



Upcoming Events

Reminder: Notice Of Annual General Meeting Of The Federation Of British Columbia Naturalists (BC Nature)

You are invited to attend this meeting online using Zoom.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND THE AGM?

All 6,000+ members of BC Nature are entitled to attend the AGM.

A quorum consists of 30 members (two should be Directors).

The Board requests and invites:

- all BC Nature Board Members,
- all members of the Finance Committee
- all Club Representatives, people who are elected by the clubs to represent the clubs at BCN general meetings
- the President and Treasurer of all Clubs
- any other interested BC Nature members



Join the BC Nature team in “Know Nature and Keep It Worth Knowing”.

PAID POSITIONS:

Position: Part Time - [Fundraiser Coordinator](#) - Deadline for applications May 26, 2021.

Position: Part Time - [Conservation Coordinator](#) - Deadline for Applications May 25, 2021.

Position: Part Time - Summer - [Office Administrative Assistant](#) - nine-week Summer position, partially funded by Canada Summer Jobs. Deadline for applications May 19, 2021.



VOLUNTEER POSITIONS:

- [Alternate-Secretary](#)
- [Vice President](#)

COMMITTEE POSITIONS

- [Human Resources Committee](#)
- [Camp Committee](#)

Job descriptions and more information are [here](#).

Please send your expression of interest and any questions you may have to: info@bcnature.ca.

Find us on Social Media!



BC Nature Group (Facebook)



BC Nature (Facebook home page)



BC Nature Twitter

BC Nature Instagram

Please join our: [Facebook Group](#)

Find us on :

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bcnature1969>

Instagram: [@bcnature](#)

Twitter: [@BCNature](#)

Want to hear from BC Nature on Nature related articles? Follow us on social media!

For our faithful followers - we apologize, we have moved to a new FB page: please visit us and "like us" or "follow us" at the below link!

Accepting Applications for 2021-22 PCAF Grants

HCTF is now accepting applications for the Public Conservation Assistance Fund (PCAF)! Applications can be submitted through HCTF's NEW online system before **4:30pm (PST) on Friday, May 14, 2021**. Please apply [here](#).



Meet “Togwo” the Comox Valley’s Ecological Reserve’s’ Unique Resident



It is an extraordinary affirmation of the Comox Valley’s biological wealth and British Columbia’s unique biodiversity potential that at a time when the world faces a global biodiversity collapse, researchers can still find new species records. That is largely thanks to the foresight of Dr. Bristol Foster and others who from 1964 to 1974 urged BC’s government to create the “Ecological Reserves.” In a rare affirmation of long-term political generosity, the “Ecological Reserve Act” came about in 1971 with the unanimous support of both sides of the Legislature. Ecological reserves are a precious gift for future generations.

The “Comox Lake Bluffs Ecological Reserve” was set aside mainly for its rare and vulnerable plants in an unusual dry-site community of plants that one would normally associate with dry grasslands. The Comox Valley is greatly indebted to Betty Brookes for initiating and driving community efforts to set aside this jewel in our natural heritage as of May 1988.

Recent work, largely by Dr. Randal Mindell at the ecological reserve has greatly expanded the floristic record of lichens and mosses, most of which can be found as part of the unique endangered and fragile ecosystems of South Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. In the course of this work Dr. Loys Maingon accidentally discovered on April 30th of this year that the Ecological Reserve is home to a small harvestman “*Togwoteeus biceps*” normally found in grasslands of Interior BC. From an evolutionary point of view “*Togwo*” is a bit special. It belongs to the large family “Sclerosomatidae,” where it is the only species in its genus. There is no species like it.

This discovery is the first and only record of this animal on Vancouver Island. Barring future information to the contrary, this means that on Vancouver Island this species is unique to the Comox Lake Bluffs Ecological Reserve. The Ecological Reserve is home to a unique population of this insect. That makes the Ecological Reserve a very special and vulnerable place indeed that needs to be protected.

Unfortunately, in spite of heroic efforts by BC Parks, the Comox Bluffs Ecological Reserve continues to be overwhelmed by an increasing number of visitors, high impact traffic such as dirt bikes, fat E-bikes and atvs, as well as party-goers whose fires pose regular threats. As part of ecologically important areas that affect the water quality of a community watershed, the Ecological Reserve deserves better and more stringent protection. With good planning, education and political support, expanding the Ecological Reserve’s surface area and status to a Provincial Park could meet both recreational needs, as well as our obligations to conservation and to ecological services for future generations.

With this discovery, “*Togwo*” presents an opportunity for Comox Valley politicians to care and protect endangered species at home. It is an opportunity to show the same rare disinterested political generosity of spirit that politicians showed in 1971 to do great things for this province’s biodiversity.

Submission: Loys Maingon

Climate change indicators and impacts worsened in 2020

2020 was one of the three warmest years on record, despite a cooling La Niña event. The global average temperature was about 1.2° Celsius above the pre-industrial (1850-1900) level. The six years since 2015 have been the warmest on record. 2011-2020 was the warmest decade on record. Click the [link](#) to access the article.



Project Feederwatch Season Highlights For 2020-21



In British Columbia, Anna's Hummingbird continued to increase, appearing at over 50% of FeederWatch sites each week – thanks to bird-friendly gardens and feeders.

One extraordinary visitor reported this past season was a [Hawfinch](#) in Haines Junction, Yukon Territory. This bird usually spends winters about 6000 km away, in Japan. This was the first record of this species for Canada! It was reported by FeederWatch participant Julie Bauer. Read more [here](#).

Deep-Sea Invertebrates, from Bubblegum Coral to the Giant File Clam

See and Learn from the [video](#)

Credit: Natural Heritage Campus Museum Of Nature



Circle of Life



its wonders with Rob Butler.

[Episode 1: Buttertubs Marsh](#)

Rob discovers the treasures of Buttertubs marsh in the heart of Nanaimo.

[Episode 2: Salmon River](#)

Salmon River is full of biodiversity. Explore

Events

[Four Fridays in May: Climate Solutions for Leaders](#): May 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th, 10 am to 11:15 am, On-line via Zoom

SFU, Faculty of Environment, Professional Programs and Partnerships SPEC, Society for Environmental Conservation With funding from Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions (PICS)



[Finding The Mother Tree: A Conversation With Suzanne Simard](#): Wednesday, May 19 at 7 - 8:30 p.m. PT

Join a webinar with TED Speaker and UBC Professor Suzanne Simard to celebrate the launch of her new book, Finding the Mother Tree, A free webinar hosted by Sierra Club BC and Dr. Suzanne Simard

[Planting Gardens for the Shade \(ONLINE\)](#): Thursday, May 20, 2021 from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Join landscape design and horticulture expert Janis Matson to plant a garden for your shady property. Understand partial shade, dappled shade, and dense shade. Janis brings her ample knowledge of plant selection, design principles, and growing experience to this online workshop. Learn how to manage root competition and soil conditions, while discovering which plants will succeed together in your garden.

This course will take place online, and recordings will be available for a limited time to participants. Pre-registration required.

[Virtual Nature Writing: Observations](#): Sat, May 22, 2021, 10:30 AM PDT

Nature writing provides a way to record your sightings outdoors and can give you an even greater appreciation for the natural world. By Sunol Regional Wilderness

23rd Huron Fringe Birding Festival: May 28 - 31 and June 3 - 6, 2021

Webinars will run each evening during our normal time frame of May 28 – 31 and June 3 – 6, 2021. They are scheduled for 7:00 pm on each of the seven evenings to ensure you have the opportunity to get out birding during the day.

