



***BC Nature AGM and conference
at Lillooet, BC 'Canyon to Alpine'
May 4 – 6, 2017
REPORT to BC Nature and
funders***

The Lillooet Naturalists hosted the BC Nature AGM and events in the beautiful Fraser canyon and mountains in Lillooet May, 2017. Our AGM and conference itinerary featured hikes and walks, birding and bats, St'at'imc cultural tours, natural history presentations, a tour of our restoration work and native plant nursery, ethnobotany, a geology outing, wildflowers, an organic farm tour, a train trip (that turned out to be a very scenic bus trip), and more.

Final registration was 158, with guests, volunteers and presenters swelling that number to 200 for the Saturday dinner, awards and presentations. We were pleased that our Mayor joined us for a number of the events.

Financial support for our activities was received from the Squamish Lillooet Regional District, our MLA, Interior Savings Credit Union, the Lillooet Foundation and BC Hydro's Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program – these contributions kept us in the black and meant we could reimburse presenters and acknowledge volunteers generously. Thousands of hours of volunteer time went into the event and the community was supportive from the get-go. Feedback from the participants was very positive overall and noted the friendliness and hospitality of Lillooet. Local artisans donated items for the raffle and we added an Echo Meter Touch bat detector to sweeten the pot. Profits from the event are shared between the Lillooet Naturalist Society and BC Nature and go into funds for ongoing education and conservation activities.



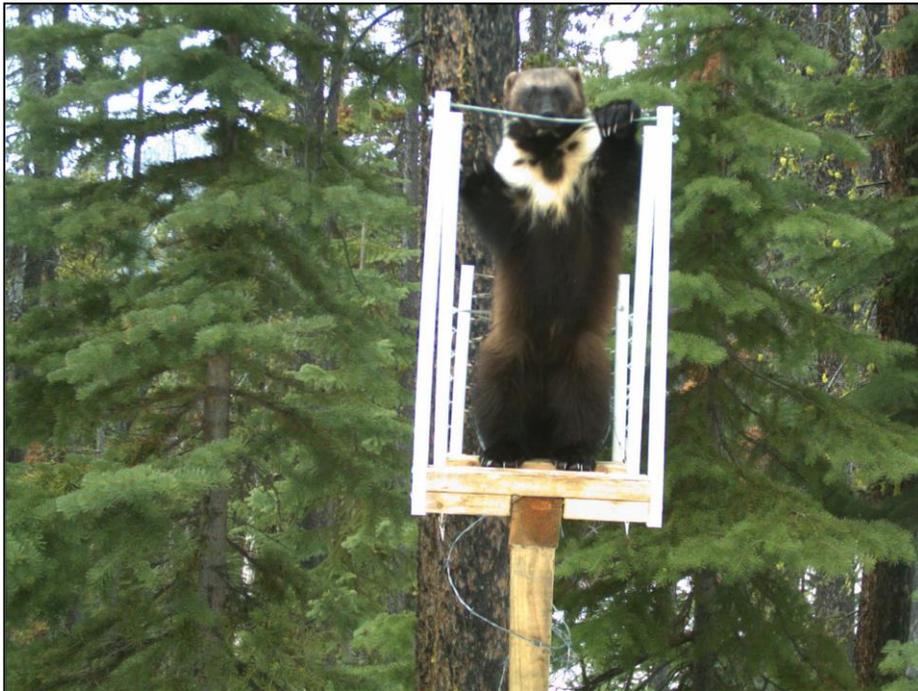
Weather was inclement, and road closures and slides delayed some visitors and cancelled the train trip. But participants enjoyed all the outings regardless. Penstemon, Saskatoons and Arrow-leaved Balsamroot were in bloom and birds and animals were displaying, as they do in season, and visitors had opportunities to view them during their outings with our local experts.



A bat flew into Splitrock while we were talking bats and a Garter snake graced a Mock Orange bush for all to see on the Splitrock restoration tour. A Curlew was seen on the back country birding outing and Western Screech owls and Spotted bats were heard in the evening after dark.

A yoga class was offered for the participants and the Museum and Visitor Centre and the historic Miyazaki House extended their hours. The District and Chamber were supportive and the Beautification Committee got busy on the banners and flower pots before the event.

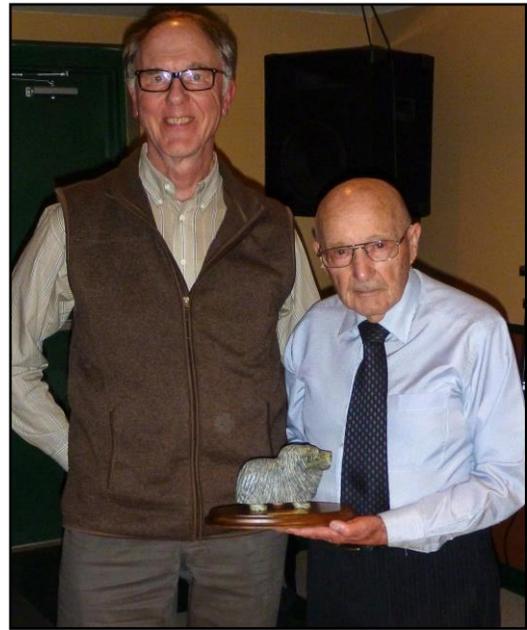
Presentations were held on butterflies and moths, fishers, grasslands and wolverines. Local photographer Ian Routley wound up the events with a slide show celebrating our biodiversity and beautiful natural landscapes.



Local catering featured as much Lillooet grown organic food as possible. First Nations culture was woven into many of the events and we enjoyed a traditional welcoming at our meetings at Xwisten. Elder Bill Machell at T'it'q'et got the fire going in the winter house and visitors joined him there for that experience. First Nation guides joined many of the outings to lend their cultural expertise. We had all our knowledgeable naturalists on duty as well. Participants noted in their feedback that they very much appreciated this local expertise on their outings and that our passion for our 'place' was evident throughout.

Conservation Officer Bob Butcher and Vivian met with the Foundation Committee regarding the Sturgeon project, funded in part by the BC Nature Foundation.





Awards included a surprise Volunteer award for Lillooet naturalist Christine Galliazzo. Special guest Bob Peart, the incoming President of Nature Canada, presented the 2016 Nature Canada **Douglas H. Pimlott Award** to George Scotter from Kelowna. <https://naturecanada.ca/news/blog/announcing-the-2016-douglas-h-pimlott-award-winner-dr-george-scotter/>
 One of the groups hiked to the hut at the top of the Fire Lookout at West Pavilion.



See you in Vernon for the Fall General Meetings, September 21-24, 2017!