QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF NATURE CHILLIWACK



MEETINGS

Until at least September 2022 we will meet by Zoom with the uncertainty of the pandemic's course & the wild weather. When we resume in person evenings, our meeting will be at the <u>Neighbourhood Learning Centre</u>. 46361 Yale Road, Chilliwack. We hope to be able to book Tuesdays but will have to wait to see if it'll be available to us. **Note, upcoming speakers dates vary**.

- September 21, 2021 Terry McIntosh talked on his trips to Beringia, a vast expanse of unglaciated terrain in the Arctic that hosts a myriad of unusual flora. His encounters with a berry eating grizzly were most entertaining.
- October 20, 2021 Andy MacKinnon and Kem Luther, authors of the recent <u>Mushrooms of BC</u> book, shared the history of the publication. The photos, contributed by many photographers, were exquisite!
- November 16, 2021 Chris Currie of South Coast Bat Conservation Society spoke on bats in south western BC. His comprehensive lecture noted their long lifespan, slow reproduction rate and the looming danger of white-nose syndrome. There're 10 species in our area and 17 in BC.

FIELD TRIPS

 Our mushroom trip to Angel Wings Forest in the Chilliwack Valley on October 16 was very popular with both NC members and visitors, some of whom joined. The Forest abounded in mushrooms. Most trippers left at noon but a small group went to Chilliwack Lake in the PM to find more delightful specimens including this Sparassis radicata that occurs at the base of Douglas firs.



Cauliflower Mushroom

 On October 30 Terry McIntosh led a well-attended trip to the Chehalis River Campground on the Morris Valley Road. Terry pointed out many lichens, a partnership between fungi & algae, & mosses, nonvascular plants. Their habitat ranged from rocks to trees to the forest floor. Scott Denkers' posted a photo <u>Album</u> on NC's Flickr page. Thanks Scott.



3. Our trip to view wintering bald eagles at Harrison Bay was cancelled due to the devastating mid-November floods closing roads to all except essential traffic.

<u>THIS 'n THAT</u>

- 1. **Camp River Wildlife Area**: As Nature Chilliwack enters its 51st year of environmental education, nature enjoyment and working to keep our environment worth knowing, we would like to take this time to thank all of the club members that have worked so hard since 1994 on our premier stewardship project, the Camp River Wildlife Area. As well, Nature Chilliwack would like to acknowledge the many public volunteers that came out over the early years to help with plantings and the businesses that freely provided their services, machinery and labour. Each individual has made a difference to our environment in turning this 22 acre broccoli field into a thriving biodiverse site for wildlife. Thank you everyone!!! Go to this FB link for pictures of the site in its early years.
- Facebook & Flickr: Our Facebook page continues to attract much interest. Thank you to Lee Larkin for the many Nature write-ups. We urge members to contribute to our Flickr albums. Contact Scott.
- 3. **Christmas Bird Counts:** The Harrison River Count on December 14th enjoyed fine weather but the Chilliwack Count was rescheduled from the 18th to the 27th on account of snow. Preliminary results indicate a good number of species and a decline in total number of individual birds counted. A new species, Rusty Blackbird, was found in Chilliwack.
- Health Protocols: Proof of Covid Vaccination required at all in person events & masking needed if distancing not possible at outdoor events.