Look for a new edition coming soon!

Natasha Chand brings many skills to her role as treasurer, and co-secretaries Susan Thorne and Alanna MacKenzie keep us organized. Olga Landsdorp chairs the Resolutions Committee; although she shepherded three resolutions to being passed at the 2025 AGM, she is disappointed not have any for this year. Has your club thought of submitting a resolution? It's never too early to start working on it (<https://bit.ly/4egFiZo>).

Along with Brian Wilkes, Ben van Drimmelen, our long-time rep on the Fish, Wildlife and Habitat Coalition, is also retiring And we will finally let Alan Berger, who has served BCN as President more than once, and is currently Past President, move on. We are sad to lose their wisdom and are very grateful for their many contributions to the board. THANK YOU! I will happily take up the role of Past President, and Harold Sellers will be become President. And we have already filled the other board vacancies, we are pretty sure—but I'll keep the identities of the new board members under wraps until the next AGM—a mainly virtual meeting, hosted by the **Kamloos Naturalist Club**, to be held in Kamloops at the end of May. And I'm very happy to announce that **Rocky Point Bird Observatory** will host the next meeting in Victoria in May of 2027. They have plans for lots of exciting trips and events—stay tuned!!

My thanks

This will be my last “required essay” for BCN (whew!). Of course, I need to end my three years as President by expressing my gratitude. Honestly, I don't think I can do any better than to repeat how I ended my last AGM report, so I will indulge in a little bit of self-plagiarism. “I am extremely grateful to the staff and board members, all of whom have shown enormous dedication to the goals of BC Nature. But mostly, thank YOU: IBA and KBA caretakers, donors (an increased number this year, for which we are very grateful!), club and direct members. Thank you for all the effort you put into knowing nature and keeping it worth knowing. As an organization, we are aiming to ensure that BC has thriving ecosystems, healthy communities, and an enduring connection to nature for all. Thank you for you part in this! 🌿

Committee Reports



Awards Committee

Margaret Cuthbert, Awards Chair

Due to the confidential nature of the awards, this report will not identify the 2026 BC Nature award recipients. The nominations with photos will be in the summer BCN magazine for all members to appreciate.

There were eleven nominations by the March 15th deadline this year. The Regional Coordinators received the nominations for their review and approval.

The Awards Committee thanks the clubs who took the time to acknowledge and nominate their hard-working volunteer members. That is what the awards are for - to appreciate and acknowledge members who give so much. We delight in presenting a BC Nature award to these members! The awards will be presented to the recipients at the BC Nature AGM banquet on Saturday May 23rd in Kamloops.

A special thank you to Bill Ramey who each year turns the beautiful award bowls each recipient receives.

The following is a listing of the **2025** Award winner - congratulations to all!

McTaggart-Cowan Outstanding Naturalist

Alison and Loys Maingon – CN

BC Nature Regional Award

Gary Hunt – KNC

Denis Knopp and Lee Larkin – NC

Kathy Masse awarded posthumously – LFN

Sharon Niscak – CN

Gail Loughridge - NONC

Chris Dale awarded posthumously - SECC

Terry Carr – Delta Naturalists

Wendy DaDalt – AMNC Lilianne Fuller – LFN

Allan Garland – SONC

Ray Hornby - WLFN

Allan Garland – CN

Janet MacIntosh – WRSN

Bob Scafe – NN

Anne Scarfe – RPBO

Dr. Ian Walker – CONC

Gareth Pugh, Ryan Usenik, Wim Vesseur, Tom

Wildeboar - FOSB ☼

Education Award

IBA Caretaker Award

BC Nature Club Service Award



Conservation Committee

Jennifer Dowd - Chair of the BC Nature Conservation Committee

Over the past year, the BC Nature Conservation Committee has continued to build on its history of action-oriented work, refining its approach to focus more strategically on priority conservation issues across British Columbia. This has enabled more coordinated advocacy, stronger engagement with decision-makers, and clearer support for member clubs.

A major achievement was the overhaul of conservation information on the BC Nature website, improving accessibility and clarity for both the public and partner organizations. The committee also established key foundational tools, including an Advisory Consultants List and the BC Nature Issue Response Framework, which provides structured backgrounders to support informed advocacy and decision-making.

The committee engaged directly with government leadership, including meetings with provincial and federal

representatives to advance discussions on critical issues such as Southern Mountain Caribou habitat, Marbled Murrelet habitat, and Fraser River floodplain protection. Participation in national initiatives, including sessions hosted by Nature Canada, further strengthened collaboration and knowledge sharing.

Advocacy efforts were a central focus, with the committee producing 25 formal letters and backgrounders addressing a wide range of conservation concerns, including habitat protection, bird mortality, marine conservation, and resource development. These efforts resulted in 12 formal responses from government, industry, and partner organizations, demonstrating meaningful engagement and influence.

In addition, the committee initiated a Corporate Donor Program to support long-term sustainability, though this work has been temporarily paused to prioritize urgent conservation issues.

Looking ahead, several initiatives are underway to expand outreach and impact, including “The Conservation Lens” YouTube series, conservation-focused webinars, and a province-wide assessment of waste-related impacts (Dog Poop Issue Survey) to inform future action.

Overall, the committee has strengthened BC Nature’s role as a credible, responsive, and action-driven voice for conservation in British Columbia, while building the tools, relationships, and momentum needed for continued impact.

Completed Projects

- Conservation information overhauled/ revised on bcnature.org
- Corporate Donor Program created but put on hold due to other conservation priorities
- Advisory Consultants List created (A big thanks to those who volunteered)
- Revised Conservation Committee to be an Action Conservation Committee working on specific provincial issues
- Jan 20 – Meeting with Federal Regional Director re: Fraser River Floodplain Habitat
- Jan 27 – Meeting with Minister Neill to discuss three topics: #1: Southern Mountain Caribou Habitat, #2: Marbled Murrelet Habitat, #3: Fraser River Flood Plain Habitat
- Attended Nature Canada’s Incubator Session
- Attended Nature Canada’s Critical Distance Session
- Implemented the BC Nature Issue Response Framework (i.e. created backgrounders for issues so clubs and politicians can understand any issues we bring to their attention better)
- Analyzed wind farm impacts on bats and birds
- Analyzed benefits of a provincial conservation property tax incentive program
- Requested the Forest Practices Board to investigate the inappropriateness of government’s direction to ease up on enforcement on government’s BC Timber Sales Branch (Request denied)
- Met biweekly with the Fish, Wildlife and Habitat Coalition, a group of 30 non-government organizations focused on advocating on environmental issues to the provincial government
- Familiarization with principles of domestic cat management to limit their predation
- Presentation on provincial budget priorities to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services
- BC Nature Attended the MLA-lobbying Reception
- BC Nature attended the Minister's Wildlife Advisory Council meetings throughout 2025
- BC Nature attended a meeting hosted by the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society where they reviewed the Coastal Marine Strategy

Sent out 25 advocacy letters:

2025-12 North Coast Tanker Ban + Backgrounder to Tanker Ban
2025-11 Urgent Protection of Marbled Murrelet – Tsitika + Backgrounder
2025-11 Herring Recovery
2025-12 Widening of the Malahat + Backgrounder
2025-09 Proposed Auction of Cutblocks in Tsitika Valley Backgrounder Document
2025-09 Nature Builds Stronger Nations – Premier Eby and PM Carney
2025-07 Coastal Marine Strategy Follow up
2025-07 Fraser River Flood Plain
2025-07 BC Gov’t Logging Permits
2025-05 Premier Letter Bill 15
2025-04 Ecological Reserve Project

2025-03 Minister Lana Popham second letter
 2025-03 Bird Mortality – Bell
 2025-03 Bird Mortality – Telus
 2025-02 Proposed Expansion FORTIS BC Tilbury Plant
 2025-02 Bird Mortality BC Hydro
 2025-02 Ministerial Mandate Honourable Kelly Green
 2025-02 Ministerial Mandate Honourable Lana Popham
 2025-01 Ministerial Mandate Honourable Premier Eby
 2025-01 Ministerial Mandate Honourable Jagrup Brar
 2025-01 Ministerial Mandate Honourable Randene Neill
 2025-01 Ministerial Mandate Honourable Ravi Parmar
 2025-01 Ministerial Mandate Honourable Tamara Davidson
 2025-01 Ministerial Mandate Honourable Adrian Dix

In Progress Projects

- The Conservation Lens YouTube Video Series
- Conservation Webinars
- Dog Poop Issue Survey – compiling issues into a report and recommended action plan. 🗺️



Education Committee

Dave Leman - Chair Education Committee

Preamble: The following report is composed in part of content drawn directly from the previous year’s Education Committee report where that material remains relevant. Additional content is provided specific to the past year’s activities.

Margaret Cuthbert stepped down as Education Committee Chair at the closing of the May 2025 AGM. She expressed her sincere appreciation for the amazing support of committee members and thanked them for their positive remarks about her efforts over the previous fourteen years. Her dedication and hard work towards building BC Nature’s educational efforts are beyond question. Thank you Marg, from us all!

Dave Leman (Prince George Naturalists Club) accepted the role of ‘Interim Education Chair’. For how long ‘Interim’ applies remains to be seen. Dave has invested what time of his has been available (oh so little time it sometimes seems, even to himself) to ‘get his feet wet’, come up to speed on Education Committee activities and priorities, and to keep things moving along. He has been supported very significantly by all the Education Committee members, not least among them Susan Thorne, who has diligently, effectively and rapidly provided Education Committee meeting minutes, and Stewart Wilson, who has kindly volunteered to co-chair the committee as needed. Dave thanks each and every one of these folks.

There is a certain amount of ‘soul-searching’ that goes into these things. What, as a committee, is our purpose? What should our priorities be? Are we missing anything important or obvious, anything right under our noses or anywhere else? What are our ‘clients’ (club members around the province, the public, politicians and their parties, and others) in need of? Such questions have been raised over the past year and will be a part of what the Education Committee grapples with as we move forward. Certain of our activities have been pillars, or at least staples, of the education-related work that we do. But are there ways we can improve or add more value? What can be accomplished as we consider the possible and the desirable, and at the same time recognize the limitations of our resources and capacity? Can we overcome our limitations? Such questions will be pondered as the coming year unfolds.

Education Committee Terms of Reference

In October of 2024, Alan Burger organized a discussion open to BC Nature members to review the Education Committee leading to the Governance Committee redoing the Education Committee Terms of Reference (ToR). The participating members of the Education Committee gave their feedback to both the discussion and the drafted ToR. The ToR were reviewed and approved by the BC Nature Board in fall 2025. Committee members

agreed that most of the present ToR are being met, and the one ToR that may not be is support for the clubs to facilitate nature education – recognizing that capacity of the Committee is an issue. Dealing with this factor will be one of the items on the Committee’s agenda for 2026.

2024 Education Survey

The 2024-2025 Education Committee reviewed the survey responses to help steer their work in 2025 and onwards. Reflecting on these responses and determining priority actions for implementation will be a ‘work in progress’ for the Education Committee for some time to come. As education is at the heart of much of what BC Nature does (in concert with our conservation activities), this information will also be important for guiding actions by BC Nature staff, the Board, and the organization as a whole.

Naturalist Mentors Program

The Naturalists Mentor Program invites clubs to acknowledge a club member or a community or an indigenous person for their contributions to nature education in their community. Walter Thorne continues to coordinate the Program, and he has dedicated numerous hours to acknowledge special people who commit their time and knowledge to others in the community. The Naturalist Mentor acknowledgement is printed in the BC Nature magazine, and a certificate is prepared for the recipient. Since May of 2025, Naturalist Mentor recipients have been Frank Hovenden, Summer 2025; Deborah Simpson, Fall 2025; Lynne Brookes, Winter 2025; and both Alan and Donna McKenzie, Spring 2026.

To our member clubs, we are looking forward to the opportunity to acknowledge a community and/or indigenous mentor in your area, and it takes very little time to write a short nomination and provide a photo of a Naturalist Mentor. Please contact Walter (email: swthorne@telus.net) and copy to the Education Chair (email: educationchair@bcnature.ca) with your nominations.

Scholarships

In early 2025 we broadly promoted the Bert Brink and Rene Savenye Scholarships (\$2500 and \$2000 respectively) and received more than 40 applications for the Bert Brink and 10 applications for the Rene Savenye scholarships. Two eminently worthy scholarship recipients were chosen for 2025-2026, whose biographies are profiled in the BC Nature fall 2025 magazine (pages 22-23): Sunny Tseng, a PhD student at the University of Northern British Columbia, who received the Bert Brink scholarship for her work on bird monitoring in the John Prince Forest in central BC, and Rachel Foster of the British Columbia Institute of Technology for her bird-related research with various organizations.

Moving the application deadline to June 15, 2026 for this year’s applicants gives students plenty of time to conclude their winter semester and complete the application process after final exams, while also allowing the scholarship review team time to do their work before July and August holidays and travel take place. 2025 marked the first year that senior secondary students could apply for the Rene Savenye scholarship.

A special thank you to the members of the scholarship selection subcommittee for their hard work to review each applicant and remit their selections, including Alan Burger, Margaret Cuthbert, Dave Lemman, Stephen Partington, and Sue Thorne.

Science Fairs

Special thanks once again to Gary Hunt and Stewart Wilson for navigating us through the complexity of Science Fairs and reinstating BC Nature with the Science Fair Foundation (SFF) to the great relief of all involved. The SFF again facilitates the preparation of the BC Nature awards for the regional ceremonies, but we continue to need the support of the clubs to participate in judging and attending the regional ceremonies on behalf of BC Nature. In 2024, the BC Nature board approved the award amount for all three categories to be \$100 each. The BC Nature Science Fair award categories are normally for grades 10-12, grades 7-9 and grades K-6 to be split between K-3 and grade 4-6 projects, with flexibility to award more than one award per category if suitable recipients are not identified in another given category otherwise. (Therefore, the total award amount per science fair is \$300.) The Education Committee prepared promotional materials for the changes and submitted to the SFF for distribution to the B.C. schools. BC Nature appreciates all the support from the SFF staff to again engage BC Nature in the program. (Further details about science fairs may be found on pages 16-17 of the 2026 BC Nature Policies and Procedures Manual.)

Communications and Publications

BC Nature provides numerous avenues of education outreach provincially. The website is continually updated with new information and links and undergoes revisions when desirable. An online newsletter is produced and published periodically. The 'flagship' of BC Nature's outreach may well be the quarterly-published BC Nature Magazine, which always is rich in content regarding conservation and education stories and information. Longtime Communications Manager (and guru) Betty Davison continues to do an outstanding job producing the magazine and managing the website, along with other communications tasks.

The Education Committee continues to encourage club participation by appointing an education liaison to share their club's nature education resources and activities and to input committee direction. BC Nature Education Committee meeting minutes are available to anyone with an interest; please contact the BC Nature Office Manager for access to relevant documents in the document library.

Clubs widely use brochures, newsletters, websites, and field guides to share information about local flora and fauna. Popular tools include bird checklists, invasive species information sheets, and apps like Merlin and iNaturalist. Many clubs offer unique printed or digital guides and engage members through regular newsletters. Popular materials and events that members highlight include educational presentations, field trips, bingo cards, scavenger hunts, and nature diaries. Some 85% of clubs have been involved in the development of interpretive signage in their community.

We continue to urge BC Nature member clubs to submit links to the BC Nature website of their regional informational brochures, field guides and webinar schedules to provide resources and opportunities of learning in the Nature Knowledge section. The Education Committee also looks forward to further collaboration with BC Nature staff to raise awareness on opportunities for community engagement in BC Nature education.

Club Education Endeavors

In addition to field trips and public presentations, clubs widely use brochures, newsletters, websites, and field guides to share information about local flora and fauna. Popular tools include bird checklists, invasive species information sheets, and apps like Merlin and iNaturalist. Many clubs offer unique printed or digital guides and engage members through regular newsletters. Popular materials and events that members highlight include educational presentations, field trips, bingo cards, scavenger hunts, and nature diaries. About 85% of clubs have been involved in the development of interpretive signage in their community.

NatureKids BC

The Education Committee continues to liaise with our affiliated organization NatureKids BC and plans to further collaborate with and support NatureKids BC going forward. Recently, Rachel Simoni replaced Katelyn Bissat as the Nature Club Coordinator for the organization and updated our committee on the recent activities of NatureKids BC. They reported on their efforts in community outreach to engage new Canadians and numerous non-nature organizations while keeping in touch with the existing club leaders to encourage the exchange of ideas. Rebecca Clapperton-Law (NatureKids BC Executive Director) and her team continue to reach out to various BC Nature clubs to build relationships and encourage collaboration.

Looking ahead

In the coming year we can anticipate both a continuation of what have been the core activities of the Education Committee in the past, but also new activities and innovations in our offerings as we take advantage of the knowledge, skills, experience and inspirations of our members. Is it time to reinvigorate our BC Nature 'Nature Camps', as Betty Davison asks? Are there new ways of delivering educational material to our clubs (our primary goal) and other audiences? Can we identify more efficient and effective ways to exchange information between our BC Nature team (our provincial staff, board and committees) and our club members? Are there key educational topics or messages we should focus on in the coming year? How can the Education Committee support the activities of the Conservation Committee? By thinking through questions like these, we can look forward to achieving results worthy of our mission: Knowing Nature and Keeping it Worth Knowing.

Appreciation is sincerely offered to all those who in this past year have contributed a great deal to the Education Committee (its members and ex-officio member Nancy Flood) and those who work to support nature education in BC. ☺



Governance Committee

Submitted by Alan Burger, Chair

Committee members

Current members of this committee: Vivian Birch-Jones, Alan Burger (chair), Rick Gee, Rick McKelvey, Bob Peart, Harold Sellers and Nancy Flood (ex officio).

Policies & Procedures Manual

This manual was completely updated and revised in 2025; approved by the Board February 2026. The revised version is posted on the members' section of the BCN website.

A new Advertising Policy was drafted by the Editorial Team and approved by the Board at the March 2026 meeting. This will be added to the Policies & Procedures Manual.

Bylaw changes

No bylaw changes are anticipated for the May 2026 AGM.

Committee Terms of Reference

TOR for the Education Committee and Fundraising Committee were revised and approved by the Board. 🌀



Human Resources Committee

Submitted by Harold Sellers, Committee Chair & BC Nature Vice-president

Other HR Committee members are Andrew Harcombe and Brian Wilkes.

Over the past year the work of this committee has been:

- Updating staff job descriptions
- Recommending to the Board 2026 pay and benefits adjustments for staff
- Updating Terms of Employment for staff
- Producing an updated Employee Handbook
- Writing a Conflict of Interest Policy 🌀

Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Natasha Chand, Treasurer, BC Nature

BC Nature entered and exited 2025 in a period of active program delivery, continued organizational growth, and disciplined financial stewardship. While the year reflected the realities of grant-funded operations and timing differences in funding receipts, the Society remains financially stable, well-managed, and positioned for continued progress.

Financial Position

As at December 31, 2025, BC Nature reported total assets of \$154,348, comprised primarily of cash and receivables supporting short-term operational and program needs. Current assets totalled \$144,262, including cash of \$82,160 and accounts receivable of \$60,972, reflecting funding earned but not yet received at year-end. Current liabilities of \$47,287 were modest and manageable relative to available resources. Total net assets at year-end were \$107,061, providing a solid financial foundation for the Society.

Fund Balances and Reserves

BC Nature continues to demonstrate strength in its restricted funding structure, ensuring resources are aligned with mission-driven priorities:

- Externally restricted grants: \$148,722
- Externally restricted donations: \$49,662
- Internally restricted funds: \$43,308, including contingency, fund raising and program-specific reserves

These balances reflect successful grant acquisition, strong donor support, and prudent resource stewardship. While unrestricted net assets remain in a deficit position (\$(144,717)), this largely reflects the timing of revenue recognition for grant-funded activities rather than structural operating weakness. Liquidity and cash flow continue to be actively monitored and managed.

Operating Results

For the year ended December 31, 2025, total revenues amounted to \$569,066, supported by diversified sources including membership dues (\$77,450), donations and fund raising (\$63,095), program-related revenues, and restricted grants (\$288,735).

Total expenses were \$619,661, reflecting another year of significant investment in conservation initiatives, education, outreach, and organizational capacity. The overall deficit of \$48,115 was anticipated and managed within the context of multi-year project funding and ongoing cash flow planning.

Early 2026 Momentum and Outlook

Importantly, this discipline is already translating into positive results. The first quarter of fiscal 2026 generated a strong operating surplus, supported by stable membership revenues, project recoveries, and controlled operating costs. BCN's cash flow forecast for 2026 further indicates sufficient liquidity throughout the year, even ahead of anticipated grant receipts.

Looking Ahead

BC Nature enters fiscal 2026 on firm strong financial footing. The organization has made meaningful progress in strengthening cash management, aligning expenditures with strategic priorities, and building reserves that directly support its mission.

These financial results reinforce that BC Nature is financially resilient, responsibly governed, and well positioned to advance its vision of knowing nature and keeping it worth knowing. With continued support from members, donors, volunteers, and funding partners, the Society is equipped to deliver on its conservation, education, and engagement goals with confidence and optimism. 🌿



Staff Reports



Conservation Projects Report

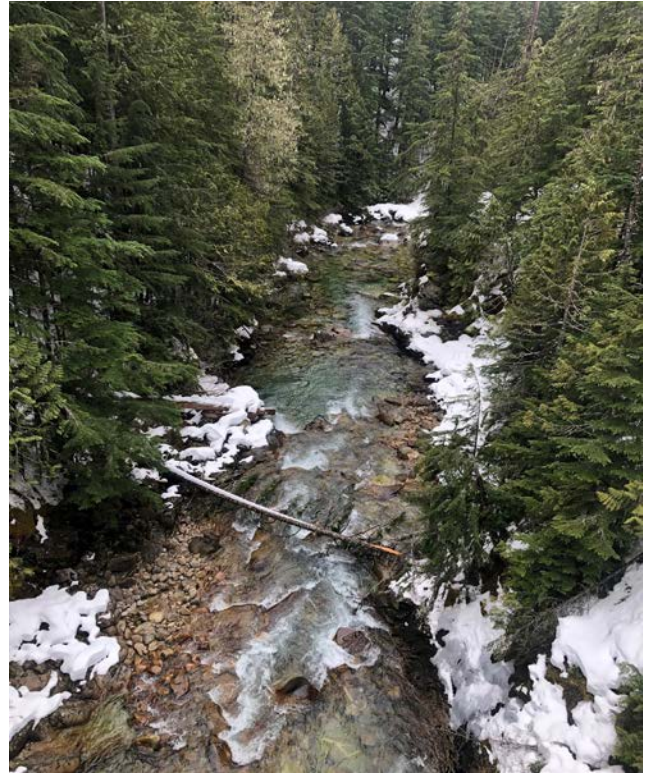
Submitted by Andrew Banks and Molly Tilden - Municipal Protected Areas Project

Busy and Productive Year for the Municipal Protected Areas Project

The Municipal Protected Areas Project (MPAP) has seen considerable activity and progress throughout this year.

We have achieved progress in promoting Canada's goal to protect 30% of its lands and waters by 2030, encouraging local governments to participate with the support of nature clubs and conservation partners.

We made exciting strides in 2025, successfully registering 2,128 hectares across 203 sites into the Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database (CPCAD). These registrations include contributions including the City of Surrey, District of Summerland, and the Village of Nakusp. We are continuing to refine our approach in the assessments of biodiversity in local owned lands with the assistance of local nature clubs, providing a path for more local biodiverse lands to be recognized nationally.



Village of Nakusp - Lands #1



Village of Nakusp - Lands #2

Our outreach strategy to promote MPAP has been both diverse and impactful throughout 2025 and early 2026 with us contacting 41 different local governments, five First Nations, and four educational institutions, across BC.

For the 2026 CPCAD submission, we are actively engaged with 15 local governments including eight municipalities and six regional districts. Examples of current local governments in 2026 participating in MPAP include the Regional District of Fraser Valley and the City of Salmon Arm.

Public awareness of our work continues to grow, highlighted by eight media articles published in 2025 by outlets such as CBC, CTV News, and local papers across BC. Additionally, we hosted several successful events in March, including webinars with CPAWS and Nature Canada, and a community Nature Walk in Penticton's Munson Mountain graciously and very informatively hosted by the South Okanagan Naturalists Club.

Thanks to the commitment of our local governments, partners, and nature clubs, we are making tangible strides in promoting conservation across British Columbia. 🌲



Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) Update

Submitted by Liam Ragan

The challenges faced by biodiversity today are as numerous as the parties working to conserve them. In my 6th year in this position I have had the extraordinary privilege to witness time and time again the dedication of the hundreds of BC Nature volunteers from dozens of clubs doing the hard, often thankless work of safeguarding our most sensitive ecosystems. In times of uncertainty, faced by ever more daunting obstacles, I've seen

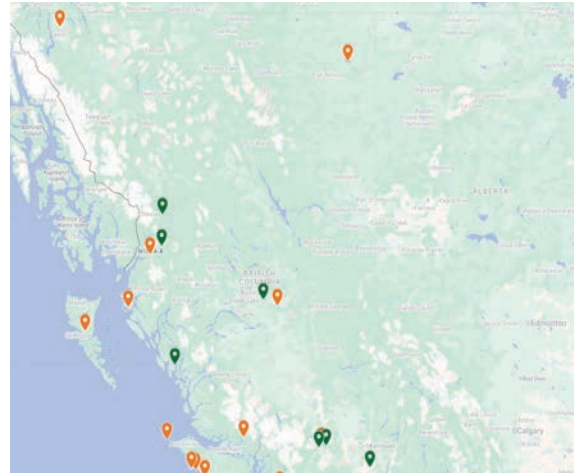
our communities double down not just on conservation action, but on the ties that bind our groups together, ensuring we're there for one another when needed and that no club stands alone.

After what has felt like a lifetime, we are nearing the completion of Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) recognition in B.C. Although we will never be 100% done in our search for knowledge, we will at least be able to say that within the limitations of our knowledge, all clear KBAs have been delineated. As we reach that stage, we face the question of what comes next; how do we advocate for, protect, and raise awareness of BC's most critical sites for biodiversity? As ever before, for us the answer lies in community; our Caretaker network, the naturalist clubs who support them, the volunteers who make up those clubs, the First Nations we work with, and the ENGOs we work alongside. In the coming year, we'll be recruiting KBA Caretakers, exploring ways to support their work, and expanding our network as we advocate for the wellbeing of these critical sites for nature.

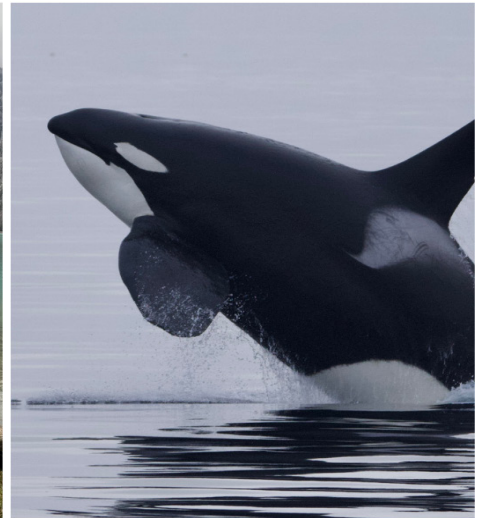
"Figuring out species status is a collaboration involving many people, including both professional scientists and serious amateur birders. Discovery is now a shared experience, and the circle of sharing has grown wider."

Ken Kaufman, *The Birds that Audubon Missed* 📍

Photo: Top Left: Ian Routley from Lillooet Naturalist Club and Ivan John from Ts'al'ah during beached Gwenis survey Top Right: Orca off of Race Rocks KBA Bottom Left: Caribou in proposed Kennedy Siding KBA seen with Prince George Naturalists Bottom Right: Des Belton and Rob Bryce during oolichan bird survey on proposed Nass River KBA



Green represents surveys completed since last AGM, yellow represents surveys planned in the coming year





Office Manager's Report

Submitted by Mish Stone, Office Manager BC Nature

2025 was a busy year and the start of 2026 is shaping up to be the same. This is the start of my 3rd year with BC Nature, not sure where the time went, but I can say I have learned a great deal about BC Nature and the great work our Affiliated Clubs accomplishes throughout BC.

New Clubs

In 2025 we had four new clubs join BC Nature

- Burns Bog Conservation Foundation
- Friends of Ecological Reserve
- Friends of Fairy Creek Society
- Greig Greenway Society

In 2026 we already have two new clubs join BC Nature;

- Food Forest Family Collaborative
- Nature Lions Bay Conservation Society

Membership Database

We have made some changes to the membership database to make the entry form more user friendly.

- Cell Phone Field Added
- Email #2 moved to second column beside email 1
- Status field is now a mandatory field and needs to be selected before saving
- When changing a profile Status to deceased, the record will be moved to inactive list of members, instead of being deleted completely

We do welcome suggestions on how to make the database more club friendly, however, keep in mind that suggestions must work for all clubs, so some suggestions may not be implemented.

Great news

We have once again been approved for a Canada Summer Jobs grant to get a summer student for 2026. Our summer student program is crucial to assist with projects, outreach, and general office duties for BC Nature.

I look forward to a prosperous 2026 administrative year and would like to thank you for all your support and assistance in keeping BC Nature running smoothly! ☺



Financial Administrators Report

Submitted by Mary Shannon, BC Nature Financial Administrator

2025 was another challenging year, even as we began to see signs of gradual improvement. We started the year with several grants that provided essential support, but as we moved into the summer months, it was our member donations that truly carried us through to the end of the fiscal year. The appeal to our club members had a remarkably positive effect on our cash flow and helped raise our fundraising total to an impressive amount.

We also made significant improvement on the expense side. Operating costs were reduced through the elimination of both the Executive Director and Fundraiser positions, allowing us to stabilize financially while continuing to deliver on our mission.

As the year came to a close, BC Nature was actively securing new funding opportunities, including applications to the BC Conservation Fund (\$191K), Watershed Security Fund (\$150K), BC Conservation and Biodiversity Award (\$28.5K), Gaming Community Grant (\$56.5K), and Sitka (\$125K), along with several smaller grants. These efforts position us well to continue with our projects for the year ahead.

With these steps behind us, it feels as though BC Nature has weathered the storm, and 2026 is shaping up to be far more promising. I look forward to another successful and inspiring year with BC Nature. ☺



Communications Coordinator

Submitted by Betty Davison, Communications Coordinator

During this reporting period, BC Nature's communications program continued to deliver consistent, high-quality outputs that support member engagement, organizational visibility, and strategic outreach.

A key achievement has been the successful production and distribution of four issues of BC Nature magazine. Each issue maintained a strong editorial standard, combining compelling natural history content with organizational updates, advocacy messaging, and member contributions. The magazine remains a cornerstone of BC Nature's communications, reinforcing our identity and strengthening connections across our network of clubs and individual members.

We extend our sincere thanks to the BC Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch for their financial support, which has contributed to the continued production of the magazine. In addition, we have expanded access to our electronic version by adding 20 libraries, significantly increasing the reach of BC Nature and making our content more accessible to communities across the province. This expansion strengthens both public awareness and educational value, while broadening our audience beyond membership.

In parallel, our digital presence continues to strengthen, with social media followers increasing by approximately 10% over the reporting period. This growth reflects both expanded reach and improved engagement with our content, allowing BC Nature to connect more effectively with members, partner organizations, and the broader public. Social media remains an important channel for amplifying key messages, promoting events, and highlighting conservation issues across the province.

A highlight of the year was a highly successful Spring 2025 Photo Contest, delivered in partnership with the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (HCTF). The contest generated strong participation from members and the broader community, showcasing the richness of British Columbia's natural landscapes and wildlife through engaging visual storytelling. In addition to fostering creativity and member involvement, the contest helped expand BC Nature's reach, providing valuable content for both print and digital platforms while strengthening our partnership with HCTF.

We have also expanded our digital engagement capacity through the introduction of online surveys on the BC Nature website. This new functionality allows us to gather direct feedback from members and stakeholders in a structured and efficient manner. Surveys provide an important tool for informing decision-making, evaluating programs, and ensuring that member voices are reflected in organizational priorities. This represents a meaningful step toward more interactive, data-informed communications.

Together, these efforts reflect a balanced and strategic approach—maintaining excellence in traditional print media while strengthening digital tools that support responsiveness, growth, and engagement. As we move forward, continued integration of survey data and social media insights will further enhance our ability to serve our membership and advance BC Nature's mission. 🌱

Fundraising

Submitted by Betty Davison, Volunteer, Fundraising Committee

BC Nature has taken important initial steps to diversify and strengthen its fundraising capacity, with a focus on building sustainable, long-term revenue streams to support the organization's mission.

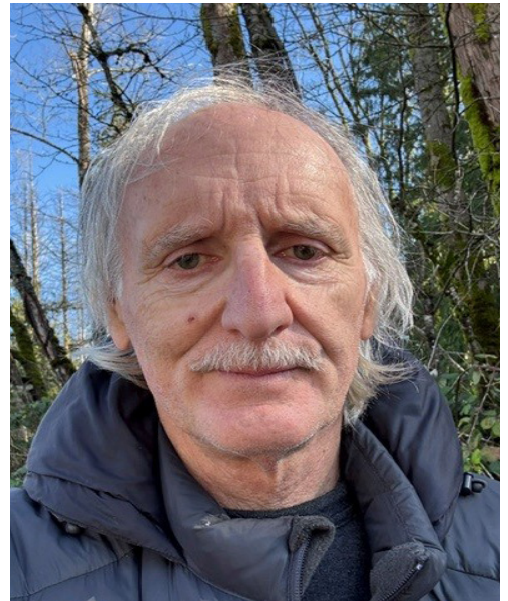
A key initiative was the launch of a **BC Nature branded clothing line**, designed to both generate revenue and increase organizational visibility. This initiative represents a strategic move into merchandise-based fundraising, offering members and supporters an opportunity to visibly align themselves with BC Nature's values while contributing financially. While early indicators suggest that **success is within reach**, performance to date has **not yet met its full potential**. Sales have been steady but modest, indicating that while there is interest, the initiative requires further development to realize meaningful revenue gains. With more targeted promotion and stronger integration across communications channels, this initiative has the potential to become a reliable supplementary revenue stream.

BC Nature also conducted its **first 50/50 raffle**, marking an important step in exploring new fundraising mechanisms. While the raffle did not result in a financial loss, it **fell short of expectations**, with a final prize pool of **\$1,975** compared to an initial target of \$15,000. As a first-time initiative, this provided valuable insight into the importance of lead time, promotion, and audience engagement, and will inform decisions on whether to refine or redirect this approach in the future.

A significant success during the year was the **Summer Fundraising Campaign**, which generated more than \$90,000 through a coordinated appeal delivered via e-news, social media, and two editions of BC Nature magazine. This integrated approach demonstrated the strength of aligning communications channels to reinforce messaging and reach members multiple times in different formats. This campaign also allowed us to do a match of grant funds from one of our funders.

In 2024, BC Nature received support from 109 individual donors. In 2025, this increased to 232 donors, representing a substantial expansion in participation and engagement. This growth reflects both the effectiveness of the campaign and the strong commitment of members and supporters to BC Nature’s mission.

Overall, while some new fundraising initiatives are still maturing, the strong performance of the Summer Campaign demonstrates that well-coordinated, multi-channel appeals resonate with our audience and deliver meaningful results. Moving forward, there is a clear opportunity to build on this success by refining underperforming initiatives and continuing to invest in proven approaches, while also advancing longer-term strategies such as monthly giving and legacy contributions. 🌱



Congratulations Terry Gagnon - winner of the inaugural BC Nature 50/50 draw



*Photos: G. Dreger
left: Bullock's Oriole
right - Sandhill Cranes
bottom left: Mountain Bluebird,
center; Western Meadowlark,
bottom right; Western Tanager*

Affiliates

BC Naturalists' Foundation (BCNF)

Submitted by Michelle Parry, President, BC Naturalists' Foundation

It is my pleasure to provide you all with a brief snapshot of what the BC Naturalists' Foundation has been up to this year and how we have been able to grow. We have been invested in our internal structure this year, solidifying our core team and preparing for succession and future fundraising. I have some big shoes to fill taking over from the wonderful and tenacious leadership of Stephen Partington. I am delighted to be part of a team that is supporting communities and nature across the province. I also feel privileged to be a part of a team that is committed to understanding that we can only do this together, by carefully sharing our personal time and skills in this busy world, by passing the torch with intention, and by staying connected with communities and nature. Of course this work is ultimately only possible because of our donors. Amidst a world that is somewhat incomprehensible when watching the news and in the face of watching neighboring granting organizations close their doors I feel very lucky that our donors in the past chose to invest in their present and our future. You can do the same! Speaking to donors today, we could not do this work without your commitment and generosity. Thank you.



BC Naturalists' Foundation updates for 2025-2026

17 Club Support Grants funded in year 2026

- As of February 2026, \$424,912 has been granted to BC Nature for 240 grants and scholarships
- More than 200 personalized letter cards were written since 2025 AGM to donors (Stephen Partington)
- Another 6 beautiful card designs were developed and printed (Colleen Simmons, Stephen Partington, and Gail Kenner)
- Guest speakers were invited to share thoughts on internal structure and succession planning
- A draft presentation guide was created to assist with applications to BC Nature Club Support Grants
- We saw an increase of ~16.75% in our net assets from 2024 to 2025
- The BC Naturalists' Foundation received a few generous sums this year from individuals. We received residuals from Elizabeth Walker estate along with other amounts of cash, bequests and shares. Please stay tuned for our full list of appreciation. Extending a heartfelt thank you and gratitude on behalf of the Foundation and Nature projects, nature communities that this supports! Super stars!
- Consistent focus and energy was invested into internal processes this year allowing for more regular meetings and use of digital tools that reduces the burden on volunteers and better equips BC Naturalists' Foundation for succession.
- BC Nature and BC Naturalists' Foundation continue to strengthen relations and boundaries of two different organizations that share many common goals and history. Both organizations are working towards a joint appeal for funds and co-steward the club grants together.
- Goodbyes and thank yous to Stewart Guy (at the end of employment term with BC Nature 2025)
- A warm and grateful welcome to Stephen Partington into the role of past president and steward of our donors.

Call out for new directors and volunteers in 2026!

We will have some openings for new directors this Summer/Fall 2026 so please reach out if you are interested in joining us! Tell us a little about what interested you about The Foundation and what skills or involvement you are hoping to share. Email: foundation@bcnature.ca. Subject line: "Joining BCNF". General duties include a one hour meeting per month, attending the BCNF AGM in Spring, and openly communicating within the group. Apart from this we welcome the chance to learn about how you would like to share your skills and time.

Donations to BC Nature

BCNF annually supports projects of BC Nature Clubs through the Club Support Grant program. 15 clubs were awarded grants this year. In 2026 the BC Naturalists' Foundation donated \$47,430 towards the Club Support Grant program. In 2019 BC Naturalist Foundation was asked to support BC Nature scholarships and continues to do so with another \$4,500 donated this year.

BC Naturalists' Foundation/BC Nature Club Support Grants 2026

- Arrowsmith Naturalists – Insect Surveys
- Comox Valley Naturalists - Garry Oak restoration
- Delta Naturalists – Outreach Supplies
- Friends of Holland Creek - Website upgrade
- Friends of Semiahmoo Bay - Green Crab trapping
- Kitimat Naturalists - Big Tree Quest - year 2 of 3
- Native Bee Society - Children's educational booklet
- Nature Chilliwack - Calendar
- Nicola Naturalists Club - Monitoring Great Basin Spadefoots
- North Okanagan Naturalists - Motus Tracking Station
- Prince George Naturalists - Brochure printing
- Rocky Point Bird Observatory - Building volunteer skills
- South Okanagan Naturalists - Hummingbird monitoring
- Timberlane Trail and Nature - Motus information re Connecticut Warbler
- West Kootenay Naturalists - Naturalists Backpacks
- WildResearch Society #1 - Volunteer training

On the Financial Front

Our portfolio has weathered well and provided stable income this year. Our relations with both Mike Henry, our account manager at **Odlum Brown**, and Many Pui, our **Vancouver Foundation** agent, remain strong. We regret that we can not include notes from them in this annual report but will provide a follow up.

A Short Relationship History between BC Naturalist Foundation and BC Nature

The BC Naturalists' Foundation is a registered charity formed under the Societies Act in 1990 by members of the Federation of BC Naturalists. In the early 2000s, the BC Naturalists' Foundation was granted the federal designation of a Public Foundation. Its purpose is to build a strong capital base, the future income of which provides an increasing source of funds for the preservation of the natural environment through conservation, education, and research projects.

As an investment and granting agency, the BC Naturalists' Foundation invests donations within accounts held at the independent brokerage firm, Odlum Brown, and at the Vancouver Foundation. Grant applications are entertained in coordination with BC Nature.

A working agreement between the BC Naturalists' Foundation and BC Nature was first ratified in 2009. This agreement has been revised at least twice with the latest iteration approved by the Board of the BC Naturalists' Foundation in August 2023.

The BC Naturalists' Foundation is a registered society separate from BC Nature, but members of the Foundation are appointed by the BC Nature Council of Club Representatives. Directors of the Foundation are nominated by the Council of Club Representatives but elected by the BC Naturalists' Foundation members at the Foundation's AGM for three-year terms. The Foundation directors elect their president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer for one-year terms.

A joint Club Support Grant Applications Review Committee, comprising two members appointed by the BC Naturalists' Foundation Board and two members appointed by the BC Nature Board, reviews the Club Support Grant applications, and allocates grants using the available funding. Additional Board members of either society may participate as non-voting observers.

What did we fund last year via BC Nature?

Many clubs contributed to our love of nature and care for the future through education projects, monitoring and hard science, signage and community events. Other clubs didn't have as easy of a time sharing photos but invested resources in upgrading systems and digital tools and even putting energy and resources into fights to start land trusts and make sure that areas are legally protected. Here are a few snippets from initiatives that went on last year across the province:

Whistler Naturalist Society - Whistler BioBlitz school presentations

This project partnered with 14 different organizations and reached many schools while also providing ongoing data on key habitats. Fascinating discoveries were made and much fun was had during the intersection of science and education.

Gratitude from adults and teachers: *“It is always so wonderful and engaging to get local experts into the classroom that can share their knowledge and enrich our understanding and stewardship of the natural world around us. These visits help to spark our imaginations, find beauty and magic in nature and to foster a deeper appreciation for our environment.”* Cat Roy, Grade 6/ 7, Spring Creek Elementary. Presenter: Kevin Trim



Left photograph: link: [Salt Spring Island - New Bird Blind](#) : *“[our support] enabled the Club to carry out a very interesting project and it brought attention and recognition to the Club from local birders and hikers”*



Right photograph link: [North Okanagan Naturalists' Club - Habitat enhancements for Swan Lake Nature Reserve](#)

Funds were used to buy native plants, perching poles and bat tower. Image: volunteers planting native species in this grasslands ecosystem and continuing to successfully keep out invasive grass species three years in a row.

Right photograph link: [Native Bee Society of BC - Mini bee school in Prince George](#)

Sold out workshop that helped to deliver information on native bee species, identification methods, and the importance and connectedness of our landscapes. Did you know? 70% of our 500+ native bees nest in the ground and need access to soil!



Left Photo: Creating a pollinator network at the end of the field day. Photo Dave Leman.

NatureKids BC 2025

Submitted by Rebecca Clapperton Law, Executive Director, NatureKids BC

NatureKids BC celebrated a milestone year (our 25th anniversary!) marked by growth, recognition, and deepened impact across the province. We were honoured to receive the Nature Canada Partner in Conservation Award, affirming the strength of our community-powered model connecting children and families with nature.



Across British Columbia, the NatureKids network continues to expand and thrive. This year:

- Over **230 Explorer Days** were delivered, resulting in more than **4,300 in-nature experiences** for children and families
- Our network grew to **34+ clubs**, powered by over **110 volunteer leaders and mentors**
- More than **1,500 families** participated in NatureKids programs

This represents a significant increase in both reach and depth of engagement, a reflection of communities re-emerging with a shared desire for connection, belonging, and time outdoors.

At the heart of this growth is people power. Our volunteer leaders continue to create welcoming, inclusive spaces where children can explore, ask questions, and build lasting relationships with the natural world. Provincially, our staff team has strengthened organizational capacity and resilience, supporting local leaders while building the systems needed for long-term sustainability.

A defining highlight this year was the integration of Indigenous knowledge into our work through Blue Ecology training with Michael Blackstock. This has deepened our freshwater education efforts, shifting from learning about water to building relationships with water, and inspiring stewardship actions led by children and families across the province.

We continue to prioritize equitable access to nature through partnerships with community-serving organizations including **MOSAIC**, **OPTIONS**, and intercultural associations across BC. Together, we are co-creating programs that reduce barriers and ensure that newcomer and equity-deserving families can experience the benefits of time in nature, from improved wellbeing to a stronger sense of belonging.

Our **Freshwater Toolkit and EcoAction**-supported programming are empowering young people to engage in hands-on stewardship, while community science initiatives such as Christmas Bird Counts and shoreline cleanups provide meaningful opportunities for families to take action. These experiences are shaping a generation that not only cares about the environment, but feels confident contributing to its care.

NatureWILD magazine, BC's only full-colour nature magazine for children, continues to grow in reach and impact, with distribution increasing to over 7,500 copies. The launch of our Youth Advisory Circle is helping to amplify youth voice and leadership, ensuring the next generation is actively shaping how stories about nature are told.

NatureKids BC is proud to be part of the broader BC Nature community. Together, we are nurturing curiosity, strengthening families, and building a culture of care for the natural world.

We invite you to join us: as a supporter, volunteer, or participating family in continuing this work. Membership for families is free, and everyone is welcome. 🌿

Club Annual Updates



Kootenay Region Regional Coordinator - Stewart Wilson

No Report:

Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation of Canada

Rocky Mountain Naturalists (RMN)

Submitted by Elizabeth (Betty) Baker

The Rocky Mountain Naturalists Club (RMN) is a federated member of BC Nature (Federation of British Columbia Naturalists), our provincial umbrella organization of 65 like-minded groups, overseeing a significant number of conservation-related projects across the province. The motto is “Knowing Nature and Keeping it Worth Knowing”.

Citizen Science

Our Club is deeply engaged in citizen science, with several highly active committees leading this work. These include Bat Monitoring at Wycliffe, Western Painted Turtle Monitoring, Early Morning Birding, Bluebird Trails, three Christmas Bird Counts, Cavity Nesting Birds, Skookumchuk Key Biodiversity Area, and Ram Creek Ecological Reserve.

Collaboration

Several of our members have taken on the responsibility of representing our club with other organizations that focus on protecting and enhancing local native ecosystems. These include the Upper Columbia Basin Environmental Collaboration, Rocky Mountain Trench Society, East Kootenay Invasive Species Council, and the Kootenay Conservation Program.

Projects

In Cranbrook, the Club continues working on Year Four of the Elizabeth Lake Ecosystem Restoration Project. We monitor the existing native shrubs, sedges, and cottonwood stakes. In addition, we water and weed the plantings, and reseed any disturbed areas with native grass.

The ever-popular Turtle Day educates school groups and the public about the Western Painted Turtles and the importance of this large, significant wetland within the city of Cranbrook. Our new canopy tent was set up there for the first time.

This past May was our first annual Elizabeth Lake Migratory Bird Day. This is part of the Bird-friendly City criteria. Members of the public came and viewed birds through scopes and guided tours along the shoreline. Other new initiatives this past year included birding educational presentations at both KIMberley and Cranbrook libraries and promotion of the birding backpacks.

Outreach

- Participation in the Cranbrook Garden Club with have our club display tent set up at one of the Garden Tour sites, which was well attended.
- Participated in the Meadowbrook Community Association Family Day event at McGinty Lake in October. Connection for future collaboration was made with Wildsight.

Guest speakers at our bi-monthly meetings included an outdoor presentation by East Kootenay Invasive Species Council at Elizabeth Lake and a provincial forestry entomologist at the college.

Club Outings:

At our club camp in Creston, we were given a tour and presentation at the local apiary and honey farm. 42

members and guests attended Club Camp, including six from the West Kootenay Naturalists Association. Other events included birding, hiking, cycling, and paddling.

Other outings throughout the year made for enjoyable social times and plenty of knowledge sharing through observation and discussion.

Communications:

Our quarterly newsletter, the Kestrel, is an important documentation of club activities, as is our website and Facebook page, which together include club information, blogs and photos.

The Club communication and membership Gmail accounts keep members informed of meetings, notices and provide for membership remittances.

To encourage future protectors of nature, each year we provide a \$1000.00 scholarship to a deserving COTR (College of the Rockies) student in the Environmental Sciences.

Looking ahead:

New for this coming year hopefully will include a Butterfly Interest group. One of our members has expertise and is willing to lead an initial educational outing.

We also continue to build our relationship with the local Ktunaxa in cultural knowledge and potential new signage at Elizabeth Lake.

The 40th Anniversary Celebration will make 2026 an extra special year.

At the end of my first year as president, I would like to acknowledge the support of all the executive. Our 7-member team meets six times per year in addition to the Bi-Monthly meetings, to keep the business of the club running. We communicate frequently by email to make timely decisions.

Thank you to all the Rocky Mountain Naturalists for continuing to support, learn and work together to keep our club vibrant and growing. 🍷

West Kootenay Naturalists Association (WKNA)



Submitted by Shannon MacDonald

2025 was a year of strong engagement for the West Kootenay Naturalists, with a continued focus on learning, field-based experiences, and community connection. Our activities reflect a shared commitment to understanding and conserving the natural environments of the West Kootenay region.

Community Building

In 2025, we continued with weekend lunchtime potluck gatherings. These informal meetings were well received and resulted in increased attendance. They provided an opportunity for members to connect socially, share experiences, and strengthen relationships within the group.

We hold four formal meetings over the year, each featuring an expert speaker. Presentations covered a range of topics including Exploring Wetland and Natural Climate Solutions. As always, our meetings were open to the public to increase club visibility and encourage new members.

We had six members join the Rocky Mountain Naturalists at their club camp near Creston. This trip is part of an ongoing effort to bring neighbouring naturalist communities together, to share knowledge and experience

from different regions.

Field Trips and Community Engagement

Field outings remained an important part of our programming. Members participated in a range of local hikes and nature walks, including birding outings and seasonal excursions focused on wildflowers and habitat observation.

Highlights included Earth Week birding walks and a visit to Waldie Overlook, where participants observed local flora and fauna while exploring one of the region's scenic viewpoints. Stewardship activities were also incorporated into outings, including invasive species removal

efforts such as Scotch broom pulls. In addition to formal outings, members regularly shared observations and knowledge in the field, contributing to a collaborative and welcoming learning environment for participants of all experience levels.



Bluebird nest box monitored by WKNA

Stewardship and Conservation

The West Kootenay Naturalists continue to contribute to conservation through hands-on stewardship and support for broader initiatives.

Members manage five bluebird nest box trails in the region. Three of these trails are actively monitored, with data submitted to the BC Bluebird Society. The remaining two trails are maintained to ensure suitable nesting habitat.

We also provide annual donations to the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area, supporting the conservation of an important wetland ecosystem. In addition, our long-standing endowment at Selkirk College provides a bursary each year to a student pursuing studies in the natural sciences.



Five WKNA members removing invasive Scotch Broom

Communications and Outreach

Our website continues to serve as a hub for information and resources, including access to *The Osprey* newsletter and links to citizen science and environmental organizations.

Members stay connected through our Facebook page and email group, where nature sightings, photographs, and seasonal observations are regularly shared. These platforms support ongoing engagement and contribute to a broader culture of environmental awareness in the region.

Looking Ahead

The West Kootenay Naturalists remain committed to fostering an appreciation of the natural world through education, stewardship, and shared experience. We have exciting projects lined up for 2026, including creating 4 naturalist backpacks to be donated to our local libraries. These backpacks will ensure that anyone can access tools like high quality binoculars and field guides to support their exploration of nature. Much gratitude goes to the BC Nature Club Support Grant for making this project possible.

We thank our members, volunteers, and community partners for their contributions over the past year and look forward to continuing this work in 2026. 🌿

Lower Mainland



Regional Coordinators: Viktorija Juciūtė and Jen Luther

No Reports:
Bowen Nature Club
Great Blue Heron Society (GBHS)
Malaspina Naturalists
Squamish Environment Society (SEC)
Stoney Creek Environment Committee (SCEC)
Sunshine Coast Natural History Society (SCNHS)
Surrey Environmental Partners (SEP)
Vancouver Avian Research Society (VARC)
Yorkson Watershed Enhancement Society



Abbotsford Mission Nature Club (AMNC)

Submitted by Wendy Dalt



At Willband Creek Park we continued to remove invasive blackberry and improve man-made wildlife features including reinstalling basking logs and anchors with longer cables to allow the logs to always float with changing water levels. We began bioblitzes with *iNaturalist* training here and in Hogan Family Nature Park as part of the City Nature Challenge.

Swallow nest boxes installed recently in Matsqui Trail Regional Park are showing excellent usage with a 90% success rate. AMNC supplied the boxes and with the City staff indigenous youth helped with cleaning and documenting. More boxes are being installed.

AMNC is participating on a multi-year City Stakeholder Committee to help shape the McKee Peak Trail Strategy for emerging communities

in this sensitive area of Sumas Mountain. This is a very complex situation involving many private land holdings with varying development timelines and extensive current unmanaged mountain bike and hiking activity.

The City of Abbotsford is collaborating with AMNC to raise awareness of the presence of the Vancouver Island Beggerticks, a wetland plant of Special Concern in Willband Creek Park, by fencing and signing habitat areas.

Regular monthly meetings with speakers at the Ravine Park Hatchery continued to attract upwards of thirty participants and brought in a few new members. 🌀

Burke Mountain Naturalists (BMN)

Submitted by Victoria Otton

The Burke Mountain Naturalists (BMN) are located in the TriCities area (Port Moody, Port Coquitlam and Coquitlam) of Metro Vancouver.

Looking back over the past year, one trend that stands out is the increasing number of partnerships that BMN has made with other local community groups. For example, this year, the *Port Coquitlam Heritage Society* hosted a series of presentations of interest to naturalists and their members. This society shares our interest in preserving the heritage trees on the səmiqʷəʔelə/Riverview Hospital Lands in Coquitlam. (This is Western Canada's oldest arboretum, with 1800+ catalogued trees which were collected more than a century ago from all over the temperate world). The *Riverview Horticultural Centre Society* is dedicated to the preservation of the





Some of the dignitaries, BMN members and friends who worked to create Pinecone Burke Provincial Park 30 years ago. For the names of people in this photo, see [here](#).

More recently, BMN and the small but mighty local group *Wonderous Tree Fellowship* have initiated an alliance with 15 other enviro-groups in the TriCities. Our inaugural meeting will be held on Earth Day, April 22. By joining forces with others, we hope “to amplify our collective impact—share knowledge, align goals, and build a stronger, more unified voice for environmental action in the TriCities”.

BMN continues to partner with local municipalities to remove invasive plants from green spaces. This was the 21st year that BMN volunteers cut Japanese Knotweed to the ground along DeBoville Slough in collaboration with the City of Coquitlam. BMN was also a collaborator (and provided funding) for a project with the City of Port Coquitlam and the Coastal Partners In Conservation to install floating—but tethered—logs at Blackburn Lagoons to provide basking habitat for turtles. Less than four months after the installation, BMN volunteer John Saremba (who spearheaded this project) spotted a Western Painted Turtle (a red-listed species) on one of the logs (see photo on right). John Saremba is also the coordinator of the BMN Bat Team, which operates with the Community Bat Programs of BC. The Team had another active year of bat monitoring, stewardship and public education, mostly in local regional and municipal parks. John has been nominated by the City of Port Coquitlam themselves(!) for the City’s 2026 Environmental Volunteer Award.



The first Western Painted Turtle spotted at Blackburn Lagoons on created floating habitat.



The huge celebration cake emblazoned in icing with “Protected Forever”.

trees and the entire Riverview Lands. BMN teamed up with their members for our annual Silent Auction. The bulk of the proceeds from the auction was donated to RHCS.

Another productive partnership is with a relatively new Coquitlam-based community group called *TriCities Urban Forest Working Group* (TCUF). TCUF has an energetic team of volunteers who push politically for sustainable management of the urban canopy. BMN was a key financial supporter of a public forum hosted by TCUF and faith-based groups called, “Building an Affordable, Green and Climate-Ready City: What our Elected Representatives and Residents Can Do”. A series of presentations by well-known experts attracted over 120 attendees, including municipal staff and elected officials.

In May 2025, we held a special 30th anniversary gathering to celebrate the creation of Pinecone Burke Provincial Park. Many of the people who worked to make the Park happen were invited to speak, including Joe Foy of the Wilderness Committee; John Cashore, then-MLA and Minister for Environment, Lands and Parks; and BMN members Mark Haddock and Elaine Golds. Also attending was former MLA and MP Fin Donnelly who swam the entire 25 km of Pitt Lake accompanied by groups of paddlers in his “Paddle for a Plan” campaign to support the new Park. It was an evening of remembrances, displays, cake, and joy.

We continue to maintain a bird nest box program which also involves annual work parties for cleaning and maintenance. Most boxes are designed for swallows, and we now also provide boxes for Flying Squirrels, in areas where this species is found. Bird nesting success varies,

but generally is lower than in the early years of the program (two decades ago). We attribute this in part to the arrival of European Paper Wasps (*Polistes dominula*) which now occupy nearly all our bird boxes. The real fun of nest box maintenance is all the other things we find of interest to naturalists. It also attracts a younger, fitter volunteer who is interested in getting into areas not open to the public. We always gain a number of new members this way. Some of these new members are as young as 40!

All these happenings were against the backdrop of our usual activities that provide nature experiences for our members and the public (e.g., hikes, botany and birding walks, cycle trips, etc). We also hosted monthly meetings with a guest speaker either in-person or via Zoom. Most presentations are available for viewing on our [YouTube channel](#). 📺

Burns Bog Conservation Society

Submitted by Liz Walker

The Burns Bog Conservation Society, still the same but different.

It took a while to close the “brick and mortar” office but necessary because the extent of resources needed to keep it open distracted the Society from working to steward and protect the natural ecology of the Bog in collaboration with other like-minded groups and agencies.

Burns Bog Conservation Society now operates as a volunteer organization without paid staff or an office consequently we work from home, meet online, gather at various locations for in person meetings, public outings and field trips. Changes to our messaging and outreach are underway. The Society will continue to offer public education tours and plan for more public appearances outside of Delta to increase awareness regarding stewardship and protection of Burns Bog.

While we looked forward to 2026 as the year when we would be able to offer more opportunities for our members and volunteers to participate in stewardship activities...these plans have been delayed with the 2026 closure of the Delta Nature Reserve, while damaged boardwalks are replaced and trees, posing a safety hazard or impacting the integrity of the bog, are removed. Public access to the DNR returns in 2027.

The severe inclement winter weather of 2024/25 caused major changes to the boardwalks with large trees toppling and upending boardwalks. Opportunities to tour the DNR were literally up in the air! (Photo left)

Additionally, the recent death of a key and dynamic BBCS board member, Bev Bly, has meant a redistribution of duties. Bev's knowledge and drive are sorely missed. Bev Bly was not only a key board member of the Society but was also the president of the Burns Bog Conservation Foundation. Her passing has reminded us of the impact each member/volunteer can have to an organization/group. It also reminds us to express our appreciation and gratefulness to all volunteers, for giving of their time and energy. As difficult as it can be, we are determined to honour Bev's efforts and continue forward.

Over the past year we tried to take every opportunity offered to us to get our message to areas beyond the Bog. We are very grateful to be able to participate in Surrey's Environmental Extravaganza and have enjoyed invitations to host our display or give presentations in Vancouver, New Westminster, Mission, Port Moody and Delta. 📺

Capital Hill Treekeepers

Submitted by Darlene Gehring

We at the Treekeepers had a very successful year.

Our AGM was held on March 5, 2025 with a speaker, Joshua Ralph, of the Invasive Art Initiative who gave a talk on invasive species.

- We hosted an invasive species pulls in March, May, October, November of 2025, and March of 2026
- The group planted approximately 70 trees and native plants on Capitol Hill on Apr 13, 2026
- In December, we hosted an invasive species wreath-making session.
- A few of the directors met with the new Parks general manager to discuss working more with the city on projects.



Photo: C. Hachet

Damage Sustained in Winter Storms

- Two of our talented members designed forest information signs, which were added to the forest to educate the public on the history of this urban forest.
- We also met with the mayor, the head of engineering, and the fire department in Burnaby to discuss a proposal to remove some large cedars and hemlocks. This was proposed to make way for a road to access a property, so that a homeowner could further develop their property. We were assured by the city that the possibility of this happening was very remote.

Our membership numbers stayed about the same as the previous year. Though many of the people in the area are elderly, we still have a few younger people who regularly come out to help.

Besides the planned invasive species pulls, several of our members spend their weekends removing laurel and holly that are proliferating in our forest.

Our plans for 2026 include:

- Forest walks with elementary students
- Forest walks for our members
- Invasive species art projects
- Native trees and bushes planting on Capitol Hill in Burnaby 🌿

Cariboo Heights Forest Preservation Society (CHFPS)

Submitted by Utta Gägel

Cariboo Heights Forest Preservation Society has had our busiest and most successful year ever! After 10 years of advocacy, stewardship and outreach CHFPS is delighted that the City of Burnaby's mayor and council voted unanimously in September, 2025 to proceed with dedicating the second growth forest in Cariboo Heights and Discovery Place as part of the Cariboo and Brunette River Conservation Areas as natural park for long-term protection. This protects an additional 38.6 hectares (83.4 acres) of biodiverse lands along the south bank of the Brunette River. We extend our deep gratitude to Burnaby's Mayor Mike Hurley and Councillor Alison Gu for their leadership!

Over the last year we:

- held 32 weekly "Habitat Helper" invasive plant removal work sessions and removed more than 3000 L of invasive plants
- collaborated with the Lower Mainland Green Team on 2 invasive plant removal events with a total of 70 public participants. We replanted these areas in the fall with native plants generously supplied by the City of Burnaby
- successfully applied for a grant from the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation to fund the creation of a pollinator garden including the purchase of native plants to support diverse types of pollinators. Volunteers laboriously removed blackberry and reed canary grass from an area under the BC Hydro transmission line, wheelbarrowed in garden soil provided by the City of Burnaby and planted more than 200 native plants. We are looking forward to seeing this garden blooming over the spring and summer as the plants provide nectar and habitat for a variety of native pollinators
- as part of The Road Salt and Pacific Salmon Success project, downloaded data from a Solinst Logger in the Perched Pond, adjacent to the Brunette River and completed two benthic invertebrate surveys
- participated in public events: Burnaby Blooms, The Great Salmon Sendoff, New Westminster Sustainable Homes Tour and River's Day allowing us to connect with hundreds of families to share messages of nature appreciation and stewardship
- led numerous public nature walks
- Aruna Khan, current co-president and a founding member of CHFPS, was awarded an Environmental Star award by the City of Burnaby in recognition for her community stewardship work over the last decade
- have continued to grow our i-Naturalist Cariboo Heights Forest Biodiversity Project which now has more than 3420 observations and documents 535 species

What a banner year for our small group! Many thanks to our dedicated board members and volunteers who made all our events and activities happen. Feel free to join us anytime! 🌿

Delta Naturalists Society (DNS)

Submitted by Bruce Taylor

The Delta Naturalists Society (DNS) enjoyed another active and successful year during the 2025-26 fiscal period. Below is a detailed list of the year's highlights and key achievements.

1. **Explore BC Outing:** In late spring last year was our annual "Explore BC" outing held in Merritt. Attended by 28 DNS members, the group gathered after the BC Nature AGM for an additional four nights of excellent birding in the Nicola Valley, where we recorded more than 100 species.
 2. **Volunteer Appreciation:** We concluded the fiscal year with what we hope will become an annual tradition: the DNS Volunteer Thank You BBQ. Hosted by Nicki Brockamp and myself, the event was attended by approximately 30 members and their spouses.
 3. **Birding Outings:** Our weekly birding outings (held on Tuesdays and/or Wednesdays) continued thanks to the efforts of Terry Carr, Glen Bodie, and Anne Murray. Due to their success, the DNS added some weekend outings spearheaded by Thea Beckman. Trip reports, photos, and eBird records can be found in the "Blog" section of our website.
 4. **Membership Growth:** Our membership remains strong with over 130 active memberships (single and family). We continue to grow as new members join regularly, with Jonathan Mwenifumbo coordinating our membership efforts.
 5. **Executive Team:** The Club was pleased to welcome Vicki Huntington to our executive team as a Director at Large. Vicki's years of community service will be a significant asset to the society.
 6. **Newsletter:** Our newsletter remains a favorite among members. The new Mailchimp format has received rave reviews. A big thank you to Nicki Brockamp for keeping members informed about club events, local nature news, and other activities.
 7. **Social Media & Community Engagement:** This year, we renewed our focus on social media to increase community awareness. Efforts by several members led to a spike in our Facebook (content by Nicki Brockamp) and Instagram (content by Joni Wright) followers over the last six months. This has resulted in increased membership and community interest in our quarterly birding walks, run in conjunction with the City of Delta. Our most recent outing had 28 DNS and community members in attendance—a personal best for the Club.
 8. **Nature Notes:** In partnership with the Delta Optimist, our club—specifically Elizabeth Perrin and Nicki Brockamp—continues to coordinate the monthly "Nature Notes" column. These columns are written by DNS members and community partners and are available on our website.
 9. **Birds and Biodiversity Committee:** The committee completed its work on four newly designed brochures titled:
 - Experience Birding in Delta
 - Park & Garden Birds in Delta
 - Raptors & Woodpeckers in Delta
 - Waterbirds & Shorebirds in Delta
- The entire committee contributed to this years-long project. Additionally, Anne Murray and Glen Bodie continued working with City of Delta staff to review the implementation of Delta's Birds and Biodiversity Conservation Strategy.
10. **Lawns to Life:** The "Lawns to Life" committee has concluded its work. Formed in 2024, the committee published a Chafer Beetle document to provide residents with environmentally friendly solutions to local infestations. The group also worked with the City of Delta on lawn-to-meadow conversions for three small, city-owned parcels. While results were mixed, two of the three plots were returned to the city to be managed as wildflower meadows to attract pollinators, supporting Delta's status as a "Bee City."
 11. **Species Monitoring:** Member Carmen Prang completed another year of monitoring and documenting

a local hibernaculum. She remains a constant presence on-site to educate the public about local snake populations.

12. Community Events: The DNS participated in seven local events across the spring, summer, and fall. In the spring, our event coordinator, Joni Wright, delivered a one-hour training session for participating member volunteers. Our nature-themed display was showcased to many residents in Delta and beyond, serving as a primary driver for our membership growth over the last 18 months. 🌿

Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society (FoSBS)

Submitted by Marg Cuthbert

FoSBS continues to conduct Board/Team meetings via Zoom and is planning an in person gathering event in June. Our volunteers continue to contribute much time and resources to stewardship in the Boundary Bay (KBA-IBA) watershed. This past year's activities are similar to the previous year and include:

- ongoing monthly work parties at the Dart's Hill Native Plant Garden in collaboration with the Dart's Hill Garden Trust, to remove invasive non-native plants and to plant coastal trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants, the additional Garry oak section is doing well despite the slugs, rabbits and deer nibbling on everything;
- ongoing monthly work parties at the White Rock Native Plant Demonstration Garden (WRNPDG) in collaboration with Parks to remove invasive plants, pick up litter and plant additional species. The botanical signs were placed in 2025 and at the first work party in February, 2026 we planted a flat of Satinflower;
- hosting a celebration of Coastal Native Plants event on May 28th, 2026 for the community, adjacent to the White Rock Native Plant Demonstration Garden that we developed in 2003 and continue to maintain;
- ongoing participation in a stakeholder initiative to enhance habitat & biodiversity at the McNally Creek headwaters working with the Semiahmoo First Nation and Kerr Wood Leidel & Associates. Activity is gearing up to conduct instream works while city staff plan to enhance the stormwater detention pond;
- participate with the BC Nature Education and Awards Committees and facilitate the pickup, delivery and engraving of awards for the May AGM;
- participated in the World Wetland Day on February 1 in collaboration with the LCWS which led us to meet with our local MP to discuss federal support to fund and deal with invasive species such as the green crab;
- continuing into our seventh-year monitoring and trapping the invasive European Green Crab (EGC) in Boundary Bay with community partners, A Rocha, First Nations and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). This includes team Zoom meetings, low tide scheduling with site leaders for the seven sites in Boundary Bay. We continue to raise funding and recruit volunteers to achieve our commitment to DFO to cover the Boundary Bay area. With DFO, Nanaimo support we conducted a 'blanket trapping of the green crab at Blackie Spit in August, adding an additional three locations to an already onerous area to trap. Site leader volunteers transport and clean equipment, schedule dates according to tides and lead in the two-day trapping events twice monthly. Site leaders, Sarah & Giselle, trapped into December of 2025 capturing an additional 23 green crab at Blackie Spit then began the 2026 season early with two additional trappings in March and another in April. We annually apply for four jurisdictional licenses and on the week of April 13th – 17th, 2026 we hosted the annual methods training;
- continued our monthly forage fish spawn habitat sampling in Boundary Bay with the financial support of the BC Nature club grant (& submission of a final report in October 2025). MABRRI again came from Vancouver Island to conduct the methods training workshop on May 25th, 2025 with volunteers. FoSBS is working in collaboration with the Coastal Forage Fish Network that includes Project Watershed, Peninsula Streams, the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Research Institute (MABRRI), DFO and other groups along the coast of BC. FoSBS is also doing lab analysis of the samples to ID fish eggs. The 2025 sampling season was cut short with both the co leaders having leg injuries with one requiring surgery. Now due to limited capacity, the spawn surveys are on hold while recruiting additional project leaders;
- conducting five community shoreline cleanups from April to September 2025 and another five in 2026 beginning on April 19th then on May 16th;
- continued the annual Serpentine WMA nest box cleanup on Feb 28th of over 48 Tree Swallow and 7 Wood Duck nest boxes. Volunteers included members of the Langley Field & White Rock Surrey Naturalists who navigated through dense reed canary grass and blackberry canes. DUCs worked to clear the canes so that the team could return to complete the clean out in March, 2026. WRSN Lynn & Rob Smith took on the

- project coordination this year;
- ongoing support for our local NatureKids clubs as needed;
- hosted a World Migratory Bird Day on May 9th with an early morning bird walk, presentations and family activities followed by a family bird/iNaturalist walk, collaborating with Vancouver Avian Conservation Centre, Birds Canada, Wild Birds Unlimited, Surrey Parks and other community organizations;
- participate with the Sunnyside Acres Society in their open house on June 6th, offering family activity, display and informational brochures;
- hosted World Ocean Week in 2025 and again in 2026 on June 13/14th with an interpreted beach walk; a Lunch & Learn Webinar and a shoreline cleanup at Blackie Spit;
- collaborated with the Artists for Peace, who conducted a concert in June as a fund raiser for FoSBS which resulted in funds going to support a youth to develop leadership skills;
- attended the City of White Rock Sea Festival on the BC Day weekend in August 2025 with interpreted beach walks, a live Seaquarium, activities and information. The event is very onerous for volunteers to transport equipment and to set up and down, thus we attend the one day;
- presented FoSBS project work to the Anglican Women's Diocese annual meeting in early October;
- continued distribution of informational brochures to raise public awareness, the Boundary Bay, A Special Place (additional printing), Birds of Surrey, Native Plants of the Coastal Douglas-fir Ecosystem (additional printing), Eelgrass and the invasive green crab, importance of forage fish (additional printing) and the Fraser River delta, Boundary Bay Watershed Birding Biodiversity Trail Guide (additional printing) with 48 wildlife viewing locations. We also distribute these to other organizations, libraries and community centres;
- distributed FoSBS t-shirts to volunteers in appreciation of their participation;
- developing new interactive activities including a find the litter/plastics marine game for 2026 events;
- launched the new 'Be a Beach Hero' Marine school program in March 2025 and reached over 350 students, their parents and teachers and conducted 10 interpreted field trips. Also shared the program to a Girl Guide group at their summer camp at Crescent Beach. As of March 2026, we're already receiving teacher bookings. The 'Birds in Focus' and 'Wetland Discovery' programs were launched in the fall of 2025 upon the completion of their new and improved videos. The new approach is to provide informative videos on our website for teachers to offer in their classrooms as needed, deliver a teacher resource kit to use over 2-3 weeks and lead an interpreted field trip. This new format supports our limited capacity;
- continued our collaboration with high school teachers and support for IB students with scientific information for extended essays and projects;
- hosted a Pro-D event focused on marine and coastal native plants for the teachers of a local elementary school in August, 2025;
- continued postings to our social media, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter;
- completed our DFO Salmon Enhancement Program (formerly PIP) grant final report in March 2026 and submitted with our final EGC & forage fish final reports;
- participated with the Surrey Museum's summer youth camps in July and August, 2025 offering invasive green crab and forage fish presentations and specimens;

The Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society Board of Directors extends great appreciation to our committed volunteers and the numerous community partners we collaborate with to reach common goals in conservation, community science and environmental education in the Boundary Bay watershed. They make all the difference!



Garden City Conservation Society

Submitted by Sharon MacGougan, President

Our society was born out of the saving of the Garden City Lands (GCL), 136 acres in the centre of Richmond, around 15 years ago. Our original name, the Garden City Lands Coalition (describing the "kitchen table" movement that largely saved the Lands) became the Garden City Conservation Society after the Lands were saved. Our society is 100 % volunteer.

Constitution of the Garden City Conservation Society

The three purposes of our society are:

1. To help steward the natural legacy of Richmond's Agricultural Land Reserve area called the Garden City Lands for agricultural, ecological and open-park uses for community wellness.

2. To research, educate and act to help steward other natural legacies of the “Garden City”, Richmond, in consultation with government and community.
3. To encourage respect for the legacy name “Garden City” as a community value.

Goals: Research, educate and help steward the natural ecology of the lands for the purpose of community wellness, in co-operation with the city and the community.

Two main areas of our work:

1. Ongoing GCL bog research and restoration in collaboration with Kwantlen Polytechnic University.
2. Restoration of urban ecology through the initiation and installation of Miyawaki mini-forests in Richmond.



Miyawaki #5 on the GCL.



The GCL. Left of dyke road KPU Sustainable Agricultural leased area. Right side is the bog.

Miyawaki mini-forests in Richmond

Our challenge was to find ways to mitigate ecological loss in our community. We decided it was better to take action (do restoration of habitat) than to lament loss.

We chose the Miyawaki mini-forest method because it gets biodiversity into the ground with public engagement. What is a Miyawaki mini-forest? In the simplest of terms. It is a small, biodiverse urban forest that grows fast.

While we initiated planting the Miyawaki in Western Canada, in collaboration with a local high school; we now work as a Community Partner with the City of Richmond.

Interesting fact: There has been a Miyawaki planted in Richmond every six months since the first one in November 2022.

Recent Miyawaki Forests in Richmond

Miyawaki #6 was installed May 2025 at Spul’u’kwuks Elementary and this was our first three-way collaboration; between a school, the city and our society. A video was created for this project.

There have been two independent Miyawaki installations at elementary schools. **Miyawaki #7** was planted at Errington Elementary by a teacher and her students for her master’s program. Funded mainly through school-based fundraising.

Miyawaki #9 was a Ferris Elementary school project, supported by Richmond Senior Secondary (home of Miyawaki #1). Completed November 2025 by a number of small grants and lots of student power!

Miyawaki #8 was planted September 2025 on Bridgeport Trail, on city-owned parkland and an area slated for old field restoration/owl habitat. A Miyawaki forest was proposed at this location because we plant upper canopy trees that grow fast. These trees will provide nesting opportunities and good vantage points of barn owls and other raptors.

Birds Canada will be doing a baseline bird diversity study at this site for our society. A video is also planned.

Good news! **Miyawaki #10** is being planted at Terra Nova Rural Park April 22 for Earth Day, as part of a larger restoration project. And **Miyawaki #11** will be planted September 20 (Fall Equinox) at Mclean Park.

Outreach

1. Presentation of the Birds Canada baseline bird diversity study at Terra Nova Miyawaki #2 to a national mini-forest group.
2. Participation in a Solstice Ceremony at the Labyrinth of one of partners, Our Saviour Lutheran Church. Our society had provided ecological support for the area around the labyrinth.
3. Forest Keepers workshops at Anderson Elementary School and the Nature School at Terra Nova Rural Park.
4. Webinar presentation on **Resilient Urban Forests** (Miyawaki Forests) for World Wildlife Fund Canada and Federation of Municipalities.
5. Hybrid presentation on **Richmond's Little Forests of Hope** for VanDusen Speaker Series. ☯

Langley Field Naturalists (LFN)

Submitted by Eric Habisch

Another busy year for the club!

- We had 100+ members and families this last year with our present year fast approaching the same.
- We've reached a milestone of 1000+ followers on FaceBook and continue to grow our following on Instagram to 200+. We've received confirmation that our social media platforms are increasing followers when announcements for the participation of walks and information sharing is posted.
- The club continues to host nature walks an average of one per week or biweekly highlighting a wide variety of subjects which cover birds, moss and lichens, bats, and dragonflies.
- At our General Meetings we hosted a variety of speakers, which draws a good number of participants from the public as well as our membership to hear the subjects presented.
- We continue to participate in a number of events in the community, engaging with the public in educating and advocating for involvement in the preservation of nature.
- We have invested in the utilization of technology through a generous donation of one of our members. Multiple trail cameras have been deployed to confirm the presence of local species on properties that LFN stewards or monitors for the Langley and Township of Langley. The captures have yielded confirmations of some species suspected in the area and also the use of ponds that initially were questioned about their activity. The investment in technology is expanding for the next year and we are excited to find out the results.
- The club continues to work towards the completion of the LFN butterfly garden and are striving for the completion in the fall. Through this work we have started to assist on another butterfly garden in Langley.
- Construction, installation and monitoring of nest boxes within Langley and Township continues. Tree Swallow, Wood Duck, and Barn Owl boxes numbering close to 70 have now been installed in Metro Vancouver Regional District, Langley and City of Langley parks. LFN has also supplied a number of Tree Swallow and Wood Duck boxes to the City of Surrey. LFN provided new Purple Martin nest boxes to Metro Vancouver Regional Parks at Derby Reach Park where the location continues to be productive for the species. One banded offspring from a previous year was confirmed to be part of the nesting birds at the Squamish Estuary. Great news!
- Our updated *Butterflies of Langley* brochure has turned out to be a big success. Distribution goes out to our local schools, libraries, and all public events where we have our booth and our nature walks. We continue to review our other brochures for future updates with more to come.
- We have participated in bio-blitzes around the Langley area. Data collected from one of these areas will be utilized for a future wetland park. We encouraged the use of both *eBird* and *iNaturalist* to input the data for citizen science.
- Hosted numerous annual bird count events to bring together beginner, novice, and expert birders, encouraging knowledge sharing and fun in the outdoors in nature. We utilized *eBird* for the events, continuing our contribution to citizen science.
- We hosted an *iNaturalist* workshop for all levels of users to bring a comfort level to those starting out and knowledge sharing from the seasoned observers. The attendance was great and the feedback very positive and we are hoping to host more of them. ☯

Little Campbell Watershed Society (LCWS)

Submitted by Kathy Takasaki

In 2025, the Board of the LCWS and volunteers have been working hard to protect the health of the river, its salmon and the overall watershed. Here is a list of our major activities and collaborations with other environmental organizations.

2025 LCWS Outreach

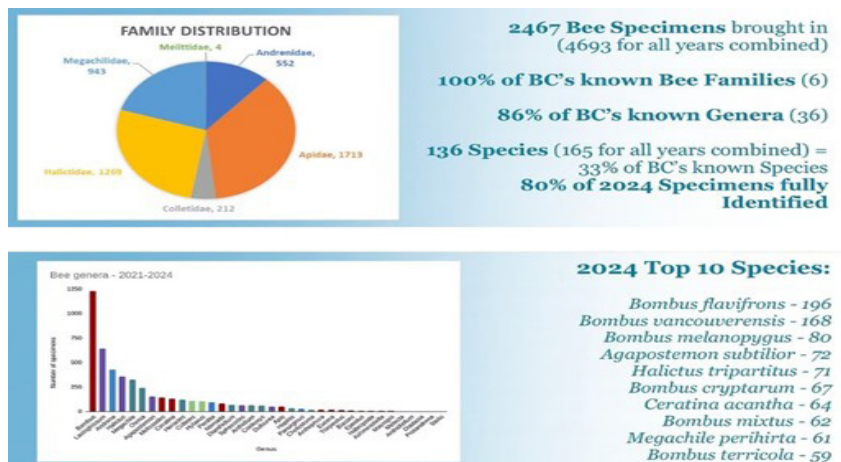
- In February, we organized and hosted a free family event to celebrate “World Wetlands Day” at the Semiahmoo Fish and Game Club.. This event introduced the public and local politicians to the importance of wetlands.
- We participated in the Campbell Valley Regional Park’s Owl-Hoot-enanny event in September.
- Organized and hosted a “Creatures of the Night” Lantern Walk at Campbell Valley Regional Park, and a BC Rivers Day event at the Semiahmoo Fish and Game Club, both in September.
- LCWS is continuing to work with the Township of Langley regarding the Fernridge Nature Park. LCWS members have been doing BioBlitzes with members of the Langley Field Naturists to find out what species are found in and using the park. As well as helping by adding input on native plants, design concepts and public access as the development continuous for the park.
- Working with the Township of Langley on reducing excessive provincially illegal truck parking on ALR land.
- Still trying to work with the City of Surrey regarding new truck parking lot which is too close to the river.
- We continue to protect the river, its riparian area, and various related ecosystems.
- Ongoing work with Friends of McNally Creek, City of Surrey, City of White Rock, Semiahmoo First Nation, and Kerr, Wood, and Leidal Consulting Engineers to enhance water quality in this salmon bearing tributary of the Little Campbell/ Ta’talu River.
- LCWS members volunteer with the Native Plant Garden at Darts Hill Garden in Surrey.
- We continue to produce and send out our monthly e-newsletter. 📧

Native Bee Society of British Columbia (NBSBC)

Submitted by Sky Jarvis

This report covers the projects and events that the Native Bee Society of British Columbia (NBSBC) led or was involved with in 2025-2026. This was the fourth year the NBSBC has been affiliated with BC Nature and other nature clubs under the common goal of “Know Nature and Keep it Worth Knowing”.

The NBSBC is currently comprised of a 14-member board, comprising a 4-person Executive (two Co-chairs, Secretary, Treasurer) and 10 Members At Large. Recently, we’ve made several changes to our constitution and defined our goals for the years 2025-2030. Our primary goal is to strengthen the [BC Bee Atlas](#) - a multi-year, province-wide bio-inventory project documenting the diversity and distribution of B.C.’s native bees. Our supporting goals included submitting an application for Charitable Status, securing Core Funding, identifying Investment Strategies, and fostering Regional Growth & improved Social Media presence.



Public Education & Outreach

Events

NBSBC members participate in various activities to educate British Columbians about the diversity and importance of our 500+ native bee species.

- Seedy Saturdays in thirteen communities across BC
- Bee City Webinar virtual (Bee City Canada)
- Bees, Butterflies and Botany in Clearwater, Kamloops, Castlegar, and Rock Creek (BC Parks Foundation Spark Fund)
- Farm Fest in Richmond
- World Rivers Day in North Vancouver
- Pollinator Festival in Kamloops (Kamloops Farmers Market)
- The Nature Trust of BC 2025 Gala in Vancouver
- Our Earth Film Festival in North Vancouver
- South Coast Conservation Program: Conservation Connections 2025 in Fort Langley
- Bee Walks - NBSBC members lead in-person bee walks, which often include the collection (netting) and identification of bees with participants.

Riverwood Bee Walk

- Getting Personal with Pollinators in Vancouver (Greenroof Infrastructure Network)
- Bees, Butterflies and Botany - Wells Grey Provincial Park, Lac Du Bois PA, Shuswap Lake Provincial Park, Syringa Provincial Park, Kettle River Provincial Parl (BC Parks Foundation Spark Fund)
- Stable Harvest Farm Tour and Collection Event in Langley

Grants

- BC Conservation and Biodiversity Award
- Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation
- Capacity Grant BC Parks Foundation - Spark Fund
- Entomological Society of BC - Bee Genera Profiles
- BC Naturalists Foundation - BC Nature Club Support Grant
- TD Park People
- BC Gaming Grant

Programs

- Mini Bee School - The NBSBC hosted five Mini Bee Schools across B.C. since last spring. These events promote the appreciation of bees, Master Meilitologist recruitment, and the BC Bee Atlas project.
- Naniamo (May 2025) a 2-day course with 18 participants. The first day was spent examining bee specimens using digital microscopes. The second day focused on field collecting techniques. Taught by Bonnie Zand and TA Jade Lee
- Prince George (Aug 2025) a 2-day course with 12 participants— our most northern workshop to date!! This event was supported by BC Nature, BC Naturalist Foundation, Prince George Naturalists Club, and UNBC Sustainability. Notable genus observed included Sweat Bees (*Halictus* or *Lasioglossum*), Mining Bees (*Andrena*), Polyester Bees (*Colletes*), and Leafcutter Bees (*Megachile*). Taught by Bonnie Zand.
- Cowichan (Sep 2025) a 2-day course with 12 participants at Vancouver Island University. Day 1 spent using microscopes to identify common bumblebee species and solitary bee genera. Day 2 was a “Bee Quest” focused on field collecting techniques. Taught by Bonnie Zand.
- Victoria (Sep 2025) a 1-day course with 12 participants, focused on identification strategies for common native bees, as well as in-depth information on their nesting, overwintering, and flower preferences. Taught by Bonnie Zand.
- Burnaby (Oct 2025) a 1-day course with 12 participants, focused on identification strategies for common native bees, information on their nesting, overwintering, and flower preferences. Taught by Bonnie Zand.

We currently have two 2026 **Mini Bee Schools** planned:

- Cowichan - VIU [May 9 - 10, 2026](#)
- Victoria - Horticulture Center [June 5 - 6, 2026](#)

The 2026 **BC Native Bee Course**:

- Penticton [June 10 - 14, 2026](#)

Bee Tracker Project *iNaturalist*

Bee sightings from across the province can be posted on our *iNaturalist* BC Bee Tracker project. Our BeeBuzz Slack channel consistently highlights beautiful and unique observations from this iNat project. Observers are encouraged to submit their bee photo(s) and name the flower the bee was visiting, especially if it appears to be foraging on that plant, in the “observation fields” on the right side of the observation page. To date, we have received over 88,000 BC observations from more than 6,700 observers

2023 **130 species; ~15,000 observations**
2024 **140 species; ~21,000 observations**
2025 **218 species; ~88,000 observations**

Native Bee Study Group - 4th Wednesday of each month

Register on Zoom to join Society Director *Bonnie Zand* and other beeples in this free monthly event hosted by the Society. They're open to both experts and novices - photos submitted by participants are featured in a “show and tell format” via a Google Slides deck. RSVP on our events page: <https://www.bcnativebees.org/outreach-events>

OSU Master Melittologist Program

This is similar to the Master Gardeners program; it contains an online portion, as well as field training (Vancouver Island, Interior) and a microscope component. MM must also obtain service points through tabling, bee walks, and BC Bee School.

NBSBC 2025 Newsletters - The Buzz

Vol 1 Spring (APR 15th) - [link](#) Vol 2 Summer (AUG 7th) - [link](#) Vol 3 Winter (DEC 22nd) - [link](#)

2025 NBSBC AGM - Monday, October 17th

Nature Chilliwack (NC)

Submitted by Janne Perrin

Executive 2026-2027

Our AGM scheduled for March 2026 was postponed to April 21, 2026. All executive positions have nominations and NC expects to have a dynamic executive leadership in the coming year.

Meetings:

- Our March 2026 speaker, Stan Orchard on BC Amphibians and Bullfrog Control Talk, was published in the local paper attracting many members of the public to our AGM meeting.
- NC holds “Knowing Nature” Speaker Series meetings eight times a year in the Neighbourhood Learning Centre in Chilliwack with a hybrid Zoom / In-person model. All Executive meetings are held by Zoom five times a year. NC is appreciative of access to BCN’s Zoom account and the assistance offered by Mish Stone, BCN office manager.
- Speakers heard in the past year included Steve Ansell Butterflies of BC, Liam Ragan, Important Bird and Key Biodiversity Areas, Club member Paulina Selles Leucistic Birds, Phil Henderson Bryophytes, Mosses, Liverworts and Hornworts, Gordon Gadsden Christmas Bird Count Guidelines, Club members Scott Denkers and Connie Davis, Birding Trip to Brazil. At January 2026 Speaker’s Night, members presented on local dragonflies, transformation of a yard into a pollinator garden, road trips to California and Florida, the Christmas bird count results and a display of local nature paintings.



Pileated Woodpecker

Membership:

- Membership fees remain at \$40 family \$30 single. Signup can be done through our website or in person at meetings
- NC has 55 Members in total comprised of 27 Single and 14 Family Memberships. This is down four members from last year but we continue to see a younger demographic.

Awards:

- At the May BCN AGM in Merritt BC Nature presented Lee Larkin and Denis Knopp the BCN Regional Award for four decades of service with Nature Chilliwack

MEDIA:

Nature Chilliwack has a [website](#), a [Facebook page](#), [Flickr](#), and a [YouTube channel](#).

NC Facebook has over 1182 followers. NC speaker and field trip events posted to FB can be picked up by the local paper and published. This attracts many people from the public to speaker nights.

Field Trips:

Nature Chilliwack schedules monthly trips visiting our favourite places with birding at the Hope Airport (pictured PIWO), viewing the heron colony at GBHNR and mushroom hunting along the Angel Wings TCT. In 2025 our trip attendance increased. Trips are member led but also led by local community experts.

Conservation:

Nature Chilliwack continues to be actively involved in local, provincial and national conservation issues. We write letters, submit briefs and respond to legals in the local papers. This past year we have submitted input on old growth forest loss, Bridal Veil Falls Resort Development on Mount Cheam, Hunting Regulation changes for wolf and black bear and tree removal on Sumas Mountain.

Camp Slough Wildlife Area:

Nature Chilliwack, since 1994, has jointly cared for this Nature Trust BC (NTBC) site. NC holds monthly stewardship sessions at the property. NC again hosted a series of bioblitzes in 2025. Photos are posted to our Microsoft OneDrive.

Christmas Bird Counts:

Nature Chilliwack again hosted two Christmas Bird Counts in December, the Harrison River and Chilliwack's 47th. Denis Knopp, our long-time coordinator, submitted reports to Birds Canada. Results are posted to our website. Unusual birds included a Townsend's Solitaire and a White-fronted Goose.

Outreach:

Nature Chilliwack is updating their informational display to Velcro panels on various aspects of our club, such as speakers, trips and meetings that can be interchanged depending on the venue.

- NC is co-sponsoring RBCM's "Mushrooms of BC" traveling exhibition with the Chilliwack Museum in 2027. Initial meetings between our organizations are in progress.
- With funds received from the BCNF, NC is publishing a promotional 2027 calendar of local birds from photos submitted by Club members. 📷

Nature Vancouver

Submitted by Donna Underhill

The 2025-2026 year has been busy for Nature Vancouver. Our major accomplishments centred on increasing our capacity to introduce and provide nature education on our large and diverse urban natural environment to a varied audience. We have increased our community engagement and outreach programming. We have offered opportunities for citizen science and biodiversity documentation through the City Nature Challenge and through the Christmas Bird Count. We continue to offer nature education to our membership through our Thursday evening presentations, many of which are also available on our You Tube site via links on our website, and via many field trips. Our scholarship program continues to support post-secondary students whose studies align with the objectives of Nature Vancouver.

Special Thanks

The annual journal, Volume 53 of *Discovery* focussed on the Brunette River and the Burnaby Lake Ecosystem this year. This publication is beautifully co-edited by dedicated members Sheila Byers and Bev Ramey and we thank them for giving us a uniquely Vancouver perspective on global challenges with respect to the world of nature. Special thanks go to Bev Ramey and Sheila Byers who are both "retiring" this year as the Editors of the *Discovery* journal, although they will mentor new editors.

Our Birding Section has been able to offer 50 bird walks during 2025, with Nature Vancouver birders starting to also lead field trips, and there have been many walks into 2026 as well. Many of the bird field trips are now

more accessible via our Binocular Lending library whereby new “birders” can borrow a pair of binoculars for the session. Bird walk leaders Michelle Beaudais, Harvey Dueck, Kelvin Yip, Neill Vanhinsberg, Joanna Chin, Angela Hansen, Tom Plath, Christine Balkwill, Jan Lowcock and many others deserve special thanks! Michelle Beaudais and Kelvin Yip organized the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) which attracted 230 volunteer counters.

Special thanks also go to Peter Candido, who is retiring from collating all this Nature Vancouver CBC data for Birds Canada and the Audubon Society. Special thanks as well to Neill Vanhinsberg, who has volunteered to take over this huge job for 2026.

Partnerships

During 2026, we have more formally partnered with two organizations. The first, NatureKids, which grew from Nature Vancouver, we collect donations to go to NatureKids to assist with their growth in supporting children and families throughout B.C. to learn about nature.

The second is WildResearch and their group which provides original scientific research on bird migrations at Iona Island Bird Observatory (IIBO) and in the Fraser Valley. Our support will assist with the continuing collection of scientific data at the IIBO as well as their outreach program.

Scholarships

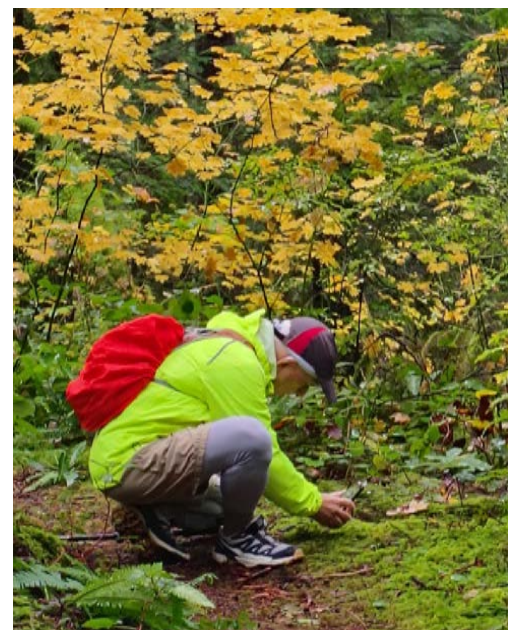
Nature Vancouver gives out two types of scholarships every year: the (regular) Nature Vancouver and the Hugh Hamilton Memorial. Two post-secondary scholarships, one for undergraduate and one for graduate students, are awarded under each type of scholarship every year.

The Hugh Hamilton Memorial was initiated in 2020 through a very generous donation from Hugh’s friends, Gordon and Daphne Squire. These donation funds were used up in 2025, but we’re excited to announce that Nature Vancouver will continue funding both the “regular” and the Hugh Hamilton Memorial scholarships (2 x \$5000). In addition, the “regular” Nature Vancouver scholarship amount has been doubled (2 x \$2000). For 2026, we received 19 Nature Vancouver and 17 Hugh Hamilton applications for a total of 36 applications. The distribution for undergraduate and graduate applications was 11 and 8 for Nature Vancouver, and 9 and 8 for the Hugh Hamilton scholarship. We are just in the process of evaluating the applications and will be presenting to the recipients just after our AGM on April 23.

Community Outreach programs:

This year we have continued to actively increase our participation in community outreach and citizen science.

- Night Quest: In March 2026, Nature Vancouver participated in Pacific Spirit Regional Park’s 2-evening Night Quest. Our 25+ busy volunteers engaged ~3500 visitors to our diverse nature displays. Many of the visitors were young families, so the under 12 age group enthusiastically lined up to carefully touch the stuffed skunk, the many cones, and shells and skulls and then choose which stamp to get on their hand!
- We also hosted a table at the OWL open house in June, and in September we hosted a display and helped with field trips at Wings over Iona, a Metro Vancouver Regional Parks event.
- Our Marine Biology section participated in the Vancouver Aquarium’s annual divers weekend show.
- Nature Vancouver is also collaborating with Pacific Spirit Park Society in an Eagle Nest Monitoring citizen science program where the participants record bald eagle nest occupation and chick production through the whole western peninsula of Vancouver and Richmond (20+ nests).
- The City Nature challenge was initiated in 2016 with two cities, and now includes the opportunity for over 800 cities to compete, all using the *iNaturalist* App. It is another huge citizen science project. John Martin, NV President has worked hard to reach out and invite many groups to participate in 2025, and the result led to Vancouver winning the Canadian challenge. We hope that this event will continue to have many more of us comfortably using *iNaturalist* and collecting data for this citizen science project.



*Fall mushrooms North Vancouver
Photo D. Sturdy*

Conservation:

The New Brighton Park Restoration Project is just getting bigger and better every year thanks to the leadership of Nigel Peck, who has been leading this project since 2022. The cooperation of the Vancouver Park Board, the Port of Vancouver and the Tsleil-Waututh Nation led to creation of a tidal wetland feature in about 2015, however the fill that was dumped to create that habitat was soon populated with invasive plants. Nature Vancouver first approached the Vancouver Park Board and the Port of Vancouver to see if they could help with removal of invasive Scotch Broom, Himalayan Blackberries, Horsetail, and Bull Thistles on the hillock caused by the fill being dumped at this East Vancouver Park. After starting in 2022, Nigel and a dedicated team of Nature Vancouver members have had many work parties that have assembled and have cleared most of the invasives (some repeatedly) each year. Now this land is being re-planted with native plants, such as Nodding Onion, Pearly Everlasting, Wooley Sunflower, Douglas Aster, Red Currant, Lupine, and Goldenrod. We are already seeing an increase in bees, butterflies, and bird life!

Photography:

Murray Hendren and the photography section of Nature Vancouver successfully hosted another photography show in March, 2026. The photos are exquisite, and we are hoping to feature many of these in our upcoming eNews that is delivered to all of our members.

Camps:

With the continuing challenge of locating a place to hold our large two one-week camps, we were unable to hold a camp in 2025. In 2026, we will hold a one-week unique type of “summer” camp in early fall (September 8 – 14). Unlike our typical camps when campers must carry out a number of camp chores, at this year’s camp the only chores are cleaning up after yourself! Our camp location is at Camp Potlatch (in summer there is a camp for children run by the Boys and Girls Club of BC) found on the shores of Howe Sound where activities include hiking and water-based recreation. We invite all members of other nature organizations under the umbrella of BC Nature to join us! For more information and to register, please check our website at: <https://naturevancouver.ca/summer-camps/>.

Board Activity:

Last year the Board sent out a membership survey and we received a good response back from the membership. We are putting on the finishing touches of a new strategic plan and direction from the results of the survey. The survey helps us prioritize where to spend our time as a Board. We have welcomed a number of new Board members. One of our new Board members is Elisa Kreller, our new Treasurer. She has reinstated the Finance Committee and guided us through the first major change to migrate our membership and database system to Communal, a Canadian company that focuses on Association Management Software. This will hopefully eventually save time for existing Board members and volunteers of all kinds by helping us to manage everything from donations, accounting and memberships to communication, event registrations and waivers. 🌐



Hiking in Waterton Park, Photo: B. Kurtar

Pender Harbour and District Wildlife Society (PHWS)

Submitted by Carole Logtenberg

The Pender Harbour Wildlife Society (PHWS) had an active and engaging year in 2025, offering a variety of presentations, nature walks, stewardship activities, and community events that connected members with local wildlife and conservation issues.

Our year began in February with our Annual General Meeting and a well-attended presentation by Nicholas Scapillati of the Grizzly Bear Foundation. Thirty-three people attended, and we appreciated the welcome offered by Candace Campo of the shíshálh Nation. The following board was elected by acclamation: President Carole Logtenberg, Secretary Cindy Prescott, Treasurer Bob Irvine, and Directors Janet Dickin, John Dickin, Ray Kostaschuk, Dale Jackson, and John Field.

Throughout the year, PHWS hosted several **educational presentations**:

- Jacqueline Sunderland Groves spoke about Orangutan reintroduction efforts in Borneo
- Ray Kostaschuk presented on the connections between geology and biodiversity in Pender Harbour
- Population ecologist Judy Myers shared insights on invasive species management in British Columbia.



*John Field leads mushroom walk on the Naboo Trail near McNeil Lake, Sunshine Coast.
Photo by C. Logtenberg*

Nature walks continued to be a highlight for members:

- Ray Kostaschuk led popular walks exploring the geological history of Francis Point Provincial Park and Garden Bay
- John Field guided a mushroom walk along the Naboo Trail near McNeill Lake, identifying approximately 50 species of fungi.

Volunteer stewardship remained an important part of PHWS activities. Members contributed more than 20 volunteer hours maintaining turtle nesting sites at Lillies, Katherine, North, and Klein Lakes. Volunteers also removed invasive Purple Loosestrife at Lillies Lake, with noticeably fewer plants observed than in previous years, suggesting management efforts are having an

impact.

Community events included:

- the annual PHWS picnic in June at the Iris and Billy Griffith Nature Centre, where members gathered to share food, conversation, and music.
- The year concluded with the 35th Pender Harbour Christmas Bird Count in December. Thirty field participants and one feeder watcher recorded 75 species and over 8,000 individual birds, including several record-high counts.

Thank you to the many volunteers, presenters, members, and community partners who continue to support the work of the Pender Harbour Wildlife Society. Your contributions help make these programs and conservation efforts possible. 🌿



*PHWS volunteers weeding a turtle nesting beach at Katherine Lake.
Photo by C. Logtenberg*



Exploring the geology of Francis Point Provincial Park with guide Ray Kostaschuk. Photo by H. Field

White Rock & Surrey Naturalists (WRSN)

Submitted by Carol Monaghan

Meetings

In-person meetings are held from April to November and via Zoom from January to March. Our program coordinator scheduled excellent presentations for the 2025 meetings.

Social Events

We held a July picnic and a December Potluck with good attendance at both events.

Membership

Our membership remains steady at 80.

Field Trips

Several educational walks and birding trips were scheduled including trips to the trails at Trinity Western University, Hi Knoll Park, Heppell Woods, Reifel Bird Sanctuary, Sunnyside Acres Urban Forest, Tynehead Regional Park, and a bat evening at Campbell Valley Park.

Surrey Environmental Extravaganza

WRSN participated in the 2025 Surrey Environmental Extravaganza and partnered with Friends of Semiahmoo Bay for an intertidal walk and three shoreline clean-ups.

Eagle Monitoring Project by the David Hancock Wildlife Foundation:

Several WRSN members make regular checks of the local eagle nests.

Eva Bene Butterfly Garden

Some of our members have spent many hours maintaining the Butterfly Garden.

Placement of Bird Nest and Bat Roost Boxes:

WRSN has partnered with Heritage Gardens Cemetery to place and maintain bird nest and bat roost boxes.



Clean up crew at the Adopt-a-Street Project

Adopt-a-Street Project

Located at Sunnyside Acres Urban Forest, club members held two clean-ups around the perimeter of the forest.

Urban Light Pollution

Member Janet McIntosh continues to research and write letters about the problems caused by light pollution at night, i.e. "ALAN, Artificial Light At Night". in our community, particularly during the peak periods of bird migration.

Bursaries and Grants

In 2025, WRSN made donations to A Rocha Canada, Delta Farmland & Wildlife Trust, and Surrey School District #36, as well as continuing scholarships to UBC, Simon Fraser University, and Kwantlen Polytechnic

University.

Outreach Committee

WRSN provided interesting displays and interactive games to engage children and adults at events at Elgin Heritage Park, Sunnyside Acres Open House, Heritage Gardens Cemetery, and a pollinator event at Campbell Valley Regional Park in 2025.

Nature Book Club

Our book club discusses books on nature and the environment and has become a popular gathering for our members.

Honouring Sharon Jones

During 2025, one of our long-time members passed away and to honour her work with WRSN, the club sponsored a tree in the Foster the Forest program



Sharon Jones working on a bat box

offered by Sunnyside Acres Heritage Society. A splendid 130-year-old Douglas Fir in Sunnyside Acres Urban Forest was designated in Sharon's name. Members and others from the community participated in several walks to Sharon's tree.

Communications

Facebook: The WRSN Facebook page is quite active with many contributors and followers.

WRSN Newsletter - Published four times a year with many members contributing photographs and articles. 📷



Whistler 2025 BioBlitz Team

Whistler Naturalists Society (WNS)

Submitted by Samantha (Sam) Ray

History

The Whistler Naturalists Society (WNS) was established in 1999 to meet the community's interest in natural history education. This organization emerged from the Association of Whistler Area Residents for the Environment (AWARE), which focuses more on advocacy within the community. WNS operate entirely through the efforts of dedicated volunteers.

Our Mission: To increase local knowledge of and appreciation for the natural world in the Whistler area.

We seek:

- To provide educational opportunities on a variety of natural history topics
- To support studies on specific areas of scientific interest
- To increase awareness of local natural history to help guide conservation efforts

Memberships: 45 Total memberships. 19 Family and 26 Single.

Events:

NatureSpeak: Each month, we invite locals to contribute articles to Whistler's *Pique Newsmagazine*. These insightful pieces are shared on our website as well, promoting a deeper connection with the natural world around us.

Birding: Our monthly bird walks happen on the first Saturday of every month at Alta Lake, and seasonally on the third Saturday at Green Lake. For more than 20 years, we've enjoyed strolls along the scenic Valley trail at the end of Lorimer Road. We share our data with interested groups, and all results are recorded on *ebird*. We also take part in the Breeding Bird Survey and the Christmas Bird Count.

Fungus Among Us: A beloved October tradition for Whistler locals, this event has consistently sold out for the last 23 years! In 2025 we had the most visiting scientists (23) with experts who gave talks and guided foraging groups through the lush forests surrounding Whistler. Each year educational displays are available for everyone to view and learn about the local mycology. The community loves the popular "Cooking with Mushrooms" session, where the audience learns to cook and taste delicious dishes prepared by a local chef.

BioBlitz: Experts in their field (Including fungi, plants, birds, mammals, invertebrates, lichens, reptiles and amphibians) have helped identify almost 5,000 species since Whistler BioBlitz' inception in 2007! Twice a year, local and B.C. contributors come to Whistler to document as many species as possible across selected areas in Whistler over a few days, as well as providing informative talks to the community and local schools.

2025 was our 19th year and we hosted a talk on Springtails. While out in the field, at least 900 species were identified, 50 of which were new slime moulds to Whistler and at least five new slime mould species for Canada! Another stand out sighting was that of a moose print found in the 7th Heaven basin!

Glacier Monitoring: We've taken over leading glacier studies from long-term member Karl Ricker who started monitoring Wedgemount Glacier in 1973 and Overlord Glacier in 1986.

ExplorerDays: In 2025 we started holding monthly ExplorerDays for local kids aged 5-12 in collaboration with NatureKids BC. These monthly events have proven to be extremely popular and always draw a waitlist of families wanting to join. Some of the 2025 topics included Tiny Toads, Invader Rangers, Wonderful Wetlands, Animal Tracks, Winter Wildlife, Fantastic Fungi and Terrific Trees.

Partners & Sponsors

A.W.A.R.E <https://www.awarewhistler.org/>

Whistler Museum and Archives Society Whistler museum <https://whistlermuseum.org/>

BC Nature <https://bcnature.org/>

Whistler Community Foundation whistlerfoundation.ca

Resort Municipality of Whistler <https://www.whistler.ca>

Pique Newsmagazine <https://www.piquenewsmagazine.com> ☒

WildResearch

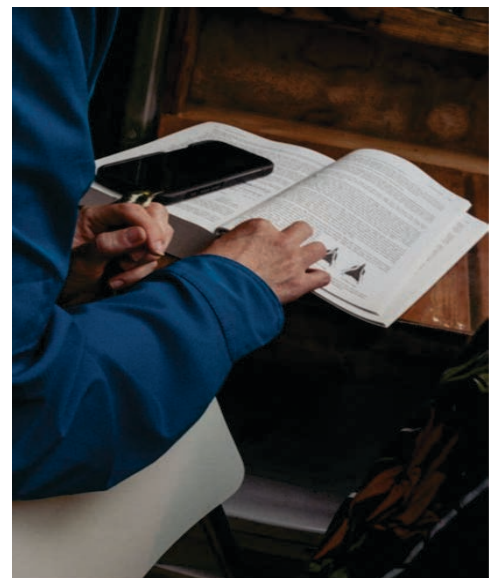
Submitted by Alexandra Welch

2025 was a year defined by progress and sustainability. Rather than dramatic reinvention, the focus was on care, stewardship, and giving space for the board, committees, and membership to shine. The first half of the year was dominated by the submission of a gaming grant application — and though WildResearch was ultimately unsuccessful, the process strengthened the organization's financial documentation, storytelling, and internal capacity. The effort was led by a dedicated team that stepped up in significant ways. Infrastructure challenges at the banding station prompted a fundraising push for new generators and a broader effort to repair and stabilize the banding hut. The final quarter brought a sharp focus on financial and membership sustainability — a reminder that WildResearch runs not just on funding, but on volunteer time, passion, and community care.

Iona Island Bird Observatory (IIBO): IIBO had a productive and encouraging year. A total of 3,041 birds were captured across the spring and fall migration seasons, with 93 different volunteers contributing nearly 2,000 hours of effort. Public engagement grew considerably, with 540 visitors welcomed to the station — including school groups, university classes, and community organizations.

A key success of the fall season was the hiring of one experienced, full-time Bander-in-Charge who provided day-to-day consistency in operations, data collection, and volunteer training.

Volunteer numbers increased substantially compared to 2024, and the station recorded two species for the first time: American Redstart and Merlin. Beyond the banding program itself, the IIBO Committee resumed regular monthly planning meetings, recruited new active members, and made meaningful progress on banding hut repairs, including wall waterproofing, mold remediation, and roof reinforcement. This work was made possible through over \$33,000 in grants from the Sitka Foundation, Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Foundation, and Ocean Wise, as well as nearly \$3,000 raised through a membership fundraising campaign. Work parties gave



Looking up Black-throated Gray Warbler in the North American "banding bible", Pyle. Photo: Bristol K



Updating the bird species tracking board at the end of the banding day. Photo: Bristol K

members who may not be able to band a hands-on way to contribute — a form of inclusion the organization values deeply.

Looking ahead, IIBO is exploring the launch of a Northern Saw-whet Owl monitoring program, NABC certification workshops at the station, pelagic birding boat trips as a fundraiser, and a banding station exchange with the T.R.E.E.S. organization in Belize.

BC Marsh Monitoring Program (BCMNP): The BCMNP had a strong year marked by meaningful growth. Participation rose from 24 volunteers in 2024 to 31 in 2025, and the program expanded its geographic reach for the first time into both the Okanagan and the Kootenays — a significant milestone. The number of bird and amphibian survey stations monitored also grew across the board.

A grant from the BC Naturalists' Foundation funded a free marsh monitoring workshop in Kamloops and the distribution of identification guides and children's wetland books to local schools and Little Free Libraries. The BC Wildlife Federation promoted the program in its Wetland-keepers courses, and Environment and Climate Change Canada conducted surveys at ten select sites using BCMNP protocols as part of the Habitat Joint Ventures initiative.

Plans for 2026 include reapplying for the BC Community Gaming Grant to hire a part-time coordinator, developing new educational resources in partnership with Birds Canada, and hosting guided walks and workshops in the Kootenay and Thompson-Nicola regions.

Cooper's Hawk Monitoring Program: The 2025 COHA season saw several meaningful improvements, including a dedicated program email, an updated survey protocol, enhanced volunteer training, and Bluetooth speakers made available on loan to participants. The season recorded a higher-than-average number of confirmed Cooper's Hawk sightings, and new volunteers were successfully trained in the field survey protocol. The custom app developed by Harvey Dueck — which automates GPS recording, data entry, and call playback — continued to streamline operations.

Research Committee: 2025 was a rebuild year for the Research Committee, with a new chair who stepped into an advisory role. The year's work focused on building capacity and exploring near-term projects, including a review and summary of Cooper's Hawk data from 2018–2022. A priority for 2026 is pursuing a UBC BRITE internship to support analysis of WildResearch's now 15-year songbird migration dataset, with a focus on how migration phenology and productivity have shifted over time.



*Blowing back feather from breast to check for fat level and brood-patch. This is a hatch-year bird with no fat, with feathers growing in over its "baby belly".
Photo: Bristol K*

Community and Outreach: WildResearch's community showed up in rich and varied ways in 2025. Ten events were held across the Lower Mainland, including winter bird ID walks, plant ID and ecosystems workshops, member socials, and a bird bag-making party — the first since 2019 — warmly guided by Ildiko. Paula Gomez-Villalba organized Stories in Flight, WildResearch's first collaborative project with the Musqueam Nation, which stands as a proud milestone for the organization. The team also attended four community booths, bringing conservation conversations to the public at events like Wings Over Iona and the OWL Open House. 🌿

Northern BC

Regional Coordinator Walter Thorne



Bulkley Valley Naturalists (BVN)

Submitted by Anne Hetherington

Talks and Walks (regularly scheduled)

- *Wolves of the Yukon.* Highlights and lessons-learned from Biologist Bob Hayes from his 20 years as wolf biologist in Yukon. Caroline Hayes presented excerpts from her late husband's work. This a one hour presentation and can be viewed at this link: https://youtu.be/k-ml_EOD6lQ
- Yukon to Yellowstone Conservation Connectivity Project update and First Nations partnership, May 29, 7:30 Available through zoom link. Contact annehetherington@gmail.com if interested in zoom link.
- Dat Sen Ecological Reserve guided tour in May for cherry blossoms. Opportunities for limited number of BVN members to join ER Wardens on annual monitoring tours.
- Evening beginner birding: May 5 and June 2, with guest leaders

Ray Chipeniuk's PhD request for volunteers to be interviewed during tour of natural landscape on how they perceive it.

Participation in community issues and events as invited. ☺

Delkatla Sanctuary Society (DSS)

Submitted by Margo Hearn

Throughout 2025, Delkatla Sanctuary Society played an important role in the education and public awareness of the natural history of Delkatla Wildlife Sanctuary and Haida Gwaii and our Nature Centre continues to be a destination for many residents and visitors.

A momentous event occurred during the May long weekend when the late Peter Hamel was awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal for outstanding service to his community and Canada. Peter had been President of this Society for twenty-five years and his courage and commitment showed the way forward for both the Delkatla Wildlife Sanctuary and the Nature Centre. He is much missed.

In April, a new bench, made by carpenter and friend Ian Edwards to honour Peter was delivered to the Centre and visitors can sit and observe the active bird life in Delkatla as Peter once did. The nesting Sandhill Crane family that raised its young in the far meadow throughout the summer continues to be a major attraction.

Five local Elementary School groups enjoyed the birds and exhibitions at the Centre in early spring and a high school group from North Vancouver arrived over the May long weekend. Haida Gwaii Institute students also visited in Spring and Fall under the tutelage of Prof Shona Ellis.

On April 12 we sponsored a 'holly pull' to begin the removal of this invasive species from the trails and forested areas of the Sanctuary. The morning began with coffee and muffins at the Centre and a discussion about invasive species and why their control is important. Seventeen people participated; it was a fun and educational morning and we had help from all ages, including a two year old who helped his mom.

To celebrate Earth Day on April 19th we held our annual Delkatla Cleanup. We had seventeen participants; up

to five truckloads of garbage were taken to the local transfer station. It was a busy morning, refreshments on hand were much appreciated.

We also held our Annual Bird and Muffin walk on the May long weekend. It is always a popular outing and Sandhill cranes, white-fronted geese and returning songbirds were a big attraction. Fresh muffins donated by Jody from her friendly '626 Fish and Chipper' cafe were a bit hit.

We continue to maintain the Centre as an attractive, clean building. We had the entrance gate and doors painted, the roof and building power-washed and all the indoor mercury lights replaced with LED lights. We also had to replace the sewage pump which, after 25 years of use, had burned out.

Visitor numbers increased this year with over 1,000 people finding their way to the Centre in this remote, small village. Most of our visitors were from BC; many commented on how they enjoyed discovering the remote beauty of Canada, and didn't travel to the USA as they might have once done.

On April 18th Prof Shona Ellis gave a talk on her "Botanical Wanderings on Haida Gwaii." Shona is a friend of Delkatla and has been a Professor of Teaching at the University of British Columbia (UBC) for many years. She is actively involved in educational activities here. Her photos and botanical expertise were really well received by the over 30 people that attended.

In mid-July, Robert Steelquist from Washington State arrived to photograph our summer Sandhill Cranes. This was his second visit and he spent a week in and around Masset. On July 18 he presented his photos and gave a well-attended and informative talk on "The Coastal Cranes of BC" with over 35 people in attendance.

We had two staff-people at the Centre from June 1 to September 30. Opening hours were from 10 am-4 pm weekdays and 2-4 pm on weekends. Volunteers opened on weekends, cut the grass, did an inventory of our artwork, and books and generally helped out where needed. It has been a very busy and successful season. ☺

Kitimat Valley Naturalists (KVN)

Submitted by Peter Ponter

The Kitimat Valley Naturalists gratefully acknowledge that we live, work and learn on the traditional and unceded territory of the Haisla Nation.

This year's focus remained on **outreach**.

- We ran four eco-tours: one on tree identification, two on tree measuring for registration, and one on salmon habitat.
- We also led tree identification and measuring sessions with groups of Guides and Brownies (Girl Guides of Canada) and high school students
- An amphibian 'explorer day' event was held with our local NatureKids BC.
- We also hosted a presentation on amphibians at Lakelse Park, which was sponsored by the Lakelse Watershed Stewards Society (LWSS).
- This year's elementary school program about amphibians was presented to 11 classes, and there was also a bat presentation in the fall.
- Our Mushroom Forage was a big hit again with 29 participants split into two groups.

Our '**big**' **project** this year (the first year of three) is called 'Big Tree Quest' (BTQ) with the aim of identifying, measuring and registering the biggest trees we could find in the remaining old-growth areas within and around our community. Our hope is that this will bring attention to our old-growth forests and encourage people to appreciate their value. We were able to secure generous grants from both the BC Naturalists' Foundation and the District of Kitimat (DOK) to assist with our BTQ.

With the funds in place, we were able to hold a workshop with trainers Jonathan Degner and Christine Chourmouzis, who are volunteers for UBC's Big Tree Registry, purchased specialised measuring equipment, and have now had the trees verified by professional foresters. After that, we were able to head out into the forests to find, measure, and register 36 trees. In the process, we involved more than 100 people, either directly or with visits to our finds.

Other highlights included a bat workshop with Cori Lausen and her crew. This comprehensive workshop was also presented in Prince Rupert, Terrace, as well as in Kitimat. Time was also spent learning how to use the

Wildlife Acoustics Echo Meter Touch 2, both in class and in the evening when the bats were active. We had previously purchased one of these detectors, so it was very good to get the hands on training.

In September, we attended the Northern Amphibian Naturalists Society's AGM held in Rosswood, which is always a highlight. After the meeting, we had a short session about the use of iNaturalist, followed by a forest walk which included a look at the Common Garter Snake hibernaculum located on NANS Director, Betty Geier's, property.

We participated in several other outreach events, including a Rainforest Event, held in the Terrace Art Gallery, where various naturalist groups presented informational displays against a backdrop of Joan Turecki's rainforest paintings. In November, we co-sponsored an Old-Growth Forest Event with Douglas Channel Watch (DCW) under the Watershed Stewardship Working Group (WSWG) umbrella. This included guest speakers Rob Hart, Past Chair of the Kalum Land Resource Management Plan Implementation Committee (PIC), Cheryl Brown, currently with PIC; and Patricia Lange, BTQ. We showed the *Grow it Back* video, Cheryl described the workings of the PIC with some clarifications from Rob, and Patricia explained the BTQ.

We completed our regular duties, including water quality surveys at the local golf course and Eelgrass surveys down Douglas Channel for Department of Fisheries and Oceans, monitored various wetlands, bat activity, and bird surveys. Our Christmas count yielded 1160 birds representing 44 different species.

We still continue to monitor existing and potential future industries by attending various forums, meetings, etc., and consulting with other environmental groups.

Our AGM, in November, with guest speaker Rob Hart talking about sustainable logging practices. We had to say goodbye to one of our Directors, Steve Gaudet, who was moving back to Nova Scotia. We retained the rest of our board, President; Peter Ponter; Secretary/membership, Gillian Mullins; Treasurer, Carolyn Watt; and Directors, April Macleod and Cheryl Brown, and we welcomed three new Directors: Jim Young, Magda Machula, and Sydney Hakes. We are excited to see what we can accomplish now that we have a board of eight. ☺

MacKenzie Nature Observatory (MNO)

Submitted by Sandra Kinsey and Sierra Jamieson

Mackenzie Nature Observatory (MNO) is operational as the Mugaha Marsh Banding Station from July 19 to September 30 each year. Memberships for 2026 so far include 24 singles and 20 family memberships. Beyond work and volunteering during operations, a lot of work goes on in the background through the winter. The Annual Report is written, data submitted, permits applied for, government reports are filed, equipment ordered, banders are hired, and on and on. With spring approaching, we look to prepare the grounds for the banding season, checking over buildings and boardwalks, as well as inventorying supplies needed. Lest we forget to take a moment to look at the birds that come back, and just enjoy the scenery. Mugaha Marsh is a beautiful place! Visitors are always welcome.

In 2025, MNO hosted a workshop with Motus Wildlife Tracking Systems. Banders were taught tag deployment skills and information was shared around installation, troubleshooting, maintaining, and monitoring with Motus towers. MNO had one tower installed in 2021, and through the workshop in 2025, deployed 6 tags. A Northern Saw-whet Owl tagged at Colony Farm in October 2023 was picked up in spring 2024 on the Ingenika tower (west side of the Williston Reservoir), then it wasn't heard from until October 2024 in Victoria. We are very excited to work with these advancements in technology and learn more about birds' migratory patterns and trends. The website is motus.org.

Notably, MNO has six new board members this year. All board members, new and recurring, have varying levels of volunteer and work experience at the banding station. The team is excited for the work ahead, currently trying to ensure all needs are getting addressed and that tasks are appropriately spread. Our website is MackenzieNatureObservatory.ca. We are also active on our social media accounts; Facebook and Instagram.

Northern Amphibians Naturalists Society (NANS)

Submitted by Norma Kerby

Membership in the Northern Amphibians Naturalists Society extends from Fort Fraser to Prince Rupert, south to Kitimat, and north to Dease Lake. Many of our members participate as monitors or provide monitoring station sites for NANS' NWBC Reptile and Amphibian Monitoring Program, a program that utilizes monitoring boards and visual surveys to record amphibians and garter snakes at 70 set monitoring locations. A number of members also collect invertebrate samples, in particular samples associated with forest floor ecosystems, for our Invertebrate Biodiversity Project. Collected samples are submitted to the Royal BC Museum, Entomology Division.

As our Society has a biodiversity focus, we also prioritize issues with environmental impacts in northwestern B.C., and work closely with the Kitimat Valley Naturalists Society on a number of interests and projects affecting the inland North Coast region. The two societies are currently working towards identifying support for a BC Bats Community Program coordinator in our region, and identifying and supporting the need to preserve high biodiversity wetlands in Kitimat.

Our normal programs of collecting invertebrates for the Royal BC Museum and monitoring our NWBC RAMP network of amphibians and garter snakes monitoring sites, continued in 2025, with our long-term volunteers continuing their monitoring activities for their specific locations. In 2025, our two volunteer field people collected monitoring information for the western end of our network of unmanned sites during March and April, which was possible due to unusually mild weather. By May, though, the active forest fire season started early, and we were unable to visit our unmanned sites in the central interior and northern interior. The drought throughout most of NWBC in 2023 and 2024, continued into 2025. This had a direct impact on amphibian and insect populations in smaller ponds and low elevation forests. Invertebrate collections throughout the summer months were smaller and less diverse than normal.

Databases are maintained for our invertebrate collections, including locations and collectors, with specific coordinates for each collection vial. The emphasis for collecting is the diversity of discrete spiders and cryptic invertebrates associated with forests. We increased our efforts to collect invertebrates active in winter during warm spells for the winter of 2025 to 2026.

In addition to monitoring and insect collections, we also emphasize public outreach regarding amphibians, garter snakes, invertebrates and biodiversity, answering queries and providing input into habitat and species concerns. In September, we held a major public event in coordination with a temperate rainforest landscape art show, titled "A Walk in the Rainforest".

With Board Directors from five different communities, our Board meetings are held as ZOOM meetings to allow better access for all directors. Our fall 2025 AGM was held in Rosswood, a small community north of Terrace and ZOOM provided access to the meeting for members located elsewhere in the Province. 🌐

Prince George Naturalists Club (PGNC)

Submitted by the PGNC Board

Overview of 2025

Overview of 2025 was a year where we continued to increase our community presence. We had a relatively small executive (seven members) again this year, which limits what our club can accomplish and adds challenges to meeting with a full quorum. We held most of our meetings in person at the Spruce City Wildlife fish hatchery, but we had a few online as was required to meet in certain months due to executive member travel, out-of-town field work, and other scheduling conflicts. Despite that, we did our best to run as many events as possible. Thank you to those who came out and those who were willing to organize them as well.

Field Trips and Presentations

We started our year with the Annual Swan & Eagle count in January. This year, we partnered with The Wildlife Society (TWS) at UNBC, so our event was bigger than ever. In February, we had a Board Game Night featuring the popular game Wingspan. In March, we participated in Seedy Saturday, a popular event by the PG Master Gardeners. Then later that month we had our annual AGM featuring guest speaker Dr. Darwin Coxson of UNBC presenting on lichens.

To kick off the spring, we had our well-known field trip to Shelley to see Long-billed Curlews in April. Later in April we had our annual spring cleanup day at our usual spot, the Hudson's Bay Wetland. In early May, we again partnered with the PG Public Library to bring a talk about reptiles and amphibians to the community. In May we also launched our new website, pgnc.ca. The Club's BC Nature Director attended the BC Nature AGM in Merritt to ensure the PGNC had a voice at the table and the north was represented in meetings and seminars there. On the weekend of May 31 and June 1 we participated in two community events: the Walk PG Outdoor Festival at Cottonwood Park, where the club again hosted a club table and was responsible for leading a birding walk through the park, and the Chinook Salmon Send-off hosted by Spruce City Wildlife.

Later in June, we had a work party at Hudson's Bay Wetland to fix some vandalism to one of our viewing platforms. In July, for the first time, the PGNC took part in the PG Pride Picnic, and we also partnered with the Northwest Invasive Plant Council to lead a nature walk. In late July we had a very well-attended Alpine Flower Walk. In August, we partnered with the Native Bee Society of BC and UNBC to bring a mini-bee school to Prince George for the first time. Though capacity was limited, many of our members took part and the course was full. The first day was a lab day, and the second day was a field day. It was a great success!

In September, the club worked with the Northwest Invasive Plant Council to remove invasive plant species at Carrie Jane Gray Park, and we partnered with a member of the UNBC faculty for a morning bird watching session at the Shelley Lagoons. In October, we were educated by a visitor from the Wildlife Conservation Society of Canada about Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), and in the following days, along with representatives from BC Nature, a number of us journeyed to Fraser Lake to count Trumpeter Swans. For November, we had our annual members only field trip to see the caribou at Kennedy Siding. A big thank you to Lauren and our member Doug for teaching us about their research with the caribou and caribou behaviours! Later in December we had a nature photography showcase and social where many member photos were shared and some stories along with them! We ended the year with the fantastic annual Prince George Christmas Bird Count (which actually took place in January again this year).

Community Outreach and Future Plans

In 2025, we continued to ramp up our social media presence by posting photos by our members and local events that may have been of interest to our members. We focused on bettering our website and making upgrades to the pamphlets and literature we offer to our community. We are happy to see that our new bird checklist for the area and the bird watching in PG brochure have been very popular and we have needed to print more. We are working on a herptile brochure, another on the common birds of Forests for the World park, and yet another brochure that will be aimed at newcomers to Prince George. (We have again secured a grant from the BC Naturalists' Foundation to assist us with that.)

We have participated in a number of community events over the past year, and we hope that more volunteers will help us participate in those again, and maybe even add a few more.

In 2026, our goal is to grow our membership and grow our volunteer base in the process. We plan to focus on diversifying our outreach as well. We also hope to continue to partner with other like-minded community organizations to accomplish common goals.

Members, Volunteers, and Supporters

As of December 2025, we had 88 memberships to BC Nature. BC Nature provides us with liability insurance and general support. Our Club members include individuals, families and students. All the activities and events could not have happened without the efforts of our many volunteers and our collaborations with the City of Prince George, BC Nature and the BC Naturalists' Foundation, Spruce City Wildlife Association, WALK-PG, Northwest Invasive Plant Council, Native Bee Society of BC, and the Prince George Public Library, just to name a few. The Prince George Naturalists Club is grateful for all this assistance as it continues its work to promote enjoyment of the natural world.

Respectfully submitted: Angelina Joiner, President; Cara Snell, Vice-President; Sandra Kinsey, Treasurer; Dave Leman, BC Nature Director; Sara Sparks, Director & sometimes Secretary; Dani Fisher-Hynd, Director ☺

Timberline Trail and Nature Club (TTNC)

Submitted by Mark Phinney

The Timberline Club has been busy since last fall. We held our traditional Christmas Bird Count in early January. Numbers of participants and birds were both a little lower than usual, but the weather wasn't too awful and we had a good time.

The club has been languishing a bit in recent years, but we've initiated a membership drive and are trying to reinvigorate the club with a renewed focus on activities: We've had two **presentations** in the new year: one (in person) about Fishers and another (online) about Pikas.

We've had one **field trip** in March to erect some swallow nest boxes at Radar Lake; the always popular Hawk Watch is scheduled for April 12th and there are additional field trips planned in May and June.

The club's main focus over the past few years has been to rebuild the infrastructure at McQueen's Slough. We have received several grants to start on this venture: A new bird blind and feeding station, along with a ground level viewing platform, a sign kiosk and a new outhouse will all be constructed as soon as the snow melts and the ground thaws! We have plans for boardwalk and bridge replacement and trail improvement but are waiting for a few tasks to fall into place. Baby steps!

To improve awareness of our club and garner support for our projects, we've made presentations to both Rotary Clubs in Dawson Creek. Several well-connected community members have already expressed interest! In addition, the club will have a booth at the Dawson Creek Trade Show later this month, with a variety of nature-related topics on display.

The club has been doing some minor fundraising through the sale of bird and bat houses. Our Timberline Trail and Nature Club would like to thank the BC Naturalists' Foundation for the Club Support Grant of \$2500 to help with our MOTUS wildlife tracking program and our Connecticut Warbler tagging project. This rare warbler migrates to southern South America each fall (one of the longest distance migrants of all songbirds). Very little is known about their migration and wintering ecology, so we hope to turn up some new information with this tagging effort.

Also, on the 'community' front, the Timberline club is sending a member to judge the Northern BC Regional Science Fair, who will also hand out awards sponsored by our club and BC Nature. We will report back on the winners! So – after a lengthy period of relatively few club-sponsored activities, we are back in high gear, hoping to attract new members and gathering support for our important projects. ☺

Williams Lake Field Naturalists (WLFN)

Submitted by Nola Daintith

The Williams Lake Field Naturalists are responsible for managing the Scout Island Nature Centre. Many schools take advantage of the nature education programs at the centre. Children and family nature programs are held at Scout Island throughout the year.

In May 2025, we hired a new manager for the Nature Centre and she has been doing a great job of fundraising, managing nature programs, and completing projects around the Centre. We have a large project beginning in June 2026 to rebuild the bridge to Otter Point so the manager and club directors were busy preparing grant proposals throughout 2025.

Numerous **club events** are held on an annual basis:

- We held a number of evening natural history presentations.
- A number of field trips were led by club members, notably to Churn Creek Protected Area, Alkali Lake, Chilanko Marsh, Farwell Canyon, Becher's Prairie, and Scout Island for early spring birding.
- Every May the club hosts a plant and yard sale with funds raised going to the Williams Lake Field Naturalist Bursary. This \$1500 bursary is awarded to a graduating high school student who will be studying one of the biological sciences.
- The Williams Lake Field Naturalists held their 58th annual Christmas Bird count on Sunday, December 14th; on possibly the warmest count day ever. Maximum temperatures at the airport were 5.9C and a degree or two warmer in the valley. It has been shown many times in the past that good weather and an

open lake do not necessarily make for a better count – but not this time. We ended the day with a record count of 70 species, one better than the previous high set in 2021.

- Club members also maintain and monitor a number of mountain bluebird box routes throughout the region. Currently the program has 32 volunteers who manage over 1,000 nestboxes on more than 30 routes. Lake City Secondary School woodworking students continue to help out by building new nestboxes.
- Our newsletter editors are always busy; they publish 6 newsletters a year with a variety of articles contributed by club members.
- The club maintains a website for the club (williamslakefieldnaturalists.ca) and Scout Island Nature Centre (scoutisland.ca). In 2025 we received a BC Nature Club support grant which we used to hire a website designer to help us update the Scout Island Nature Centre website, and prepare an online fillable membership form for the Field Naturalists website. We were super pleased with the final product, and the support of BC Nature and the BC Naturalists Foundation.

Finally, the club supports various conservation and land management initiatives in the region. 🌿

Thompson-Okanagan Region



Regional Coordinator: Gary Hunt

Nothing to report:

Kamloops Thompson Trails Alliance (KTTA)

Oliver-Osoyoos Naturalists Club

Central Okanagan Naturalists' Club (CONC)

Submitted by Rick Gee

CONC's membership continues to be strong and our activities continue to be well-received and well-attended.

We have birding trips twice a week plus a day-long trip on the second Saturday of most months. We participate in a variety of Christmas Bird Counts. Several CONC birders maintain bluebird trails.

We have hiking trips (ice gripper trips or snowshoe trips in the winter) three times a week. We have an annual summer camp; in 2025 we visited Nelson for a week of hiking. We have cycling trips once a week during the warmer weather.

We have botany trips once a week during the flowering season, along with a mushroom foray in the fall.

We participate in critter counts at two local parks, Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park and Johns Family Nature Conservancy Regional park.

Those who prefer indoor activities attend our monthly meetings featuring (usually) local speakers.

The conservation committee has been reactivated. It mainly, but not exclusively, concerns itself with wetland issues. One issue is the extension of Burtch Road through some excellent birding habitat. The conversion of a path to a road is underway (you can't win them all) but CONC has assisted with planning and vegetation choices. A second issue is the Clement Avenue extension; it also will impact wild areas but is apparently on hold. A third issue, which came to a head in early 2026, is the conversion of part of a golf course to an industrial area; recently Kelowna City Council approved the conversion.

For many years, CONC members have participated in city-sponsored clean-up activities. These activity is held

twice a year, spring and fall.

A club project, underway for several years, has been completed. This project is a viewing platform, a two-level tower actually, in Thomson Marsh Park, an *eBird* hotspot. You can read about this project in the Spring issue of *BCnature*. Most recently, birders spotted a Eurasian Wigeon from the top of the tower; it would not have been seen without the tower.

CONC's annual scholarship program continues, providing \$1500 to a local student going forward to studies in environmental science, broadly defined.

All of these activities are occurring without a president and vice-president, but with a great board of directors who share the duties of missing directors. ☺

Kamloops Naturalist Club (KNC)

Submitted by Jesse Ritcey

It's time again for the annual President's review—and 2025 has been as interesting and busy as any that went before. The wonderful thing about KNC is that we do things both outside and indoors.

Here's a quick run down of both.

As always, the year's outdoor activities start with what is affectionately called "the Sweagle"—formally the Rick Howie BC Interior Swan and Eagle Count. Led by Rich Doucette, a hardy band identified and counted swans (for the 51st time) and eagles (for the 31st time), starting at the city dump (lots of eagles, no swans!), and driving along East Shuswap Road to Chase. Spring came soon enough and on April 12th, Diane McKelvey led a group of 22 (including six non-KNC members) in an exploration of mountain bike/hiking trails at the eastern edge of Juniper Ridge.

On April 29th we joined the Grasslands Conservation Council in the 9th Annual (we are creatures of habit, it seems). Grasslands Clean up in Lac du Bois (thanks to Mandy Ross, Mike Dedels and others). Although we picked up lots of nails, pallets, and general trash, there seemed to be less than last year—or the year before. Perhaps we're making a difference!

May was a busy month, starting with a local celebration of World Migratory Bird Day (May 10th). Tom Dickinson led a slow walk around the "natural" end of MacArthur Island, hearing and/or seeing about 30 avian species and other interesting things. On the 17th, Joy Gothard and Sue Cane took a group of 16 (equally split between KNC-ers and "guests") on a ramble through the Aberdeen Neighbourhood, starting and ending at the Skyline Nature Park Trailhead and travelling mostly along the Bunchgrass Trail. There were lots of interesting things to see underfoot and some great views, although invasive weeds, erosion and development were also topics of conversation. The very next day we did our annual spring cleanup of Tranquille Road, which we took on long ago as part of the city's Adopt-a-Road program. At the end of May, several of us attended the annual BC Nature AGM, this year held close by in Merritt. The meeting was excellent: great speakers and field trips and a fun time for all. Two KNC members received special recognition at this year's meeting: Gary Hunt received a BC Nature Regional award, and Jesse Ritcey was recognized as a Nature Mentor, both well deserved.

June was also full of outdoor activity. To celebrate BC Trails day (June 7), Tom Dickinson and about 20 people (including 11 non-club members) spent about 2 hours walking along Scott Rd above the Juniper Ridge neighbourhood, in what is now an area owned by the BC Parks Foundation (see discussion of this below). The annual (there it is again—it IS comforting to know the same things are going to happen each year...) Ralph Ritcey Big Bird Day. Gosh, I think South won again, despite some nocturnal work by Team North. We held the Club's June Picnic on the 16th, on a newly protected (and not generally open to the public) piece of grassland property owned by Nature Conservancy of Canada. NCC Interior Program Director, Danielle Cross was our guide for a short walk, which was followed by a lovely picnic. On June 22 there was another Juniper Ridge "neighbourhood walk" and on the 29th it was a walk in the Pineridge Neighbourhood: "Turtles, Butterflies and Birds—A Python Lake Walkabout" with Bill Gilroy. Our hiking and meeting summer hiatus started after the annual trip up Greenstone Mountain on July 6.



Northern Flicker, Photo: J. Ritcey

We were back at it in September, celebrating BC Rivers Day on the 28th with the fall version of our adopt-a-road clean up. With a Rivers Day grant from the ORCBC, we purchased a club set of shovels, and added to the native plants going in around the Tranquille pond parking lot. Unexpected events conspired to force cancellation of some other fall events, and our “outdoor” activities ended with the Christmas Bird Count (CBC)—which is “annual” for groups across North America, not just for KNC. Thanks again are due to **Glenn Dreger** for organizing the teams and writing a report—published in KNC’s Winter Newsletter and submitted to the central CBC data collators.

And what of our indoor activities? There were lots of those as well, starting with the club AGM (where we elected the board again, including our amazing new secretary, Becky Monroe). From February to May we then met the third Thursday of every month, hearing talks on; TRU’s Green Roof project (Sandra Jasinowski and Darryl Carlyle-Moses), effects of the Site C Dam on Bank Swallows (Jaqueline Schoen), success in controlling Reed Canary Grass at Tranquille Pond (Catherine Tarasoff) and about birding is for everyone—diversity, equity and inclusion in the birding world (Nancy Flood). In the fall “term” we heard about the importance of trees in Wells Gray Park (from two TRU Grad students, Cristhina Florez and Andrea Patino), on how the Nature Conservancy and other organizations work to conserve land in B.C. (Danielle Cross) and on a wide variety of topics—those studied by a few of the MSc. students currently at TRU. Then of course, it was time for the Christmas social, featuring one of Frank Ritcey’s quizzes. This year’s quiz was designed to test the “well-roundedness” of naturalists, and it was devilishly hard. Although we were all great at identifying species of plants and animals, we were less than expert on the questions relating these species to literature or pop culture!

But there was so much more than just meetings and field trips! We did much more public interaction this year, having display tables set up (with cool stuff and quizzes, book marks and pamphlets) at various events including the Pine Park Pink Palooza in September, various Christmas markets in December, and for 4 evenings in that month, the Wildlights festival at the Wildlife Park. Eighteen KNCers braved the cold to stand at tables, share their excitement and their knowledge about nature, and promote the club with about 300 visitors. Thanks to Amanda Bond for organizing this. And of course, over all these events, we reached many more. Presentations about KNC (e.g. to the Kamloops Retired Teachers Association) and/or by members representing KNC (e.g., at the Thrive Conference and the Grassland Conservation Microconference also increase our visibility in the community—so we did that too!

And of course, our brilliant program manager, Jesse Ritcey managed to receive funding from various sources throughout the year to fund projects and employ people in various ways—as experts, or to plant, or help on Kamloops Immigrant Services trips/walks for kids, etc. All of these activities which increase KNC’s impact and benefit our community, as well as nature.

We also participated in a lot of conservation projects, in addition to our clean ups. For example, In February, we joined with other local groups trying to raise enough funds to help the BC Parks Foundation purchase 209 hectares of private land above Juniper Ridge. KNC itself—and many of you individually –contributed generously, and by the deadline of March 31, the goal of 5 million dollars had been achieved and the land was purchased to be protected from development. Study is currently underway for how this area—mainly grassland—will be managed, and KNC has stepped up to help.

In summer we worked on the 3rd and final year of a project designed to enhance habitat and help protect species at risk (like Spadefoots) in the Off Road Vehicle Area of Lac Du Bois. Partnering with the Four Wheel Drive Association of BC, we had funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada that allowed us to fence some ponds, put signage and even construct a pond for spadefoots, installing a liner and planting native grasses and forbs.

On October 4-5 working with several other partners (BCWF, Agrowest Consulting Scientists, BC Conservation Foundation, and BC Parks) KNC hosted a Wetlands Restoration Workshop at Tranquille Pond. In addition to learning, it involved a lot of work, lifting some of the barrier put down to control Reed Canary Grass, planting more than 1,000 native grasses and forbs where the barrier had been lifted, and weeding in the area that had been planted in previous years. It looks like this project is successful and at least partial control of Red Canary Grass is possible. Later that month, we again shared (this time with DFO and BCCF) in another workshop, led by Leaf Ninjas, a company that uses nature-based solutions to solve problems. In this case the issue goal was stabilization of and restoration of riparian habitat along Tranquille Creek in the Pine Park area, installing bundles of willow staves to reduce bank erosion. Again, both learning and work was involved in the hope we

can do more of this in the future. And of course, throughout the year we partnered with many groups in town (e.g., Transition Kamloops, the Kamloops Policy Council, the bike coalition) to advocate for things that we know will directly or indirectly protect nature--like improved public transit, encouraging biking, caring for parks, etc.

Special thanks this year goes to **Alan Vyse**, for ensuring **Karen Willies'** KNC legacy—at the celebration of life for Karen and Gordon and by organizing the sale by donation of numerous books and works of art belonging to Karen and Gordon. Not only has KNC benefitted financially, but many members now have new opportunities to learn or enjoy—and remember Karen at the same time.

This is my eighth and final annual review as president of KNC. It has been my great honour to work with so many knowledgeable and dedicated people who are passionate about nature—only a very few of whom I have been able to acknowledge here by name. Thank you, thank you to all of you; I am enormously proud of our work, our collaborations, our attitude! Finally, welcome—and many thanks—to **Diane McKelvey** for taking over. Please be as good to her as you have been to me! 🍷

Lillooet Naturalist Society

Submitted by Geoff Playfair

Winter		Spring	
EVENT		EVENT	
Yalakom Bird Count	Jan. 3	Pitch in Week	April 22-28
Directors' meeting	Jan.19	Trail maintenance	Ongoing
Annual General Meeting	Feb. 23	Outdoor Class Support	May
Society Report Submitted	March	BC Nature AGM Merritt	May
Membership/Pay BC Nature dues	March	LRISS AGM	May 7
Provide report to BC Nature	VBJ	Osprey Cam	May/June
Outdoor Class Support	February	Bluebird nest box outings	May/June
Summer		Autumn	
EVENT		EVENT	
Walking with Smolts – 400 kids	June	Nature Kids, Monthly	Oct/Nov/Dec
Director's Meeting	June 8	Papt Ku Gwenis Presentation	Sept. 20
Birding Walk	June 8	Shoreline cleanup	Rivers' Day, Sep. 21
Invasive Weed Removal(s)		UBC Forestry Field Trip	Sept. 26
Garden Tours Support	Hrs. reported-LRISS	Letter of Support-Bat Program	FWCP
BC Bluebird Provincial AGM	July-August	Directors' meeting	Nov. 16
Birds Canada Black Swift Survey	Christine	2025 Christmas Bird Count	Dec. 26
Birds Canada Black Swift Survey	June	Papt Ku Gwenis Counts	Nov 22/23
Lion's Trail – Maintain/approval	Ongoing	2025 Christmas Bird Count	Dec. 26
YEAR ROUND		OTHER EVENTS/ ACTIVIES	
Finances	Christina	Bat Research Support/BC Bats	Vivian
Sales Hiking Guide	VBJ	Chamber membership	Colin
Membership	Christina	Code of Ethics/Conduct	Directors
Web site	MJ	Bluebird nest box work	Seasonal outings
Observe and report	eBird, BC Bat, iNat.	Trail maintenance/ advocacy/coordination	West Fraser, Lions Downton,
Weekly Newsletters	Geoff	LRISS Support	Ongoing

Groups that we support and liaise with include: BC Nature, Coast to Cascades Grizzly Bear Initiative, Splitrock, Lillooet Regional Invasive Species Society, Yalakom Ecological Society, Lillooet Agricultural Food Society, Lillooet Offroad Cycling Association, Lillooet Area Library Association, Whitebark Pine Foundation of Canada, local First Nations, local wildfire service, Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program, Nature Conservancy of Canada (lands for conservation), BC Bats, Nature Canada, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Outdoor Research Council of BC, BC Parks, MFLNRORD, Lillooet Chamber, Rivershed Society of BC, biologists, local school teachers and researchers. 🌱

Nicola Naturalist Society

Submitted by Alan Burger, President Nicola Naturalists

The big event in 2025 for our club was to host the BC Nature annual AGM Conference in Merritt, May 22-25. With 185 registrants and multiple events to plan this was a huge undertaking for our club, but many members stepped up and we were pleased to have a very successful event. Many participants on our field outings were pleasantly surprised to experience for the first time the rich diversity of wildlife and nature in the Nicola Valley.

Our membership remains stable at around 80 members.



White Pelicans, Photo: A. Burger

Monthly club meetings were well attended: AGM and Members' Photo Night in September; Nancy von Wagoner – Volcanism in our backyard and its impacts in October; Selena Carl – Tracking salmon in the Okanagan River system with acoustic telemetry in November; Ellen Simmons – Indigenous knowledge, Ki?lawna? (Grizzly Bear), seeing the landscape differently in January; Dawn Brodie & Loretta Holmes – Tracking Burrowing Owls in February; Rabeya Shikdar Orpa – Reclamation of native plant communities at mine sites in March; Jay Ackerley – Gardening with native plant species in April; and Tory Hartley – Research on the threatened Williamson's Sapsucker in May. At all evening meetings, a highly-anticipated section is "Nature News" where we share members' photos and sightings of local wildlife, wildflowers and scenery.

In September we also hosted Lori Weidenhammer speaking about Bees, Butterflies, and Botany at the Merritt Library. In January we took our wildlife skull quiz display to the annual Family Playground run by the Merritt Literacy group. In collaboration with the Merritt NatureKids Club we ran a Christmas Bird Count for Kids in January, the fifth such event for our joint clubs. Eagles, ducks and doves were the main attractions and the kids had fun using spotting scopes and binoculars.

Field outings led by our members included; Learn about Lichens with Christine Rimmington and Geology and Mining with Gerry Sanford in the fall. In February we did our traditional Snow Bunting Shiver winter outing to the Douglas Lake grasslands. No buntings this year but we did find two Horned Larks.

Our club ran the Merritt Christmas Bird Count and members participated in several other local CBCs. Members monitored bluebird boxes and did surveys for owls and nightjars.

We continue to provide a \$1000 **bursary** to a student in the Environmental Resources Technology Program at the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology in Merritt. This year's recipient is Snow Diablo.

In 2025 our club received a Club Support Grant from BC Nature and the BC Naturalists' Foundation and a grant from BC Field Ornithologists to do a second year of daily surveys for Sandhill Cranes on their spring migration on the Douglas Lake Plateau. The funding allowed us to hire a contractor, Opal Charters, who lives on the Upper



Sharp-tailed Grouse, Photo: L Holmes



Sandhill Cranes, Photo: L. Cleaveley

Nicola First Nations Reserve, which is within our study area. She did the week-day surveys and our club volunteers covered the weekends. We tallied 18,715 cranes and obtained important information on the timing and locations of their stop-overs. Detailed reports and photos from this project are on our club website and a research paper covering our multi-year surveys was published in the journal *British Columbia Birds*.

Our second major project is focused on Great Basin Spadefoots. The grasslands around Merritt are one of the prime habitats for this little frog, listed as Threatened in Canada. With funding from an anonymous donor to BC Nature, our club completed a fourth year of surveys for the spadefoot. We monitor breeding activity using night-time

call-surveys with listening stations located 800 m apart along public roads. In May and June 2025 we sampled 57 listening stations on four survey routes and heard spadefoots calling at seven stations (12%). This is far fewer than in previous years and is due to the dry conditions, with several known breeding ponds drying up completely. We also deployed four automated sound recorders at known breeding ponds; analysis of these recordings is still in progress.

We have posted reports and photos of these activities on our club website: <http://www.nicolanaturalists.ca/> Please explore!📍

North Okanagan Naturalists Club (NONC)

Submitted by Eric Kowalski

Plans are in full swing for NONC's 75th Anniversary celebration, to be held on May 21st at the Coldstream Community Hall. Details will soon be posted at <https://nonc.ca/calendar>.

Membership: As of March 2026 we had approximately 125 memberships (individual and family) and we hope to see an increase in new members via our increased social media presence (as of March 2026, the NONC Facebook page has more than 4400 followers), continuing promotion of our Saturday morning nature walks and our continuing public advocacy as we respond to development threats to sensitive local ecosystems.

Public Education/Advocacy:

- we continue to work with other community organizations and individuals to fight the massive sprawl development proposed for the Commonage area south of Vernon (<https://climateactionnorthandokanagan.ca/activities/stop-580-commonage>).
- NONC was successful in convincing the regional district to alter plans for the soon to be established Rose's Pond Park to ensure more protection for this extremely environmentally- sensitive area, Pond should be a nature reserve, with no pets permitted.

Stewardship of the Swan Lake Nature Reserve (SLNR)

This continues to be a priority for our club. In the past year:

- installed 18 perching poles and 2 bat boxes and cleared out decades of old agricultural and other debris (with more left to clear this year!).
- continued to strategize restoration of larger areas of the nature reserve. This Spring, we are planning a particular focus on plantings of black cottonwood, once the most common but now most threatened of local ecosystems in our region.
- engaged in mud and water sampling of Swan Lake and lower BX Creek (which flows out of the lake) to see if we can determine causes of the death of apparently all of the beaver that had established themselves in lower BX Creek last year. We have been actively encouraging Beaver coexistence with consultation from Interior Wildlife Rehabilitation Society, including wrapping trees, and were devastated at the apparent loss of the beavers.
- requested Swan Lake be added to the BC Lake Stewardship Society's testing for three years and are waiting to see if the request gets approved.
- explored how we might expand habitat restoration effort to the Crane Road Nature Reserve which is also located on Swan Lake, a few kilometres north of the SLNR.

MOTUS tracking system:

It looks likely a unit will be installed on the roof of the Allan Brooks Nature Centre (ABNC) this year following advocacy and fundraising efforts by our two organizations. Motus is an international collaborative research network that uses automated radio telemetry to track the movement and behaviour of small animals, like birds, bats, and insects. Motus is a program of Birds Canada in partnership with collaborating researchers and organizations.

North Okanagan Watershed Stewards Program:

NONC has just launched the to focus attention and efforts on preservation/restoration of our local waterways. In particular, we're hoping the program will help our club support the long- term efforts of the Okanagan Nation Alliance to bring sockeye salmon back to the Okanagan Valley. This Fall should see the first return of the 8,000 sockeye fry that were released in Vernon Creek in 2023.

Other Ongoing Club Activities:

- Saturday Morning Nature Walks: Led weekly by club volunteers the walks attract anywhere from 8 to 24 participants, both NONC members and members of the general public.
- Nestbox Trail Project: Comparisons of Western Bluebird numbers since 2009 show that for nearly all the years until 2025, numbers of boxes used have remained constant with an average of 51 boxes per year. But comparisons of Mountain Bluebirds since 2009 show that after 2016 until present day, the numbers have dropped by half, with approximately 20 pairs nesting here (2009-2016), to a consistent 9 or 10 pairs between 2017 and 2024. This year was the lowest ever with only 4 pairs nesting. The overall increase in temperature in our area may be an important factor in them migrating further to where temperatures are cooler.
- Hummingbird Banding Project: (part of the Hummingbird Project of BC). NONC member Gail Loughridge received the BC Nature Education Award in 2025, recognizing her more than 20 years of leadership. The only certified bander in the North Okanagan area when she moved here in 2002, in 2007 she started to train interested members to help under her permit, to increase the numbers of hummers banded. Today banding continues at two sites, under the guidance of Louise Breneman, from May until the beginning of July, with 4 certified banders.
- Annual Christmas bird count (December 14th): 36 field observers and 12 birdfeeder observers racked up 98 species on count day, well above our average of 86 species but below last year's amazing 106 species. Rarely seen species this year include the Lesser Black-backed Gull, the Western Screech Owl, and Yellow-rumped Warbler.
- Annual swan and eagle count (January 18th): 176 Bald Eagles and 80 Trumpeter Swans counted.
- Western Painted Turtles: In 2025 we began a study of turtle nesting sites. This effort will continue in 2026 with professional evaluation of two locations where we might assist turtles to nest away from human activities.
- North Okanagan Environmental Collective (NOEC): NONC continues to coordinate these meetings of approximately a dozen environmental and outdoor recreation-focused groups, which we initiated in 2023, to share information and explore possibilities for closer collaboration on issues of joint concern. Groups are collaborating on a "Scotch Thistle Blitz" for Earth Week this year.
- James Grant Award: Each year NONC contributes \$500 to the Entomological Society of BC for this Graduate Student Scholarship.
- Invasive plant control: working with partners such as ISBC, members of NOEC and other groups, we have tackled infestations of Yellow Flag Iris, Purple Loosestrife, Burdock, and Scotch Thistle. The lack of a coordinated effort to address invasive weed spread in the North Okanagan continues to be a serious and growing(!) issue.
- In April 2025, Henry James and Abby Godden provided approximately ½ dozen NONC volunteers with an overview and step-by-step guides for the BC Marsh Monitoring Program protocol developed by Birds Canada. NONC has started to monitor two lakes in our area, Swan Lake and Mud Lake. The monitors go out three times in the spring and early summer and survey the amphibian population. A survey is also done for the Marsh birds which takes place in May and June and is done on two different days. 📍

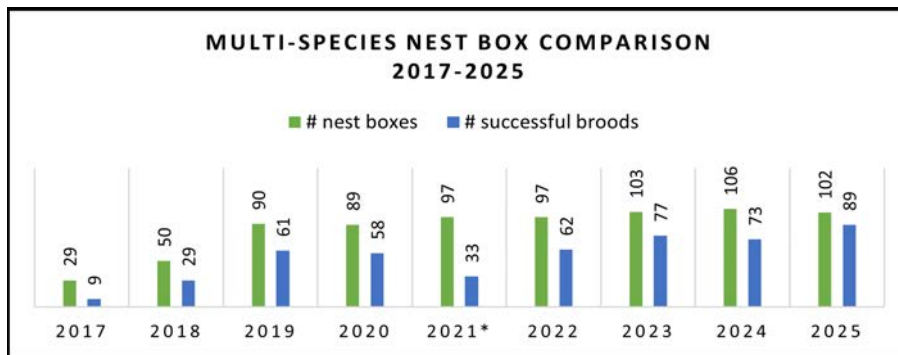
Shuswap Naturalists Club(SN)

Submitted by Dianne Wittner

Motus : Our new Motus tracking system has club members peering into the amazing world of bird movement! In 2025 we only had seven captures in our bay – comprising Hermit Thrush, Swainsons Thrush, and Bank Swallow – but following their flight paths across North and Central America has been incredible. What’s more, gaining familiarity with the Motus website is an exploratory gem all by itself. As a result, we’ve followed the movements of many individual birds – not just the ones traveling through Salmon Arm bay - from pole to pole. And one can’t help but follow the migration of those mind-blowing Monarchs. We strongly encourage clubs across B.C. to install a Motus station if they don’t already have one. There are geographical gaps in our province that need filling.

Nest Boxes

Banner Year for Nest Boxes Our nest boxes are primarily located around the bay though there are a few in an upper farming area within the city limits where Western bluebirds forage and breed. Since this project first grew legs in 2019 - thanks to a grant from the BC Nature Foundation - we’ve been very pleased with its success. 2021 was a terrible year due to the double whammy of heat dome and vandalism but every other year has been great. 2025 topped them all in terms of swallow broods though there were fewer species using the boxes. Our 100+ boxes include housing for owls, woodpeckers, ducks, and songbirds.



The summer of 2025 wasn’t quite as hot or as dry as the previous two summers, which might have meant a better year for flying insects, hence the swallow proliferation. We don’t know for sure if that’s the reason for the successful season or of if it’s simply a matter of an increased swallow population. The foreshore trail attracts a lot of pedestrian traffic which has led to significant interest

among folks wanting nest boxes at home. One example is a teacher at an elementary school who started a nest box program with Grade 3-5 students. Working with a club mentor, the children built and painted twenty boxes, then placed them in a green space on the eastern edge of town. Each box had data sheets which the students had to learn how to complete. At the end of the season, they cleaned out each box and recorded results. Though the occupancy rate was low this first year, it was fun to watch the wide-eyed shouts when they opened a box to find a nest, especially when there was an egg left behind!

A non-profit organization called MakerSpace builds all our swallow and bluebird boxes and helped the students build their own. Staff at MakerSpace continue to offer their boxes to the public at low cost. In this way, we ensure folks are buying quality housing for the birds.

Christmas Bird Count (report by John Woods, condensed for this publication)

With temperatures slightly above zero, light winds and little snow, 35 observers, including both club members and guests, tallied nearly 8,000 birds on December 15th. Not surprisingly, the 411 Black-capped Chickadee tally topped the list as the most frequently seen species, followed closely by House Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Song Sparrow, American Robin, and Mallard. Given the mild conditions, it also wasn’t a surprise to count 1,618 Canada Geese spending the early winter feeding on snow-free farm fields and commuting to the ice-free lake.

Reports of rare birds are always a highlight of these ‘roundups’. The observation of a Yellow-billed Loon on Shuswap Lake added a wonderful contribution to our CBC results. Owls are always show-stoppers and it was delightful to hear that one group spotted both a Great Grey and a Northern Pygmy owl!

In addition to 67 species observed on count day, the CBC makes note of any additional species seen three days before or after the official count day. This year “count week” species included 10 additions including another species of owl—the Short-eared - bringing the total species count to 77.

Fire Mitigation in Urban Woodland Parks: an ongoing multi-year issue

One of our urban forest parks was ‘fire mitigated’ in the spring of 2025. Yes, during nesting season! In this 39-hectare park, vegetation was cleared from a slope above a pond that is active with ducks and frogs. Furthermore, after the cutting was finished, the resulting brush piles – more than 100 of them – were stacked for burning, which was done later in the fall. It is likely those brush piles harbored small animals and cached food. As a result of the mitigation procedures used, you can now see for long distances in this ‘forested’ park due to the lack of understory.

We learned the city has no say in mitigation procedures though they can decide when the work is done. Municipalities apply for a grant to UBCM. UBCM grants the funds on the condition that the methods used follow a prescription dictated by BCWFS which is a one-size-fits-all approach. Very devastating for an urban environment with little consideration given to wildlife or park users. However, for the time being, our club has decided to stop fighting this one as it only alienates city personnel, with whom we have had a long-lasting and mutually beneficial partnership. Time will tell...

Larch hills Interpretive Trail

This project is now in its 3rd year and is nearing completion of Phase I. It has been a huge task for a dedicated team of volunteers. They’ve had to find original photos, conduct research, and collaborate with multiple stakeholders. As of this writing, forty signs are slated for printing. More are going through the editing and design process. We plan to erect the first set along the 2.5-kilometer-long trail this summer.

Salmon Arm Climate Resiliency Plan - Steering Committee

Two of our members sat on this community-based and city-sponsored committee throughout 2025. The group consisted of locals with expertise in Public Health, Culture, Transportation, Housing, Economy, and Environment. Our mission was to characterize Salmon Arm’s current state of vulnerability to climate related hazards unique to our area. Then we ranked the risks according to their priorities and tried to devise strategies to mitigate and prepare. The list was exceptionally long and included risks such as flooding, loss of biodiversity, loss of tourism, drought, fire, reduced air and water quality, and health risks to seniors and low-income families. A public survey was developed from the workshops’ findings. The results of the survey and ‘next steps’ will take place in 2026. The sharing of knowledge by many brains meant education for all participants with hopes resting on the implementation of an effective strategy by the city.

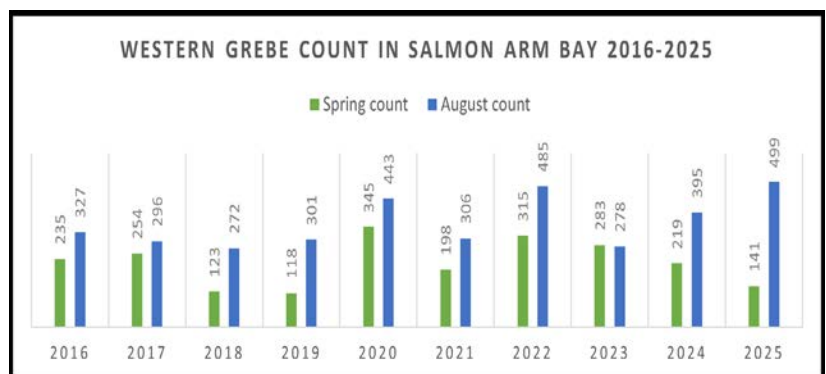
Post-Secondary Student Bursary

Alison Waterhouse, a Natural Resources Science student at TRU, is 2025’s recipient of our club award. Alison received \$1539.00.

Western Grebe Report

It was a banner year for Western Grebes in 2025. Of the multiple data sets compiled each year, the graph below illustrates just two of those, tabled for the past 10 yrs. 2025 started out a bit odd. In early spring, a casual birding trip to the wharf showed very high numbers – well over 500 - but migration was still in full force so it was too early to take a formal count. When the official count took place two weeks later, most seemed to have disappeared though

we suspected the birds were hidden on nests somewhere in the bay. Once the young hatched and took to open water, they were everywhere! This has happened before, which is why we suspect there is a secret nesting place yet to be discovered. There are a few areas of wetlands that cannot be seen by a spotting scope, nor accessed by boat. The good news is that the secret spot clearly exists, the bad news is we don’t know where it is and can’t protect it. Some would argue we leave the secret alone but with a new walking trail planned right in the path of our ‘suspicious’ location, we’d like to pursue this further.



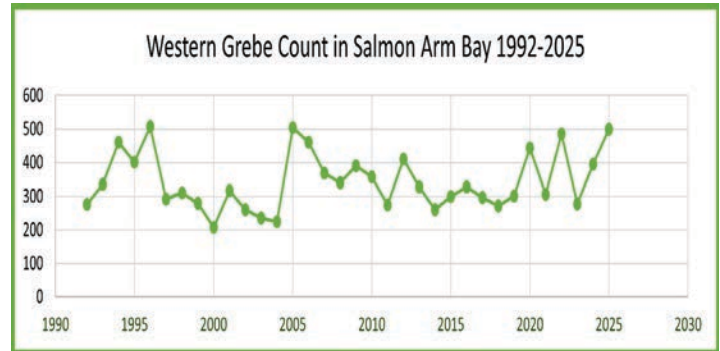
Recently, I took historic tallies even further back by graphing three and a half decades of Western grebe peak populations gathered by club members. The table below is the interesting result.

Outreach

Special and Annual Events

Like most BC Nature clubs, we filled the year with our usual array of regular activities. For brevity's sake, they are listed below.

- Invasive species weed pull
- Farmer's Market booth for Earth Day & Climate Action Day
- Birding and tree planting with Nature Kids
- 'Birding for Families' events
- Nature walks with participants from Shuswap Immigrant Services
- History of the club and related archives stored to the cloud
- Weekly and bi-weekly outings for seven months of the year 📍



South Okanagan Naturalists' Club (SONC)

Submitted by Alex Bodden

The South Okanagan Naturalists' club Society (SONC) had another great year. The club is currently sitting at 133 individual members, many of whom are active in several conservation related activities within and outside of the club. SONC continues to meet once a month, except in the summer, enjoying club photo presentations, sharing experiences and learning from guest speakers. We also go out socially for a "dining out" a few times a year with an average attendance of about 25.

Our weekly outings continue to be popular, and a subgroup of club photographers is starting to have special outings to share and learn. We introduced a PowerPoint presentation at every meeting that has proven to be popular. Our annual Douglas Lake trip at the start of May had 24 participants and we were able to observe a total of 68 species of birds and enjoy many other experiences that this area offers.

The club members continue to be active in various projects and activities in the area. Work to complete an iNaturalists bioblitz to support the protection of at the Old Fairview Townsite near Olver continues. Several members assisted at the Vaseux Lake bird observatory during the banding season by helping set up and take down the site, acting as scribes and doing daily censuses. The club also purchased two new nets for the banding station.

Several members took part in citizen science activities directly related to birds. These included participating in eBird big bird days, organizing or counting for four local Christmas Bird counts, assisting with the Swan and Eagle count in January, and doing Owl and Nightjar counts for Birds Canada.

Club members also assisted the Friends of the Penticton Oxbows Society by doing monthly bird and turtle surveys, and they now have 11 years of data to support their advocacy of this valuable conservation asset. Some of our members have taken over the "Bluebird Trail" in the White Lake basin and have about 40 boxes in place.

SONC members participated in the annual Meadowlark Nature Festival organized by the Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Alliance as volunteers or guides for many of tours. Some members participated in the Okanagan Bird Day challenge, walking, cycling or sitting to find as many species of birds as possible in friendly competition, as participants in the Great Canadian Birdathon, and raising funds for the Vaseux Lake Bird observatory <https://dickcannings.com/okanagan-big-day-challenge/>.

SONC has just received notice of funding from the BC Nature Foundation for the second year of Hummingbird banding at locations owned by two of our club members. It is hoped that this will lead to one of two trained banders to take over this long running program. One of these properties (Marron River Grasslands) has just been obtained by The Nature Trust of BC, and the club and some members have donated towards this acquisition.

SONC has done some outreach this year. Two presentations were made to about 60 people for the South

Okanagan Similkameen Community Connections Volunteer Centre focusing on local birds, and bird houses. We were again asked to lead two groups for a birding outing during senior's week, which were well attended. SONC members also organized and led two Christmas Bird Counts for Kids in partnership with the Lions and Rotary clubs.

SONC also worked with the BC Nature Municipal Protected Areas Project team to advocate and identify five areas within Penticton that are being considered for inclusion. This included guiding a group of twenty artists involved in the CPAWS-BC led Artvovacy outreach project at one of the sites.

Many SONC members participated in the City of Penticton public input phase for the development of the Penticton Marina/Esplanade Trails Park area. This has been a long-term project with many competing interests; however, it does appear that the natural area will be maintained as it is and hopefully will be enhanced to limit access. This is one of the areas identified in the Municipal Protected Areas project.

The club has also provided written comment on the Bill M216 the Provincial Professional Reliance Act and to the Regional District after some very poorly done brush clearing was done along a popular birding roadway.

One of the highlights for SONC members was participation in the replanting of the area affected by the construction of the salmon bypass tunnel at the Penticton band undertaken by the Okanagan Nation Alliance. This two day event had tremendous public support and the turnout was amazing.

Many of our members participate as volunteers or leaders in conservation and environmental projects led by other organizations the community and we all continue to enjoy and learn from nature. ☺

Vermilion Forks Field Naturalists(VFFN)

Submitted by Donna Hills

Vermilion Forks Field Naturalists continue our outings every two weeks, mainly walks or hikes this year due to the low snowfall, though we did have a few snowshoe outings, just not as many as previous years. We have had some new members joining our outings, which has prompted John to request a frequent member to assist with keeping everyone together. We have yet to lose anyone, though we have had to retrace the route to retrieve walking sticks or cleats. Mary does a wonderful job doing a writeup of the outing and points of interest that were enjoyed.

The work at Swan Lake still has seen no further progress from the Town of Princeton and change in status to Reserve designation.

Princeton Secondary School's wood working class, when asked, built numerous Blue Bird boxes. Which we were able to use to replace some that had been damaged or to add to the nesting spots at Swan Lake as well as at Cormack Marsh. The bird houses were put up in the fall, in anticipation of this spring's nesting season.

Earth Day clean up at Cormack Marsh will be held April 25th, with John Henry coordinating the clean up and volunteers. Johanna was able to plant more native species at the Marsh, after mothering them all summer, in hopes of better survival after the hot and dry summers we have been having. It has been very nice to see that the area is slowly coming back after many years of misuse. There will be a bench installed this spring, dedicated to Doug Rebagliti, a long time VFFN member who passed away Dec 2025.

The Christmas Bird Count was held in December, with 40 species being counted.

This year VFFN will again participate in the Meadowlark Festival. John will be leading two hikes, which he is currently sourcing out the most interesting of places that Princeton has to offer.

Our quarterly *Harlequin Newsletter* highlights upcoming events and interesting facts. ☺

Vancouver Island



Regional Coordinator - Brian Wilkes

No Report:

Greig Greenway Society

Rithet's Bog

The Hamilton Wetlands and Forest Preservation Society

Alberni Valley Nature Club (AVN)

Submitted by Judy Carlson

This report covers the period from March 2025 to February 2026

Membership Active members (Active= members who come to most meetings) approximately 10

Projects undertaken this year:

- Broom busting and trail clearing, on Ducks Unlimited Property
- Invasive Ivy Pulling along Kitsuksis Dyke pathway
- Kitsuksis Ivy Pull with Chautauqua group
- Swallow box maintenance and put up 3 more

Speakers at Meetings:

- A speaker who is an amateur diver showed pictures of marine life at the China Creek Estuary.
- Speaker from Sproat Lake Woodlands Society spoke about working with Mosaic Forest Management about maintaining recreational opportunities on their private lands
- Slide show about nature around Broome, Australia given by Penny Hall

Field trips:

- Trips to see Herring Spawn, birds, seals and sea lions at Qualicum Beach
- Birding Trips to Somass Estuary, Sproat lake Provincial Park, Devil's Den Lake on Saturday Mornings
- We participate in monthly surveys of Ducks Unlimited Property and entering findings in their application and bird observations in *eBird*
- **Promotion & Fundraising:** Seedy Saturday Fundraiser Partnered in Transition Town's Garage Sale to raise funds
- Attended Rivers Day with info table

Miscellaneous:

- Maintaining a website, <https://alberniavalleynatureclub.com/>.
- We participate by sitting on a Regional District public advisory committee regarding Parks and Recreation

Ambitions:

- Increase our membership
- Find more people with nature knowledge and expertise to share.
- Increase the attendance at meetings.
- Find more speakers for meetings. ☺

Arrowsmith Naturalists (ANATS)

Submitted by Jasmine Tomczyk

2025 was an engaging and event-filled year for the Arrowsmith Naturalists, which included many outings, events, stewardship activities, educational monthly meetings, and the wrap-up of one study and the beginning of another.

Outings 2025

- On August 6, 2025; Terry Taylor led a walk that he described as "not a hike-- an in-depth exploration at a slow pace," in the French Creek Estuary Nature Preserve.
- July 24, 2025: ANATS hosted their annual picnic at Rath Trevor Beach.
- August 13, 2025: Tom Whitfield, President of the Brown Property Preservation Society, led ANats on an in-depth tour of this local gem.
- September 11, 2025: A visit to the Wildwood Ecoforest. This outing gave ANats the opportunity to see a

forest that has been sustainably managed for approximately 80 years.

- September 17, 2025 - Dianne Anderson, led ANATS on an outing to Helliwell Provincial Park on Hornby Island
- October 9, 2025; Toni and Ron Wyckhoff led a walk in Sayshatshun (Newcastle Island).
- October 15, 2025; Liz and Jim Thorne led a walk in Roberts Creek Memorial Park.\
- October 22, 2025; As a warm-up for the annual Mushroom Festival, Terry Taylor led a walk at the Big Qualicum Fish Hatchery
- November 17, 2025; David Helem led a walk in Hemer Provincial Park in south Nanaimo

Outreach

ANATS held to set up and organize, or attend with a booth and activities, many events throughout 2025!

- February 1, 2026 – Seedy Saturday – Qualicum Beach Civic Center
- February 3, 2026 – Family Day – Games Table at Coombs Event
- March 13 - Children’s Brant Festival
- April 6 - Brant Festival - Brant in the Bay
- April 10 - 13 , 2026 - Brant Festival – Brant in the Bay; Birding lessons; Estuary tours
- May – Mothers Day – Hamilton Marsh Tour
- July 4, 2026 Sunday – Beach Day at QB
- October 26, 2026 - Annual Mushroom and Nature Festival

Stewardship

French Creek Estuary Nature Preserve - invasive species removal, pond upgrade, planting and seeding native plants, watering restoration areas during the summer months sheet mulching areas to keep invasive species growth down

Englishman River Estuary -Invasive species removal, seeding, spreading mulch, and planting native plants

Monthly Meetings

General meeting every month, excluding August, with many fantastic and educational speakers!

Surveys/Monitoring

- A reptile survey was undertaken and completed at the French Creek Estuary Nature Preserve throughout the warmer months
- An amphibian survey was started and is ongoing from November 2025 to Summer 2026
- The Christmas bird count was undertaken by many A-Nat’s to help contribute to the tracking and research of bird numbers and species in winter ☺

Comox Valley Naturalists Society (CVN)

Submitted by Warren Michelow

“To know nature, and keep it worth knowing”

Our website at <https://cvnature.ca> is regularly updated with news and information about our events, activities and projects and is the best source for the most up-to-date information. The report below covers the period April 2025 to March 2026 and has a selection of our activities.



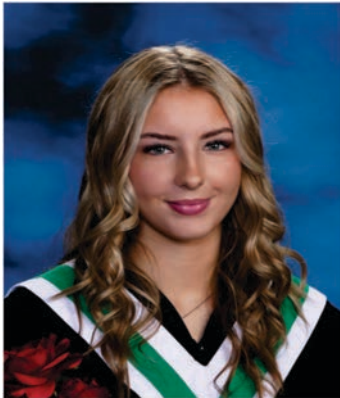
Highlights

- We finalised our new logo, shown here (right)
- Our membership continues to grow and we currently have 274 paid members as of the end of March 2026.
- Our general meetings occur monthly from September to May and have been well attended – we regularly have 90+ members and guests in attendance to hear the presentations from our interesting speakers – recordings of the talks are available at <https://cvnature.ca/category/guest-speakers/>.
- Our board meets monthly through the year.
- We continue to produce three newsletters annually and have active social media on Facebook and Instagram. In the past year our newsletters have featured extensive project updates and in-depth articles on

the numerous bee species found at the Airpark—one of our active restoration sites—and Northwestern Salamanders of Maple Lake (June 2025); the biodiversity of Strathcona Provincial Park (November 2025), and microbial mats and evolutionary Snow Lichens (March 2026). Newsletters from current back to 2011 can be downloaded from <https://cvnature.ca/newsletter/>.



Trumpeter Swans



Madison Hamilton

CV Nature Bursary 2025

The CVN Bursary for environment-related post-secondary studies is awarded to a deserving Grade 12 graduate from School District 71 each year.

This year's recipient is Madison Hamilton, a graduate of Georges P. Vanier Secondary School. Madison, her plans are to attend St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia to pursue a Bachelor of Science Degree, with a focus on aquatic resources.

Madison admires CVN's work to protect natural habitats, support biodiversity, and advocate for sustainable environmental practices. She believes grassroots initiatives with collaboration among researchers and community members are essential for creating long-lasting change. She hopes to work with CVN in the future to support our initiatives to protect and restore the natural environment.

Charles Brandt Memorial Research Grant

Father Charles Brandt passed away October 25, 2020. In his will, Father Brandt made generous gifts to the various environmental organizations in the Comox Valley and Strathcona area with the intent that the funds will be used to perpetuate his memory by undertaking or supporting environmental causes dear to Father Brandt's heart.

Brandt committee member, John Neilson, helped organized a lecture series to honour Charles Brandt with generous funding from the Pacific Salmon Foundation. The inaugural lecture program was presented on March 8, 2026 in Courtenay. Kathryn Jones had a long association with Charles Brandt and gave an overview of his life as well as acted as master of ceremonies for the event. Will Duguid of the Pacific Salmon Foundation gave an overview of the state-of-salmon report. Eric Angel, general manager of Salmon Parks, gave a summary of the indigenous-led conservation initiative to protect wild salmon.

For an enduring legacy to honour Charles Brandt, CVN decided to establish an annual \$5,000 research grant for Honours or Graduate-level research on environmental science projects in the North Island. In the Fall of 2025, CVN advertised through Biology and Earth Sciences departments across Canada to establish a network of contacts and work with a large variety of universities. The "Brandt Memorial Research Grant" offers the grant to prospective candidates for research projects on the North Island. Six applications were received and the inaugural award was presented in March 2026 to Sophie Johnston, a PhD student at UBC. Her proposal "The effects of ocean acidification on marine communities in Johnstone Strait, British Columbia" will use the limpet grazing system to study how ocean acidification shapes intertidal communities in the Johnstone Strait, a deep, narrow channel on the Northeast coast of Vancouver Island characterized by turbulent, acidic (low pH) waters.

Birding Group

The Birding Group meets twice a year and have weekly bird walks to enjoy bird watching and improve bird identification skills. CVN conducts or participates in numerous formal bird counts, including:

- Comox Christmas Bird Count (CBC)
- Comox Spring count
- Deep Bay CBC
- Pelagic CBC (on the ferry to Powell River)
- Weekly Trumpeter Swan counts in winter. Swan count is in its 38th season; 14 teams count from October to March; this year the count peaked at approximately 1,000 swans.

Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) program: Comox Valley is one of the most significant areas for wintering and migratory waterfowl and waterbirds in British Columbia and is very fortunate in having the Globally Significant K'omoks IBA on its doorstep. View: IBA Site <https://www.ibacanada.com/site.jsp?siteID=BC272>.

Wetlands Restoration Group

CVN Wetlands Restoration group projects include stewardship activities at Little River Nature Park from April to July, Courtenay Rotary Trail from Sept to March and year-round at the Courtenay Airpark. Stewardship involves the identification and documentation of native and invasive species and removal of invasive species. We also administer a Comox Valley Regional District contract to remove invasive species in six areas of the Comox Valley.



Map of the Courtenay Airpark

Sunflower, Gumweed, Yarrow and California Poppy. Plant identification signage installed in 2012 and 2019 was replaced and 23 new signs and posts were funded by the City of Courtenay and installed by CVN volunteers this year.

Vanier Nature Park Garry Oak Restoration Project

This project is an initiative started by CVN in 2019 to protect and promote a rare example of a wetland Garry Oak ecosystem that is endangered in Courtenay's Vanier Nature Park. This year 12 regulars and 40 other people attended work parties contributing a total of 368 volunteer hours. Four well-attended public walks were held in May and October and give us an opportunity to explain the project goals and educate the public on the rarity, history and importance of the Garry Oak ecosystem. In September an arborist was consulted to carry out another session of conifer reduction to increase light available to the Garry Oaks. Many work parties removed invasive plants such as ivy, holly and sweet cherry, etc. At the end of October, we submitted our annual report to the City of Courtenay, as required in our MOU.

We consulted with Tal Engel of Wolfree Integrated Forest Rehabilitation to develop a plan to enhance the soil in the grove using his methods of creating assembled nurse logs and adding arbor chips, soil biology inoculates, fungi, and mycorrhizae. BC Nature made this work possible through a generous grant.

More public outreach to the Comox Valley Horticultural Society included a discussion of using Garry Oak ecosystem plants to enhance backyard gardening; as well as leading botany walks for a class of grade six students from Lake Trail school in late November and four tours with students from the Explore program at Georges P. Vanier high school.

Active work in the grove was suspended in early March because of bird nesting season and will resume later in the year. Project reports and further information can be found at <https://cvnature.ca/vanier-forest-garry-oaks-project/>.

Public Nature Walks

Goal: To increase public outreach for CVN by offering a variety of nature walks, utilizing the expertise and knowledge of CVN members as leaders.



Our restoration team

Our CVN Education and Outreach team travels to eight community events every year to promote what activities are available for naturalists within CVN, to share resources about the values of and threats to native ecosystems as well as to educate and advocate for respectful human co-existence with nature. We also respond to landowner and resident requests for naturalist information.

This year the Airpark group focussed on removing Common Tansy *Tanacetum vulgare*, an invasive plant that spreads by rhizomes, however seeding with a native plant mix in cleared areas suffered from destruction of germinating material likely by migrating birds and non-native rabbits. Subsequent protection by fencing led to more successful establishment of Lupin, Woolly



The Vanier Restoration Team

By offering these free walks primarily on weekends and promoting them on social media, it was intended to attract younger non-members. A total of seven walks were offered between April and June 2025; including two airpark walks, two geology walks, Little River Nature Park Walk, Native Bees and Pollinator Walk, and a birding and nature walk.

Very special thanks to the members Kathie Woodley, Bob Hauser, Karen Cummins, Bonnie Zand, Bruce Moffat, Kelly Kline, and Roger Beardmore who expertly led these walks. Thanks also to Lynn Gray and Linda Cheu who volunteered as walk “sweeps”. Very special thanks also to Eloise Holland and David Orford who made the promotion and registration process happen.

As a result, 102 people participated of which 72 were non-members, and donations totalling \$135 were received. The walks were a great success in attracting non-members and educating the public.

Marine & Shoreline Group

Thanks to Yvette Crane and Mary Mitchell. Five “sold out” events took place this past year involving guided site visits. Willow Reef Point was very popular destination and data of flora and fauna sightings was kept. Other events brought members and the public to the Quinsam River Hatchery, Little River, an estuary tour with Dan Bowen and a shoreline geology event.

Our Trees of the Year, Botany and Nature Photography groups, Outreach and Education program remain active – see our website for updates and more information. We continue to work enthusiastically with the Comox Valley Land Trust and the other 24 partners involved in the Comox Valley Conservation Partnership (CVCP). The CVCP is an alliance of 26 local environmental non-profit organizations, stewardship groups and local residents’ associations working collaboratively since 2008, to address shared environmental concerns. An important aspect of CVCP work is at the local government level to promote improvements to bylaws, regulations and strategic initiatives so that important conservation concerns can be taken into account. 🌿

Friends of Ecological Reserves (FoER)

Submitted by Harry Crosby

More than 50 years ago, the Government of British Columbia established the first Ecological Reserve System in Canada. The purpose of the system is to reserve tracts of Crown land for ecological purposes, including areas:

- 1) suitable for scientific research and educational purposes;
- 2) that are representative examples of natural ecosystems in British Columbia;
- 3) that serve as examples of ecosystems that have been modified by human beings and offer an opportunity to study the recovery of the ecosystem;
- 4) areas to support preservation of rare or endangered native plants and animals; and
- 5) areas that contain unique and rare examples of botanical, zoological or geological phenomena.

Friends of Ecological Reserves (FER) was formed to support the B.C. Ecological Reserves System.

In 2021, FER completed a Gap Analysis Report and submitted it to the Parks Department of the BC Government. The report identified gaps in the management of the Ecological Reserve System, gaps in the representation of geoclimatic zones within the reserve system, threats to specific Ecological Reserves and the need for monitoring of each reserve.

Threats to our Ecological Reserve System include:

- 1) internal threats - such as forest health, climate change, alien species;
- 2) external threats such as recreational use, damage from roads, transmission lines and pipelines, the impact of urban and industrial development;
- 3) boundary issues and
- 4) fence maintenance issues

FER is concerned about a number of problems, in addition to the threats. The Ecological Reserve System will not be expanded without support for any additional reserves from first nations. Approval for stewardship projects to address threats are difficult to obtain. Research permits are difficult to obtain on a timely basis. There are difficulties recruiting wardens and obtaining approval of volunteer applications to become wardens. When wardens are appointed, because of privacy issues, FER has problems making contact with the new wardens.

FER is working with the Parks Department to develop a new model for protecting and supporting the Ecological Reserve System. The model will include some of the following features

- 1) Development of working relationships with BCN Clubs to support management of the Ecological Reserve System
- 2) Development of working relationships with Community Liaison Officers in the BC Parks Department
- 3) Meetings with wardens to discuss how to address identified problems related to specific reserves.

If you or your club would like to work with FER to support the formation of new Ecological Reserves and protection of the Ecological Reserve System, please contact the President, Harry Crosby at harry_crosby@telus.net ☎

Friends of Fairy Creek (FoFC)

Submitted by Royann Petrell and Michael Coon

Friends of Fairy Creek Society (FOFCS) seeks to preserve the breeding habitat of the threatened migratory Marbled Murrelet (MaMu) and other old-growth dependent species through two approaches: (1) filing a legal action to enforce/mandate compliance with the Migratory Birds Convention Act which prohibits the damage, dismantling or destruction of the MaMu nesting habitat (old-growth trees) and (2) field studies to identify, locate and report species present during prime reproduction seasons.

Our legal approach: FOFCS is a non-profit corporation and a federated club of BC Nature (Federation of British Columbia Naturalists). Our membership is comprised of biologists, ecologists, birders, and others, who are filing a court action seeking a court order to protect the critical nesting habitat of the Marbled Murrelet, a threatened seabird. The legal action seeks timely action by the federal Environment Ministry to enforce the Migratory Birds Treaty, the Migratory Birds Convention Act and Migratory Birds Regulations to preserve one of Canada's rarest and most valuable public resources: the old-growth trees that provide nesting habitat for the Marbled Murrelet and migratory old-growth dependent birds. The Marbled Murrelet does not build a nest. Rather, the tree is their nest, and when felled, the species risk extinction. * *BC Nature is not involved in legal action as described above*

Birders and Bioblitzers approach: Old Growth Birders and Bioblitzers (OGBB) are concerned with the 400 plus species that depend on old-growth forests for all or part of their life cycle. OGBB concentrate their efforts in areas where surveys have not been conducted or are not mandated before logging occurs, like crown forestry land. Last year, they made several surveying trips to Southwest Vancouver Island and the Tsitika watershed near Sayward. In addition, they recorded bird species for a local watershed group working toward preserving one of the last old-growth forests in the Comox Valley. OGBB participated in the first annual Marbled Murrelet Day in the Central Walbran along with the Friends of Carmanah Walbran. At several other events, they spoke and left 14 autonomous recording units (ARU) in the field for both the Western Screech Owl (a threatened coastal species) and the threatened Marbled Murrelet (MaMu). Both of these species rely on old-growth forests for all or part of their life history. Data from 20 surveys/ARUs were uploaded to *iNaturalist* and/or *eBird* so that data is available to everyone. It is hoped that the data will be used to identify and save the critical habitat of these two species in BC.

To have useful data, surveys must be repeated for years. That requirement limits the area which can be surveyed. The ARUs have been extremely useful because they can be left in the field up to five months (depending on the unit) to record bird song over a breeding season. OGBB, on the other hand, are lucky to be in the field three days at a time.

ARU data is useful in identifying behavioural patterns. For example, over the years, OGBB have noticed that the ARU picks up the most MaMu calls on misty, foggy days and the fewest on sunny days (in heavy rain the devices do not work well). Research suggests the calls are used so MaMu can communicate with each other. Perhaps more communication is needed in the fog? This, also, might explain why MaMu have been called the "fog birds". OGBB think the ARUs pick up more MaMu on foggy days because they are calling closer to the ground (on sunny days, they fly much higher and further from an ARU). The Audicity program is used to study sonograms. From the sonograms, it is possible to tell if MaMus are flying within a forest to reach their old growth nest tree or over a forest as a flyway to another old growth forest to nest.

Playback recordings following official methods are used during the threatened Western Screech Owl breeding

season, which occurs from February to mid-May. Males attract females to their territory. Territories can be identified during the breeding season if males respond to the playback recording of a male owl and/or if male and female owls are engaging in courtship. The attached photo (credit: Deborah Freeman) shows a female owl hooting in duet with a male, a standard courtship behaviour. Owls mate for life, so if this pair and others nearby are still using the area in the future, the area could be classified as critical habitat. OGGB have found that old growth cedar stands on Vancouver Island are the preferred nesting habitat for our coastal Western Screech Owl populations. In fact, this habitat is almost guaranteed for nesting.

Financial update

We need to start fund raising or charging for events to build up some reserves. Currently, our reserves are funded by our board directors and donations.

Our activities are funded by grants which flow through to the budgeted activity. Our membership fees are remitted to BC Nature and cover our membership fees and our insurance.

We were awarded grants by BC Naturalists' Foundation and BC Nature, Town of Ladysmith in 2025 and 2026, and Ladysmith Health Care Auxiliary in 2025. We are seeking a BC Hydro grant in 2026 for our restoration projects. 🌱

Nature Cowichan (NC)

Submitted by Bruce Coates, President

Our Name changed last year as we followed the convention of other BC Nature clubs and nicknamed ourselves "**Nature Cowichan**". Much easier for folks to remember! Due to the foresight of passed member John Scull our website URL was always: <https://www.naturecowichan.net>. Since that website was essentially dormant, we moved our events page to the home page and solicited input from the many other valley organizations about nature-related events. Now you can just search "naturecowichan" to find all the nature-related events – speakers, volunteering, etc. - posted in one spot.

Publicity via our *Valley Naturalist* newsletter continued with five issues/year assembled by Anna Scouten. The club also keeps one email list for sending notices and newsletters to members, and a second list for broadcasting nature-related info of general interest to anyone in the Valley. We hosted four booths. FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/CowValleyNaturalists> managed by Bruce Coates
Webmail: cvns@naturecowichan.net managed by Catherine Waddell

Guest Speakers continued to be organized by Carol Milo twice-monthly from September through April with morning meetings in-person and/or hybrid, and evening meetings on Zoom. Highlights included Helen Davis's talk on Bear Dens, Dave Manning's talk on Bald Eagles, Amorina Kingdon on "*Sing Like Fish*". Our club members also enjoyed invitations to speakers hosted by Nature Nanaimo.

Walks were intermittent and focussed on four areas of conservation concern, so members could learn about *both* nature and how to keep it. A butterfly walk with naturalist extraordinaire Val George was very well attended, however Rod Garbutt's traditional fall fungi walk was cancelled due to seasonal vagaries.

Memberships held steady at about 85 (120 if families count as two), and the club continues in a strong financial position.

Collaborations with other groups rather than managing projects of our own is NC's. About a dozen of our members help with the *Bring Back the Blue Birds Project* managed by board member Jacquie Taylor and BC Conservation Foundation. Many of our members volunteered to "man" the Cowichan Estuary Nature Center, and "bashed broom" and planted native plants on Komiakin Dike and WestCan Terminal Nature Trails with Cowichan Estuary Restoration and Conservation Society.

Citizen Science in winter included a monthly Waterbird Survey led by Kathryn Currie, participation in weekly Swan and Goose counts and the annual Duncan Christmas Bird Count - thanks to Tania Tripp & JP Giroux.

Bursaries in 2025 were awarded to two students going into a post-secondary environmental or nature-related program (\$750 each), and through the Eric Marshall Memorial Bursary one underprivileged child attending Nature Camps at CENC. 🌱

Nature Nanaimo (NN)

Submitted by Gary Gauthier and Doug Fraser

Opening Reflection

As I complete my first year as President, I want to thank our members, directors, and committee leads for their support, insight, and dedication. This year has been one of learning, listening, and laying the groundwork for renewal. We've made tremendous progress on several fronts, while also identifying unfinished priorities that will guide our work ahead—particularly in board succession, committee revitalization, record-keeping, and member engagement.

Our Work and Committees

Nature Nanaimo's strength lies in the dedication of its members and the collaborative energy of its committees. Whether through public education, guided outings, speaker events, or digital infrastructure, our volunteers bring expertise, creativity, and care to every initiative. This year's progress reflects the thoughtful coordination of our magazine, presentations, outings, and digital infrastructure volunteers—each contributing to a vibrant and resilient organization. Their work helps us connect with the public, deepen our ecological understanding, and build a stronger network of nature-focused allies across the region.

Nanaimo Magazine and Voyager Column

Our Magazine Committee—Mark White, Judy Wickland, and Sheila Duguid—continues to meet regularly to develop and refine a 24-month pipeline of nature-focused articles for *Nanaimo Magazine and Voyager*. This initiative not only showcases the ecological richness of our region but also provides Nature Nanaimo with a valuable platform for public engagement. Each column offers an opportunity to include monthly event notices, helping to promote our guided outings and tours—such as the Buttertubs Marsh walks, the recent Morrell Sanctuary tour, and other upcoming activities. A key strength of this initiative has been the inclusion of allied nature-focused groups and organizations, helping to build a broader network of support for local conservation and education.

Published Columns (April 2025 – February 2026):

- April 2025 – Nature Nanaimo – *The Founders* (Gary Gauthier)
- May 2025 – *Help Save Harewood Plains* (Staffan Lindgren)
- June 2025 – *Buttertubs Marsh* (Doug Fraser)
- July 2025 – *Discover Nature at Your Back Door* (Judy Wickland)
- August 2025 – *Nature Nanaimo Provide Housing for Western Purple Martins* (Staffan Lindgren & Bruce Cousens)
- September 2025 – *Amazing Salmon* (Judy Wickland)
- October 2025 – *Vancouver Island Black Bear* (Sylvia Campbell, North Island Wildlife Recovery Centre)
- November 2025 – *Mushrooms: Gift of the Rains* (Terry & Rosemary Taylor, Arrowsmith Naturalists)
- December 2025 – *Nanaimo Saltwater Nudibranchs* (Rick Harbo)

Outings Committee and Guided Events

Our Outings Committee—Doug Fraser, Tom Grauman (Chair), Sinjin Dixon-Warren, Nancy Twynam, and Lise Gagnon—has coordinated a variety of engaging field experiences for members and the public. These outings offer opportunities to explore local ecosystems, learn from knowledgeable guides, and build community around shared appreciation for nature.

Highlights this year include:

- Buttertubs Marsh Guided Walks – seasonal birding and habitat tours
- Morrell Sanctuary Tour – forest ecology and conservation insights
- Monthly Nature Walks – informal member-led explorations of local trails and parks

These events continue to be well-attended and well-received, and we thank the committee for their thoughtful planning and leadership.

Presentation Committee and Speaker Program

Our Presentation and Speakers Committee—Staffan Lindgren, Janice Porteous, Doug Fraser, with Linda Brooymans serving as Nanaimo and Area Land Trust liaison—has continued to organize a strong lineup of monthly speakers for our public meetings. These presentations are a cornerstone of our educational mission and consistently draw interest from members and guests alike.

Upcoming Speakers:

- **November:** *Connecting the Wild: Yellowstone to Yukon Vision* with Tim Burkhart
- **December:** No speaker (holiday break)
- **January:** *Western Screech Owls: What We've Learned and the Questions Still Ahead* with Megan Buers
- *Snorkeling around Vancouver Island* with Sara Ellison
- *Sea Otters and River Otters* with Linda Nichol (Tentative)

We thank the committee for their thoughtful coordination and outreach, and we look forward to another engaging season of talks.

Digital Infrastructure and Record-Keeping

This year, we began updating *NatureNanaimo.ca* to better reflect our current activities, leadership, and public outreach. The website now includes recent speaker listings, magazine column links, and improved navigation for events and membership. These updates support our goal of making NN more accessible and visible to the community.

In parallel, we've launched a Google Workspace initiative to strengthen our internal record-keeping and continuity. This includes organizing shared folders for board documents, committee materials, and historical records. The system is designed to support succession planning, improve transparency, and ensure that future directors and volunteers have access to the tools and information they need.

We also transitioned to a new NN email structure using this platform. I want to thank all board members for embracing the change and adapting to the new tools, and extend special recognition to Sinjin Dixon-Warren for his work in implementing the system and training us to use it effectively. His support has been instrumental in helping us modernize our communications and improve organizational resilience.

Acknowledgements:

Special appreciation to Daisy Blumensaat for her work in updating and maintaining our digital presence to the World, ensuring it remains a vibrant and informative resource.

Heartfelt thanks to Sally Hofmeier for her ongoing support and for keeping our calendars of events, presentations, and outings information current—her diligence helps members stay connected and engaged.

We have recently obtained a donated laptop computer for NN, which we will use for NN Business and monthly meetings exclusively.

Membership

This year's membership report, prepared by Sally Hofmeier, reflects steady engagement and growth. We are grateful for her careful record-keeping and commitment to ensuring members are welcomed and supported. Our current membership stands at more than 130 members.

Awards Committee

This year we successfully launched the NN Student Award, recognizing emerging voices in conservation and ecology.

Special thanks go to Rick Harbo and Marilyn Nelson for bringing this award program to completion. We also acknowledge the contributions of previous committee members, including Nancy Twyman, Michael Stebbings, and Tom Grauman, who helped set the foundation for our work. Their efforts have ensured that NN can celebrate and encourage the next generation of ecological leaders.

Member Volunteer Survey

NN is currently conducting a Member Volunteer Survey to better understand the interests, skills, and availability of our membership. The survey is being delivered via email through info@naturenanaimo.ca, and we invite members to share how they would like to contribute to the society's activities and committees.

Key outcomes so far include:

- Strong interest in supporting guided outings, presentations, and public events.
- Several members have expressed willingness to assist with digital infrastructure and communications, helping strengthen our online presence.
- A number of respondents have highlighted their availability for short-term projects and event-specific volunteering, reflecting the flexible and diverse ways our members contribute.
- Responses also underscore the importance of recognition and clear role descriptions, ensuring volunteers

feel valued and supported.

This initiative is providing valuable insight into the character of our membership—engaged, generous, and eager to share their time and expertise. The survey remains in progress, and additional responses will continue to guide committee revitalization and succession planning, ensuring NN remains resilient and inclusive in the years ahead

Member Suggestions and Engagement

Over the past few months, I have received thoughtful suggestions from various NN members about ways we can strengthen our society. One suggestion was to schedule some of our presentations and meetings during the daytime, in order to avoid night-time driving and make events more accessible.

This reminds us that while we have all been busy working on committees and initiatives, it is equally important to reach out to our members and take advantage of the wide range of knowledge, skills, thoughts, and suggestions they bring. Our members are not only participants but also a source of wisdom and creativity, and your input helps ensure that NN remains responsive, inclusive, and resilient.

Finance and Budget

Financial stewardship remains a cornerstone of our work. Sinjin Dixon-Warren has prepared and shared a comprehensive financial report via Google Workspace, ensuring transparency and accountability. His diligence helps us maintain a strong foundation for future initiatives.

Advocacy and External Relations

While NN is not primarily an advocacy organization, members have engaged thoughtfully with the proposed Nanaimo Data Centre project, highlighting the importance of transparency, ecological safeguards, and community education.

Beyond this single issue, our members have personally participated in numerous local and regional projects and events focused on nature protection and ecological resilience. From supporting conservation initiatives and attending council meetings to contributing to allied organizations and community-led outings, these efforts demonstrate the character of our membership—committed, informed, and willing to step forward when the natural world needs a voice.

Most recently, Nature Nanaimo was represented at the Climate Action Conference, where members staffed a display booth. This presence helped showcase our work, connect with other organizations, and highlight the values of ecological stewardship and community engagement that define our society.

Board Vacancy and Recruitment Strategy

As we look ahead to 2026, one director position remains vacant. I recommend that we leave this position open at this time to allow the executive to carefully consider recruitment opportunities. Our goal should be to identify an individual with the experience, skills, and commitment necessary to contribute meaningfully to the leadership of Nature Nanaimo.

By forming a working group early in January, we can establish a structured recruitment process. This will enable us to appoint a suitable candidate during the course of 2026, giving them time to integrate into the board and prepare for anticipated executive transitions in the following year. This approach ensures continuity, strengthens our leadership capacity, and supports the long-term resilience of our society.

Closing Reflection

As we look ahead, Nature Nanaimo is well-positioned to deepen its role as a trusted partner in conservation and education. With renewed systems, engaged committees, and a growing public presence, we are building not only for today but for the future. Thank you for being part. 🌱

Nature Salt Spring (NSS)

Submitted by Kathleen Maser

These long-awaited spring months find NSS members caught up in a myriad of activities. Our membership is at about 100, including several families with children. There are many more Salt Spring families linked to NatureKids, where membership is free.

Citizen Science

Purple Martins: Over the fall and winter Peter McAllister and his crew did a thorough clean-out of most of the

Purple Martin nesting boxes, including doing repairs and installing new boxes at the Maracaibo marina and in Ganges at the public marina. Increased attention is being given to how we cover up during this work – as mite and flea bites can be an issue!

Christmas Bird Count (CBC)

December is full on Christmas Bird Count time. We begin with a CBC Social, with great appetizers and speakers. Tim Marchant, our first speaker and Salt Spring’s Chief compiler for the count summarized the history, reason for, and data collected in past CBC counts. Louise Blight of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, described some of her research on how to protect birds from flying into windows. Kate Reed and Pierre Mineau finished the program with photos and stories from early morning birding outings to Xwaaqw’um, Burgoyne Provincial Park.

Despite the truly dreadful weather - wind gusts and blasts of icy rain, there was an excellent turnout of counters this year - 208 - the highest in the 37-year records by a good margin.

Total count was 13,020 birds with 89 species. 13,020 is right in the middle (median) of the last ten years readings. Here is a 2021-2025, 5-year comparison of total counts and total species.

Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Count	14023	12400	15673	15982	13020
Species	93	96	96	92	89

Tim Marchant notes some up-and-comers: Ancient Murrelet (three counted in last six years after 20 years of zero counts), American Kestrel (five counted in last six years after seven years of zero counts).

Light trapping Megalopae, the larvae of the Dungeness Crab. From April to September, several members contributed time helping with a fascinating study of Dungeness Crabs in B.C. Coastal waters. The Study, sponsored by the Hakai Institute’s - Sentinels of Change Program, uses a simple light trap left in the water overnight to capture night - swimming marine larvae of which the Dungeness Crab Megalopae is of particular importance.

Advocacy

Our most important issue this past year has been learning about and supporting Briony Penn’s Herring Conservation and Restoration Society and the WSÁNEĆ Hereditary Chiefs in their legal case to protect their Douglas Treaty rights to fish. They are requesting a moratorium on the Salish Sea herring fishery until stocks return to pre-contact abundance.

Described as: “Easily the most significant natural event in the entire Salish Sea region”, Briony Penn was thus one of our most important speakers in February. Informing us on the history of herring runs in the Salish Sea, the importance of this species to the indigenous peoples, the efforts to communicate with DFO and the need for monitoring in the local waters, she gave a callout that herring need our keen eyes and voices. Several of our members took up the call, travelled north to witness the fishers up and around Hornby and Denman Islands and along the coast near Lantzville and Nanoose Bay. As much as it is exhilarating to see this phenomenal wildlife event, it is horrifying to witness the herring scooped up before being able to spawn.

David Denning, the creator of our NSS newsletters consistently draws attention to this issue, writing that Nature Salt Spring is a fervent supporter of conservation efforts to rebuild the former abundance of herring in the Southern Salish Sea, and provides the following information:

"Pause the fishery until stocks recover in the Strait of Georgia." If you want to provide input, write an email directly to Hong.Tjhie@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Even if you only have five minutes, you can still get involved. Pacific Wild has prepared an easy way to provide input to Department Fisheries and Oceans. Read their [Draft Herring Management Plan Analysis](#) for a summarized version of the IFMP, and respond online using their [Herring Feedback Tool](#), which provides a pre-written letter to DFO.

Past Events 2025

- May 4 – *Garry Oak Ecosystems and Spring Wildflowers on Reginald Hill* with Dr. Susan Hannon. This expert Ecologist and Conservation Biologist first shared the history of this recently acquired spectacular 161 hectare protected area. Pointing out the diverse habitats and the stunning flowers, we climbed to the summit and enjoyed the spectacular views of the Southern Salish Sea.
- June 12 - *Community Science, Dungeness Crabs, and Discovering the world of Zooplankton*, with Heather Earle, a Marine Ecologist with the Hakai Institute. A presentation which explored the hidden world of marine zooplankton and how citizen science can contribute to sustainable seafood harvesting, particularly the Dungeness Crab. She is the project lead of the Sentinels Light Trap Network, working along the B.C. coast with many different communities and organizations in studying marine ecosystems and how they are responding to climate change and other human-induced changes.
- June 13 and 14 – *Two days of Beach Explorations at Low Tide!* with David Denning, Pat Miller and Kathleen Maser. This popular natural history walk, different every time we undertake it, is an exploration of a mixed rocky and sandy beach shoreline and intertidal sea life. From crabs and sea stars to nudibranchs and sea squirts it's all fascinating! The natural history stories behind their survival and evolution in this harsh environment were discussed. NatureKids Families especially enjoyed the seine pull!
- June 25 – Members joined in a tour of the *Fulford Harbour W̱SÁNEĆ Clam Garden Restoration Project*, over the Indigenous Peoples weekend.
- June 28 – *Pesticides are Killing our Birds* - Dr. Pierre Mineau, one of Canada's foremost authorities on pesticides in the environment. Pierre reviewed the history and evolution of pesticides and how they have affected birds over the years since pesticide use became widespread. His talk emphasized the most common current insecticides (neonicotinoids or neonics) and also covered other pesticides still used in regions such as Central America where many of our birds migrate for the winter.
- September 30 - *Raptor Watch and Visit to The Rocky Point Observatory Bird-Banding Station* Kathleen Maser and David Denning led this exciting off Island field trip to one of the most amazing regional natural history events of the year on Southern Vancouver Island in the Metchosin/ East Sooke area where the raptors gather in the hundreds, riding the thermals, gaining altitude to attempt the dangerous crossing of the Strait of Juan de Fuca. We also enjoyed the Rocky Point Bird Banding Station watching researchers band songbirds before they migrate south.
- October 5 – *NatureKids exploring the Mysteries and Magic of Birds* with Kathleen Maser. Observing together, children and parents discovered bird species and observed their calls and behaviours at Xwaaqw'um where some species are beginning their migration while others are arriving to brighten the gloomy winter days.
- November 21 - *Plunging Into the Salish Sea!* with Ann Donahue - This richly illustrated presentation highlighted marine life photographed by Ann as she snorkeled along the Island's shores.
- November 23 - *NatureKids Explorer Day – “The Wonderful Ways of Water”* with Kathleen Maser. Featuring a brief discussion of water molecules, the water cycle, ground water versus surface water, and introducing the Blue Ecology water cycle we then looked for evidence of meandering, scouring and pooling. The children were invited to build dams, canals, and waterways, all diversions to wetlands.

2026

- February 19 – Dr. Ruth Waldick, an Ecologist and Climate scientist – *Local Actions Make a Difference in a Changing Climate*. By looking at the Maxwell Creek watershed's history—including past land use, disturbances, and management decisions—we learned how these factors have interacted with climate change to shape today's conditions. Her team works on 'nature-based' approaches for restoring ecological resilience. She is now playing a central role in an emerging Salish Sea-wide network of restoration efforts helping communities focus on practical solutions – in a changing climate.
- March 8 and 22 – *Looking in Secretive Places to Find a Thriving Fungal World*. Vail Paterson, a mushroom enthusiast and identification expert, led walks, first for NatureKidsBC families, then the rest of the members, along the Chris Hatfield Trail where discovering mushrooms and fungi in the spring was truly amazing! Although living on Salt Spring, his passion is in working with the Pacific Coast mycologist community to locate and document fungal diversity. So far, he has found and identified more than 300 species of mushrooms on Salt Spring Island.
- April 10 - *Light Trapping Citizen Science Project Training* with Lauren Krzus from the Hakai Institute's Sentinels of Change Program.
- April 10 - *Split Personalities - The Crazy Lives of Salish Sea Marine Animals* - David Denning. This

presentation explored the amazing lives of a few of our local marine animals – looking not so much at their adult lives along the shore, but rather, the early period in their lives when they develop from eggs and sperm until they are ready to settle. Almost all Salish seashore animals spend a significant portion of their lives drifting about in the ocean at the whims of tidal currents ‘growing up’ in the plankton. Using colourful photographs and images taken with the microscope, David pieced together a revealing picture of the crazy diversity of sex and survival that feeds the ocean ecosystems, and how this complex system is threatened by climate change.

Up and Coming Events and Citizen Science

- Mondays - *Morning Birding Outings* – a time of great enjoyment, sharing, and learning while experiencing the dawn chorus. Organized by Kate Reed, and taking place most often in Xwaaq’um, (Burgoyne).
- April 19 – *WEN,NA,NEC Sea Garden Becoming a Part of Where you are* – Not your average Garden gathering! Under the guidance of WSANEC and Hul’qumi’num knowledge keepers, we will gather to tend to the WEN,NA,NEC Sea Garden, and agricultural heritage which is approximately 4500 years old.
- Early May – *Sea otters, you otta know!* with Linda Nichol
- May 16 and 31 - NSS Members will be out in the community fighting Invasive Plants - Gorse, English Holly, Scotch Broom, and ivy
- May 20-24 - *BioDiversity Days Nature Extravaganza*
- In partnership with the SSI Conservancy, we will be bringing Dr. Elaine Humphrey and her travelling Scanning Electron Microscope from the Mechanical Engineering Faculty at UVic to Blackburn Lake for an extended look at the natural history of SS especially the tiny and microscopic things that are spectacular but remain mostly unseen. NatureKids will love this! 🌀

Nature Victoria (NVI)

Submitted by Ken Walker

The past year has seen some major accomplishments for Nature Victoria.

Our long awaited updated [website](#) finally went live! While there are still a few kinks to work out, it is gratifying to see that old and new members are using the online membership form frequently and the online [calendar](#) is also being well used.

After losing a couple of evening program coordinator, three new volunteers have stepped forward to manage our Marine, Botany and Natural History night presentations meaning we have a full slate of programs to offer our members once again.

A couple of highly qualified and enthusiastic new board members have also breathed some new life into our board, which often times seemed to get bogged down with the behind the scenes work of administering a large, volunteer-run organization. The hiring of a part time administrative assistant has helped with some of our routine jobs, but we are much in need of a webmaster to keep our website accurate and fresh.

One special highlight was the work we did, with a consortium of other environmental groups, to encourage the District of Saanich to increase the protection zoning of Panama Flats Park (municipal), a very important migratory and nesting bird habitat. The joint effort was not only successful in providing the area with greater protection, but also in limiting dogs to ‘on-leash only’ while on trails within the park.

Our **membership** numbers are holding fairly steady in the 550 range, our bi-monthly publication, *The Victoria Naturalist*, comes out like clockwork and our birding outings are well attended.

On a sad note, we lost long-time volunteer school program presenter, Bill Dancer, in February. He will be greatly missed by birders, teachers, the Board and children throughout the region. 🌀

Rocky Point Bird Observatory (RPBO)

Submitted by Terry Bird

Monitoring

Our various bird banding and monitoring programs were very active in the previous year, with more than 370,000 combined avian observations recorded. The Fall Migration program banded more than 7,300 birds representing 74 species, while the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) program banded 251 birds, including one Orange-crowned Warbler that has been recaptured every year since 2021. A total of

737 Northern Saw-whet Owls were banded at the Pedder Bay or Rocky Point sites during our 23rd season of our Nocturnal Owl Monitoring program. Sadly, the Hummingbird Project continued to see a decline in Rufus Hummingbirds (a 45/6% drop in the past 10 years). Seawatch completed its 10th season with the observation of more than 87,000 birds, representing 120 species, during 48 visits to Beechy Head in East Sooke Park. One highlight of the year occurred during the diurnal hours of January 15 when 12,123 Ancient Murrelets were counted while they flew off Ten Mile Park in Oak Bay.

Research

RPBO continued to contribute banding and observational data to the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network. And two research grants were secured in 2025. The first will support the training of volunteers methods used to acquire data through hummingbird captures. The second grant is funding a project at is analyzing our Ruby-crowned Kinglet data that has been collected over the past twenty years. We are also pleased that an analysis of our long-term Turkey Vulture data led to the publication of the peer-reviewed article, “*Turkey Vulture Accumulations at a Water Barrier Provide Evidence of Fall Migration Delays and Population Increases over 26 Years*”.

Education and Outreach

RPBO offered 42 educational programs throughout the year that attracted roughly 1600 participants. These programs included numerous guided bird walks, a *Christmas Bird Count for Kids*, school and field trips to our banding stations, *Feathers and Flight Night* lectures and *Be a Better Bird Workshops*. RPBO’s annual *Banding Workshop* was also a great success. In addition to these programs, RPBO also conducted several dozen in-person and online presentations to the general public that informed hundreds of viewers about the important issues relating to avian conservation. Lastly, we continued our highly successful partnership with the whale watching company, Eagle Wing Tours, to offer seabird tours that are guided by RPBO volunteers. 🌐

Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club (SSTNC)

Submitted by Susan Hannon

The Salt Spring Island Trail and Nature Club (SSTNC) welcomes all hikers, walkers and ramblers interested in hiking and related outdoors activities, as well natural history within the ancestral and unceded territory of the Hul’qumi’num and SENĆOŦEN speaking peoples. Hikes, walks, rambles and educational presentations are organized for its 96 members from September to June.

Trail Coordination

In 2025 the Trail Construction and Maintenance section of our Club conducted the following work:

- Club volunteers cleared a large area of invasive broom in Howard Horel Nature Reserve.
- After securing a grant from BC Nature in the amount of \$1,600, Club members started construction of a bird blind on the Cupples trail in early March then paused until fall. Work was resumed after nesting season in mid September with donated materials and purchased lumber from a local Salt Spring saw mill.
- Development of a trail between Woodland Drive and Chuan Drive is on hold awaiting a final signoff from one of the landowners.
- CRD PARC has agreed to have Island Pathways and SSTNC provide planning support and volunteers in redevelopment of the Trincomali Trail. This year there have been three work parties with 10 to 15 volunteers putting in 3 to 4 hours on each work date. Activities include clearing and redirecting the trail off private properties and back onto Park land. Work will continue in spring 2026 on the remaining 1,200 meters of the trail.

Our Club has renewed a 10-year agreement with BC Parks to collaborate on park trail development projects such as boardwalks over wetlands, stairs on steep muddy trail sections and signage replacement.

Hike/Walk and Ramble Coordination

2025 was a full year of hikes on both Tuesdays and Sundays. Tuesday hikes continue to attract numbers in the mid teens. Sunday hikes average three to four hikers, but occasionally as many as six participants. We have covered all the major trails on Salt Spring, and off-island hikes have included day trips to Saturna Island, and on a Sunday, taking advantage of the Tour des Isles water taxi. Other off-island trips have included Crofton Lake, Holland Creek, Heart Lake and Stocking Lake above Ladysmith, Maple Mountain, Mt Tzouhalem, and the Kinsol Trestle.

The walkers have had a stable core of about seven participants for several years. This year we were pleased to welcome several new walkers. Everyone participates in leading walks, including our new members. The highlight this summer was the July 1 walk. At 11:00 am, twelve club members sang O Canada in Jarrod's Grove.

Between five and seven ramblers showed up every Tuesday. They participated in several shorter hikes and sorties.

Presentations and Celebrations

Our newsletter, *The Oystercatcher*, was issued in Spring, Summer and Fall 2025. We had successful public presentations in the Salt Spring Public Library in spring by members Kees and Margriet Ruurs (long distance trails around the world, including Spain's Camino de Santiago, Australia's Cape to Cape hike and many more) and by mountaineer Andrea Rankin in the fall (all female climbing team to Canada's Centennial Range). Both events drew a full house. The Fall Fair was a good venue to promote our club to the public. We had two successful social events in Ruckle Park: the Strawberry and the Blackberry Festivals and our December AGM and potluck.

Other

We revised Responsibilities of members and Responsibilities of leaders to ensure that members stay on trails and respect nature, as well as being safe during the hikes, walks and rambles.

Volunteer hours

While we don't tally our volunteer hours, we estimate it to be about 720 hours per year for our executive and leaders. The Cupples Trail bird blind build team contributed over 100 volunteer hours on construction. We don't support a student scholarship. ☹️

Thank you to our funders 2025-2026



sitka foundation



BRITISH COLUMBIA
CONSERVATION FOUNDATION



**THE FEDERATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA NATURALISTS
(O/A BC NATURE)**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2025
(Unaudited)**

**THE FEDERATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA NATURALISTS
(O/A BC NATURE)**

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December 31, 2025
(Unaudited)**

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THE FEDERATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA NATURALISTS (O/A BC NATURE)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31, 2025

(Unaudited)

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	82,160	215,304
Accounts receivable	60,972	18,468
GST receivable	1,130	2,927
	144,262	236,699
TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS (NOTE 6)	10,086	21,336
	154,348	258,035
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accruals	47,287	91,609
NET ASSETS		
UNRESTRICTED (NOTE 4)	(144,717)	(116,233)
INTERNALLY RESTRICTED (NOTE 12)	43,308	15,709
EXTERNALLY RESTRICTED GRANTS (NOTES 4 & 13)	148,722	180,513
EXTERNALLY RESTRICTED DONATIONS (NOTE 14)	49,662	65,101
INVESTED IN TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS	10,086	21,336
	107,061	166,426
	154,348	258,035

COMMITMENTS (NOTE 6)

Approved on behalf of
The Federation of British Columbia Naturalists (o/a BC
Nature)

Nancy Flood

Natasha Chand

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
For the year ended December 31, 2025
(Unaudited)

	Unrestricted	Internally Restricted	Externally Restricted Grants	Externally Restricted Donations	Capital Fund	2025 Total	2024 Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR (Note 4)	(116,233)	15,709	180,513	65,101	21,336	166,426	329,924
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(28,484)	27,599	(31,791)	(15,439)	-	(48,115)	(166,544)
Tangible capital asset acquisitions	-	-	-	-	1,646	1,646	10,468
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	(12,896)	(12,896)	(7,422)
BALANCE, ENDING OF YEAR	(144,717)	43,308	148,722	49,662	10,086	107,061	166,426

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
For the year ended December 31, 2025
(Unaudited)

	Operating Fund Actual 2025	Operating Fund Actual 2024	Restricted Fund Actual 2025	Restricted Fund Actual 2024	Total 2025	Total 2024
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
REVENUES						
Club membership dues	77,450	69,004	-	-	77,450	69,004
Member donations and fundraising	63,095	21,432	-	-	63,095	21,432
Insurance premium recovery	13,213	11,060	-	-	13,213	11,060
Donation of expenses by board, club reps and other	10,878	15,299	-	-	10,878	15,299
Camp revenue	19,982	10,422	-	-	19,982	10,422
Annual and Fall general meetings revenues	9,051	8,398	-	-	9,051	8,398
Advertising (Magazine)	7,270	5,705	-	-	7,270	5,705
Interest	906	2,614	-	-	906	2,614
Other dues and subscriptions	1,184	1,190	-	-	1,184	1,190
Internally restricted revenue (Note 12)	-	-	31,000	-	31,000	-
Restricted grants (Note 13)	-	-	288,735	529,900	288,735	529,900
Restricted donations (Note 14)	-	-	46,302	20,000	46,302	20,000
TOTAL	203,029	145,124	366,037	549,900	569,066	695,024

EXPENSES

Annual and Fall general meetings	5,099	5,068	-	-	5,099	5,068
Awards	1,700	241	-	-	1,700	241
Bank charges	2,314	2,503	-	-	2,314	2,503
BC Nature production and mailing	7,255	21,692	-	-	7,255	21,692
Club support	-	-	41,302	33,688	41,302	33,688
Contract - Executive Director	43,985	101,560	-	-	43,985	101,560
Dues	297	192	-	-	297	192
Equipment rental	-	-	24,084	37,956	24,084	37,956
Fundraising	1,866	28,660	15,938	6,563	17,804	35,223
Honoraria	-	-	5,980	12,900	5,980	12,900
Insurance premiums	14,918	13,935	-	-	14,918	13,935
Internet and website	28,215	16,484	-	-	28,215	16,484
Magazine printing	-	-	6,525	13,416	6,525	13,416
Miscellaneous	22	105	-	-	22	105
Office supplies	5,432	8,467	-	-	5,432	8,467
Outreach	-	-	14,885	937	14,885	937

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
For the year ended December 31, 2025
(Unaudited)

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES		
Unrestricted activities	(28,484)	(126,795)
Internally restricted activities	27,599	(1,025)
Externally restricted grants	(31,791)	18,494
Externally restricted donations	(15,439)	(57,217)
Capital asset fund	(11,250)	3,046
Depreciation	12,896	7,422
	(46,469)	(156,075)
CHANGE IN NON-CASH WORKING CAPITAL ITEMS		
Accounts receivable	(42,504)	20,367
GST receivable	1,797	2,462
Prepaid expenses	-	900
Accounts payable and accruals	(44,322)	24,062
	(131,498)	(108,284)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Redemption of investments	-	105,728
Purchase of tangible capital assets	(1,646)	(10,468)
	(1,646)	95,260
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH	(133,144)	(13,024)
CASH, BEGINNING OF YEAR	215,304	228,328
CASH, END OF YEAR	82,160	215,304

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2025
(Unaudited)

12. INTERNALLY RESTRICTED FUNDS

	2024	Transfers in (out)	Revenue	Expense	2025
		\$	\$	\$	\$
Conservation Fund	460	-	-	-	460
Contingency Fund	15,107	-	-	-	15,107
Education Fund	42	-	-	(3,400)	(3,358)
New Club Fund	100	-	-	-	100
IBA Fund	-	-	1,000	-	1,000
Fundraising	-	-	30,000	-	30,000
TOTAL	15,709	-	31,000	(3,400)	43,308

13. EXTERNALLY RESTRICTED GRANTS

	2024	Transfers in (out)	Revenue	Expense	2025
		\$	\$	\$	\$
BC Gaming - Magazine	15,917	-	16,500	(16,500)	15,917
BC Gaming - IBA	21,365	-	20,000	(20,000)	21,365
BC Gaming - MPAP	-	-	20,000	-	20,000
Ecological Reserve Warderns	8,864	-	-	(4,250)	4,614
IBA - Bailie	115	-	-	-	115
IBA - KBA Stika	66,497	-	-	(66,497)	-
IBA - KBA - REFC WSF	34,700	-	-	(36,700)	(2,000)
IBA - TD Friends of the Environment Foundation	5,566	-	-	-	5,566
IBA - Wildlife Conservation Society	5,385	-	-	-	5,385
MPAP - KBA Stika	17,835	-	-	(17,835)	-
IBA - Field Ornithologist	-	-	2,835	(2,885)	(50)
IBA - KBA Chawkers	-	-	25,000	(25,000)	-
Indigenous Tourism BC	-	-	12,400	(10,109)	2,291
IBA - KBA BCCF	-	-	57,500	(5,100)	52,400
Nature Canada - MPAP	(3,414)	-	84,500	(57,967)	23,119
ECCC	7,683	-	50,000	(57,683)	-
TOTAL	180,513	-	288,735	(320,526)	148,722

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2025
(Unaudited)

4. EXTERNALLY RESTRICTED DONATIONS

	2024	Transfers in (out)	Revenue	Expense	2025
		\$	\$	\$	\$
BC Naturalists Foundation Fund	(487)	-	42,302	(41,302)	513
Bert Brink Scholarship Fund	2,442	-	-	(2,500)	(58)
Rene Savenye Scholarship Fund	2,288	-	-	(2,000)	288
Other Restricted Donations	60,856	-	4,000	(15,937)	48,919
TOTAL	65,101	-	46,302	(61,739)	49,662

THE FEDERATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA NATURALISTS

2026 Projected Budget

REVENUE

4405	Advertising	6,500
4410	Annual and Fall general meetings	-
4415	Camps	-
4445	Club membership dues	82,700
4446	Canada Post Income - Magazine	3,900
4450	Executive and Director donations (AGM)	-
4460	Insurance premium recovery	14,000
4465	Interest	1,000
4455	Member donations and fundraising	65,000
4470	Miscellaneous	-
4475	Other dues and subscriptions	1,000
4480	Project administration fees	96,500
4479	Summer Students	5,000
4481	Wage Recoveries	85,000
	TOTAL REVENUE	360,600

EXPENSE

5515	Annual and Fall general meetings	-
5520	Awards	1,500
5525	Bank charges	2,200
5530	BC Nature production and mailing (not covered by Gaming)	6,000
5705	Dues	200
5710	Fundraising	-
5715	Insurance premiums	15,000
5720	Internet and website	10,000
5724	Marketing & Communications	28,000
5725	Miscellaneous expense	500
5730	Office supplies	3,500
5510	Professional fees	9,200
5745	Salary and benefits	210,000
	Science fair	3,500
5770	Summer student	6,000
5765	ED Contract	-
5775	Telephone and communications	3,500
5780	Travel & related expenses - various	5,000
	TOTAL EXPENSES	304,100
	Net Operating Surplus (Deficit)	56,500

**Federation of British Columbia Naturalists
BC Nature Board and BC Nature Club Directors 2025-2026**

BC Nature Executive Committee		
Position	Name	Email
President	Nancy Flood	president@bcnature.ca
Vice President	Harold Sellers	vicepresident@bcnature.ca
Past President	Alan Burger	aburger@uvic.ca
Treasurer	Natasha Chand	natasha_c@shaw.ca
Secretary	Susan Thorne	swthorne.78@gmail.com
Secretary-Alternate	Alanna Mackenzie	alannavtm@gmail.com
Conservation Chair	Jennifer Dowd	conservationchair@bcnature.ca
Director at Large	Ben van Drimmelen	Dal1@bcnature.ca
Director at Large	Peter Ballin	pjballin@mac.com
Kootenay Regional Coordinator	Stewart Wilson	lswilson@shaw.ca
Lower Mainland Regional Coordinator	Viktorija Juciūtė	viktorija.juciute95@gmail.com
Lower Mainland Regional Coordinator Alt.	Jennifer Luther	jluther9@gmail.com
Northern BC Regional Coordinator	Walter Thorne	swthorne.78@gmail.com
Vancouver Island Regional Coordinator	Brian Wilkes	brianwilkes@shaw.ca
Thompson Okanagan Regional Coordinator	Gary Hunt	toregcoord@bcnature.ca
Education Chair	Dave Leman	educationchair@bcnature.ca
NatureKids Executive Director	Rebecca Clapperton Law	executivedirector@naturekidsbc.ca
BC Naturalists Foundation - President	Stephen Partington	foundation@bcnature.ca

BC Nature Staff Directory		
Executive Director	Vacant	
Office Manager	Mish Stone	manager@bcnature.ca
Office Administrator - Bookkeeper	Mary Shannon	officeadmin@bcnature.ca
Communications Coordinator (Contractor)	Betty Davison	communications@bcnature.ca
Fundraising Developer	Vacant	
Conservation Coordinator (Contractor)	Andrew Banks	andrew@parkwiseconsulting.ca
KBA Manager	Liam Ragan	iba@bcnature.ca

Lower Mainland Region Club Representative	
Abbotsford-Mission Nature Club	Wendy Da Dalt *
Bowen Nature Club	Will Husby
Burke Mountain Naturalists	Victoria Otten
Burns Bog Conservation Foundation	Vacant
Burns Bog Conservation Society	Liz Walker
Capital Hill Tree Keepers Society	Darlene Gering
Cariboo Heights Forest Preservation Society	Michaela Mah *
Delta Naturalists Society	Bruce Taylor
Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society	Marg Cuthbert
Garden City Conservation Society	Sharon MacGougan
Great Blue Heron Society	Gillian Anderson
Langley Field Naturalists	Eric Habisch
Little Campbell Watershed Society	Kathy Takasaki
Malaspina Naturalists	Cal Smith
Native Bee Society of BC	Skye Jarvis
Nature Chilliwack	Janne Perrin
Nature Vancouver	Donna Underhill
Pender Harbour & District Wildlife Society	Carole Logtenberg
Squamish Environmental Conservation Society	Tiffany Brunke
Stoney Creek Environmental Committee	Wendy Snyder
Sunshine Coast Natural History Society	Rand Rudland
Surrey Environmental Partners (SEP)	Phillip Milligan
Vancouver Avian Research Centre	Candace Ross *
Whistler Naturalists Society	Sam Ray
White Rock and Surrey Naturalists Society	Carol Monaghan
WildResearch	Alexandra Welch
Yorkson Watershed Stewardship Committee	Lisa Dreves

Kootenay Region Club Representatives	
Rocky Mountain Naturalists	Stewart Wilson
West Kootenay Naturalists' Association	Shannon MacDonald
Whitebark Pine Ecosystems	Hailey Moran *
Northern BC Club Representatives	
Bulkley Valley Naturalists	Anne Hetherington
Delkatla Sanctuary Society	Margo Hearne
Kitimat Naturalists	Peter Ponter *
Mackenzie Nature Observatory	Sandra Kinsey *
Northern Amphibian Naturalists Society	Norma Kerby
Prince George Naturalists	Dave Leman
Timberline Trail & Nature Club	Mark Phinney
Williams Lake Field Naturalists	Nola Daintith

Thompson-Shuswap-Okanagan Club Representatives	
Central Okanagan Naturalist Club	Rick Gee
Kamloops Naturalist Club	Gary Hunt
Kamloops Thompson Trail Alliance	Rich Doucette
Lillooet Naturalists	Vivian Birch Jones
Nicola Naturalists	Alan Burger
North Okanagan Naturalists Club	Eric Kowalski
Oliver-Osoyoos Naturalists	Dwayne Flexhaug
Shuswap Naturalists Club	Dianne Wittner
South Okanagan Naturalists' Club	Alex Bodden
Vermilion Forks Field Naturalists	Donna Hills
Vancouver Island Region Directors	
Alberni Valley Nature Club	Judy Carlson
Arrowsmith Naturalists	Jasmine Tomczyk *
Comox Valley Naturalists Society	Warren Michelow
Food Forest Family Co-op	Jasmine Tomczyk *
Friends of Ecological Reserves	Rick Page
Friends of Fairy Creek Society	Michael Coon
Friends of Holland Creek	Nikki Toxopeus
Greig Greenway Society	Heather Ranson *
Nature Cowichan	Bruce Coates
Nature Nanaimo	Michael Stebbings
Nature Salt Spring	Kathleen Maser
Rithet's Bog Conservation Society	Andrea Sanders
Rocky Point Bird Observatory	Terry Bird
Salt Spring Trail & Nature Club	Susan Hannon
The Hamilton Wetlands and Forest Preservation Society	Ceri Peacey *
Victoria Natural History Society	Ken Walker
Other Associations	
Elders Council for Parks BC	Mel Turner
IBA and KBA Caretakers	Liam Ragan
Direct Members	Mish Stone
Supporters	Mish Stone

* 2026 New Club Representatives, thank you for volunteering.

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