



Upcoming Events

Webinar - Key Biodiversity Areas in British Columbia 2024: Progress and Updates

Date: Tuesday, June 4th, 2024

Time: 7:00 – 8:00 PM Pacific Time (with an optional 30 minutes extra for additional questions/discussion)

Eventbrite: [LINK](#) to register your spot

BC Nature Scholarships - Bert Brink and Rene Savenye

Please spread the information on the BC Nature Scholarships! There are many deserving students out there that would be a great fit for either of our Scholarships - Please see this [LINK](#) for all the information and the scholarship applications

BC Native Bee Course and field trip - June 2024

For further information and registration - [LINK](#)

Open Call for funding - Environmental Damages Fund (EDF)



The Environmental Damages Fund (EDF) is a Government of Canada program administered by Environment and Climate Change Canada. The Fund receives money from fines, penalties, court orders, and voluntary payments for environmental violations. This money is used to support projects that will benefit Canada's natural environment, usually in the area where the violation occurred.

The Fund invests in projects falling within four funding categories:

- Restoration
- Environmental quality improvement
- Research and development, and
- Education and awareness.

Since 1995, more than \$195 million has been invested in over 500 projects benefitting ecosystems and communities across Canada.

See this [LINK](#) for further information and application details.

IBA survey of the Nanoose to Qualicum IBA - March 2024



While we didn't find many Brant, we easily met threshold numbers for Surf Scoter as one would expect at a Herring spawn, but more excitingly had an enormous flock of over 1,000 Western Grebe. The significance of that is that we have seen sharply declining Western Grebe counts throughout BC in recent decades, and this flock marks the largest number seen in this IBA in more than three decades, which should allow us to

maintain it as one of the trigger species we use to highlight the site!

Beyond birds, the community was amazing. Our team of six volunteers represented a wide swath of the Parksville to Nanaimo naturalist community and its many clubs, all of whom are integral to the ongoing Brant monitoring required of this IBA.

Call for a provincial law that prioritizes biodiversity and ecosystems!



From Sierra Club BC;

British Columbia is the most biodiverse province in Canada and home to the most species at risk of extinction. From breathtaking Southern resident orca families to mighty woodland caribou herds to towering old-growth forests, these spectacular beings are at risk of being lost forever if we don't take action now.

Use our online tool to send a message to your MLA and key Ministers today!

To have your voice heard - [LINK](#)

Nature on the Hill

Article Courtesy of LTABC

Nature Canada, brings nature groups from across Canada to meet with MPs and Ministers about local & national priorities related to biodiversity, marine and terrestrial conservation.

This year, Nature Canada's annual **Nature on the Hill** connects dozens of nature groups (Including BC Nature) with Members of Parliament to push for cross-party support for an action plan to address the biodiversity crisis.

Paul McNair, LTABC's Executive Director, says this event provides an opportunity to educate and discuss land trust initiatives on a national scale. *"Our experience with the Land Trust Conservation Fund shows the impact land trusts can have at the federal level by speaking in a collective voice,"* he says, *"and we have seen millions of dollars from the fund flow to conservation projects across BC."*

The Alliances are developing funding programs for land trusts that build on the LTCF but also explore new opportunities impacting southern landscapes and endowments. Canada is poised to deliver a National Biodiversity Strategy and accompanying Accountability legislation this year. This landmark policy will show how the government will deliver on commitments to protect nature such as conserving 30 percent of land and ocean by 2030 (30x30), supporting Indigenous leadership in conservation, and using nature to fight climate change. Nature on the Hill provides a chance for Nature Canada's network organization to add their voice and perspective to this national conversation. Nature Canada's Nature Network comprises over 1,200 partners including local and regional naturalist groups, businesses, faith groups and more – all united to discover, defend, and restore nature. *"This is a critical moment and it's more important than ever that nature-lovers raise their voices and demonstrate their heartfelt wish to protect and restore nature in their home communities and across the country,"* says Emily McMillan, Executive Director at Nature Canada. *"We're engaging MPs from all parties to ensure we can capitalize on the opportunities for nature protection that are before us. Our network of nature groups coming together to speak with one clear message is exactly what Nature on the Hill is all about."*

Looking for Columbian ground squirrel article writer



From Nature Canada:

I am the storyteller and grant writer at Nature Canada, and we write or host blog posts every month about our "species of the month," which is tied to the particular animal showcased in our yearly calendar.

Our June blog is on the Columbian ground squirrel. I was wondering if you (or anybody you know at BCNature) would like to contribute a blog on this species, or on ground squirrels in general.

These blogs are featured in our main newsletter and can reach thousands of supporters each month. Our partners usually write these and it's an opportunity to showcase their work or research on the species in question. A few recent examples:

<https://naturecanada.ca/news/blog/introducing-ursus-maritimus/>

<https://naturecanada.ca/news/blog/meet-and-hear-the-frogs-of-canada/>

<https://naturecanada.ca/news/blog/wolves-a-glimpse-into-the-life-of-an-icon/>

We're looking for about 550 to 800 words. The blog can range from a basic-level, "Ground Squirrels 101" to a more personal kind of piece, but as I say, it's a chance to talk about the work to protect the species. We are happy to link to an existing blog on the subject as well.

Deadline would be mid-June.

Please email to: [LINK](#) Jamie Findlay

Charting a Course for Tomorrow; *Thoughts on how to energize your club*



A common observation amongst nature clubs...everywhere!...is that we are aging. Having "mature" members is not a bad thing, but we also want to see people from younger generations becoming active. One tip is to take a look at the activities your club offers. Are meetings held in evenings?

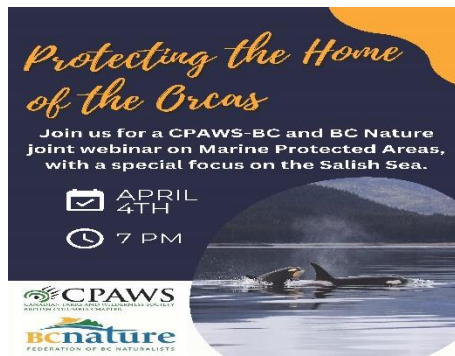
What could you offer in your community as daytime and weekend activities, which would be more accessible to those who are employed and/or have young families?

Maybe offer a noontime talk or walk, or a Saturday nature exploration outing, open to and advertised to the public.

Encourage those who attend to become members after a couple of free outings.

Got an idea? Share it. Contact Harold Sellers, BC Nature Vice-president at hikerharold@gmail.com

BC Nature Webinars on Youtube



We have updated our Youtube channel and the members area with three more BC Nature sponsored webinars:

- Stewards of Splendour - Jennifer Bonnell
 - Wildfire Mitigation in Urban Parklands - Glenda Hanna
 - Marine Protected Areas - with CPAWS
- Here is the youtube.com [LINK](#)

Interesting Reads as Sent to BC Nature

[Ecojustice side with Conservation Groups to protect at-risk bird habitats](#)

This might ruffle a few feathers and hopefully get some better protection of old-growth forests, and habitat for other migratory birds.

