



Upcoming Events

Scholarship Applications for Bert Brink and Rene Savenye Due Date: June 30, 2025

Four more days until the deadline for the Rene Savenye and Bert Brink Scholarships. Here is the link to the application: <https://bcnature.org/scholarships/>

Deadline for articles, editorials, advertising, and notices for the Fall 2025 *BCnature* magazine

Before you head out this summer, send us your articles to communications@bcnature.ca prior to the August 15, 2025 deadline.

We are looking for an article on Mycology if any of you have something of interest to our naturalists community.

The latest tips on Charting a Course for Tomorrow: *Thoughts on how to energize your club*



President : VACANT

If above describes your club's situation, we offer the following ideas.

- Ask your last president to make a list of what they did when they were president.
- What things on the list did they enjoy and what didn't they enjoy?
- What did they REALLY need to do and what could they have left to someone else?
- Identify the things that people speak of as reasons for not becoming president. Could these be done by someone else?
- Lessen the workload of the president by giving certain responsibilities to others, be they directors or simply members.
- Work at making the position of president (or any other position) more appealing, less daunting.
- For example: Got a person who dislikes running meetings but otherwise would be a good president? Let someone else on the board run the meeting.
- The president does not have to do EVERYTHING!

Got your own idea for revitalization? Share it with Harold Sellers,
vicepresident@bcnature.ca

A loss for our Naturalists Community - Bill Merilees June 18, 2025



Our condolences to the family of Bill Merilees.

Bill made innumerable contributions to our natural world and will be sorely missed. Bill was a life member of both Nature Nanaimo and Nature Vancouver. A few of his many accomplishments are listed on the Nature Nanaimo website -

<https://naturenanaimo.ca/2020/12/nature-nanaimo-life-member-william-james-bill-merilees/>

Among Bill's many accomplishments, he was also a recipient of Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee Medal (2002) and recently donated his mollusc collection to the Beaty biodiversity Museum - 2023 (150,000 specimens).

Photo: Bill Merilees on the right

Don't forget your apps this summer



While visiting other parts of BC this summer, don't forget your apps. Documenting your finds and sharing with the naturalists community is just another small step in achieving nature inventory via citizen science.

[inaturalists](#)

[ebird](#)

[Merlin](#) [allaboutbirds](#)

[Plantnet](#)

[AllTrails](#)

These are just a few of the apps available for you to carry with you. Happy spotting and listening!

BC Nature and the Native Bee Society of BC Win Conservation Award



BC Nature and the Native Bee Society of BC (NBSBC) are excited to announce that they have been jointly awarded the **BC Conservation and Biodiversity Award!** This award is provided to “the most impactful initiatives brought forward by BC based charities, for specific work contributing to the improvement of the natural environment of BC and the preservation of its

wilderness and biodiversity”.

Award funds will directly support the **BC Bee Atlas**, a citizen-science based program documents the diversity, distribution and floral partners of BC's more than 500 native bee species - critical pollinators that support ecosystems province-wide.

Launched in 2024 by the NBSBC, the BC Bee Atlas is powered by volunteers trained through the Oregon State University's Master Melittologist Program (<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/master-melittologist>). These volunteers collect

bee specimens throughout BC, recording the plants they forage on (i.e., their essential floral partners) using the iNaturalist platform. Each bee is pinned and labeled to museum-quality standards, before being submitted for expert identification. As identifications occur, a detailed picture emerges - not just of where each bee species is found, but also of their vital plant associations.

Already the BC Bee Atlas has made exciting discoveries! A new *Perdita* (fairy bee) species for BC was found in Kamloops, while a newly introduced bee species for North America was found on Vancouver Island. Rare and specialized species such as *Macropis nuda* (an oil-collecting bee) and *Dufourea trochantera* (a *Phacelia* specialist) have also been documented.

The findings from this program are critical for guiding habitat restoration and conservation strategies—particularly for rare bees and plants—and contribute directly to BC Nature’s mission: *Knowing Nature and Keeping it Worth Knowing*.

Thanks to the funding from this award, the BC Bee Atlas will be able to expand its efforts, train more volunteers, and deepen our collective understanding of BC’s incredible native bee diversity.

Learn more about the Native Bee Society of BC and the BC Bee Atlas:
www.bcnativebees.org

Learn more about BC Nature here: www.bcnature.org

Interesting Reads as Sent to BC Nature

[AI's Hidden Climate Costs | About that](#)

By CBC - Andrew Chang

[The magic in the mud: sandpipers' migration superfood](#)

Roberts Bank Terminal 2 - Story and photography by Isabelle Groc



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