

Summer – 2023

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MEETINGS

[Neighbourhood Learning Centre](#) at 46361 Yale Road, Chilliwack at 7 PM. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month. Meeting attendance in-person or via Zoom.

SPEAKERS

1. Deborah Jones, from Cougar Creek Streamkeepers group, spoke in April 18th on rain gardens. Her comprehensive presentation covered the four steps to build one – location, design, plants and maintenance. That only the worst weeds need removing helps make the job less daunting.
2. UFV’s Greg Schmalz’s May talk on nesting herons at the GBHNR found crows and bald eagles alarmed herons most. Student observations correlated highly with review of video recordings. The herons moved the colony boundaries twice in the last years to stay close to the bald eagle nest.
3. June’s general meeting will be at 5:30 pm for our annual picnic at Cheam Lake Wetland instead of at Camp Slough Wildlife area. A few less mosquitoes we think and a shelter if it rains. Bring your chair, a picnic supper and some mosquito repellent. We walk the trails after supper.

FIELD TRIPS

1. Participants on the April 13’s field trip to the Hope Airport were rewarded with 100 plus American robins as well as 15 mountain bluebirds and a western meadowlark. Several birds of prey were seen including a possible gyrfalcon & a turkey vulture. An oriole nest with tarp fibres woven among the plant materials intrigued us.
2. May’s trip to Campbell Valley Park was a solo trip for our coordinator, Fernando Selles and his wife Paulina. Nonetheless a diversity of spring migrant



Oriole Nest: Photo: J. Perrin

birds and a variety of chipmunks and squirrels made the trip fun.

3. On Thursday, June 8th our field trip leader suggested we do a more leisurely walk along the Kettle Valley Rail Trail instead of Thacker Mountain because of the smoke and warm weather. This is a transition area between the coastal and interior regions. Birch-leaf spirea replaced coastal hardhack. Go to our [Flickr link](#) to see the photos of the trip.

THIS N’ THAT

1. **Loss of a long-time Nature Chilliwack member:** Sadly, Debra Cornish, died in a motorcycle accident on May 31 on a road trip to visit friends from the



Debra talking to Deborah at our April meeting

Cariboo to Vancouver Island. Debra, a member of Nature Chilliwack since 2015, was a remarkable person. She had a real

zest for the natural world and shared her enthusiasm at meeting and outings. It was always a pleasure to be in her company. Debra brought us joy. She will be missed. Nature Chilliwack Club sends our deepest condolences to her family,

2. **Membership:** Anyone who has not paid up their 2023 membership will be taken off our email list. This will be your last newsletter unless you [renew](#).
3. **Camp Slough Wildlife Area:** [Camp Slough Stewardship](#) Next Work Party is Saturday, July 8, 2023 @ 9 AM. Meet at the Cairn on Camp River Road. Tools and gloves provided.
4. **Ryder Lake Ramble:** Nature Chilliwack is setting up our informational display at the Ramble on again this year. Our bird brochures are very popular. Entry is by donation with great food at the hall and many lovely gardens open to the public. Consider going on June 17th.
5. **BC Nature:** Four Nature Chilliwack members attended the 2023 AGM hosted by Langley Field Naturalists from May 4 to 7th. The speakers, trips and food were fantastic. In a talk on Chilliwack River Salmon, we learned Wild Coho juveniles hatched at Chilliwack Lake area over-wintered in the restored Browne Creek Wetland! Predator researcher, Ron Ydenberg, noted the good, the bad and the ugly of reintroduction projects. Wolves controlled the elk in Yellowstone, rainbow trout wiped out Harlequin ducks in Jasper and Peregrine falcons in the Atlantic Provinces resulted in a 67% decline in semi-palmated sandpipers.