

Summer - 2024

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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 Zoom

SPEAKERS

1. March 19 AGM - Christine Bishop gave a great talk but it was sad to learn the population of rufous hummers has dropped 60% in the last 40 years. Hummers need wetlands and lots of native nectar plants. Loss of habitat, cats and pesticides contribute to the decline.



2. April 16 2024 - Sarah Schrier of the Fraser River Sturgeon Society told us female sturgeon only start breeding at 26 but males at 12-years old. The Fraser has the last wild population in the world. Research including citizen science is used to monitor the population. Juvenile fish are not as abundant as mature sturgeon. Habitat loss and climate change contributes to the decline.

3. May 21 2024 - Brad Fedoruk Photography show wowed us. Twelve owl species photos up close and personal as well as videos of them calling. He also had bears, eagles' sunsets, northern lights and more. Thanks Brad!



Short-eared Owl – Brad Fedoruk

FIELD TRIPS

1. **March 24 2024 - Tamihi Creek** on a very fine spring day yielded a nesting Amerian Dipper and lots of wild flowers. The chosen café afterwards was so busy we ended up at the Tamihi Café in Garrison. Who knew?



Palmated Coltsfoot

2. **April 21, 2024 - Chilliwack Forest** on a cool day also had lots of wild flowers. This park is a favourite with mountain bikers and dog walkers. Sadly the park shows signs of over use with eroded trails and invasive plants.



Western Trillium

3. **May 5, 2024 - Tom Berry Gravel Pit** again on a rainy day had fewer spring birds than anticipated but a Warbling vireo and a rufous hummer were nice finds. Later some of us drove the perimeter of Hope airport to find a Savannah sparrow but no bluebirds.
4. **Field Trip Planning:** Fernando Selles along with his partner, Paulina, coordinate our field trips. Coordination does not mean they come up with all the ideas. This is the responsibility of all members. Please share your suggestions with the coordinators. Our [field trip page](#) has links to many local areas. Get back to us with your wishes. Let us know if weekdays or weekends are better for you. Many long time members have lots of expertise on flora & fauna to share. A big thank you to member Heather O'Grady who has invited us to her property in the Chilliwack River Valley.

THIS N' THAT

1. **"Out of the Darkness"** a Bat Exhibit sponsored by Nature Chilliwack, is coming to the Chilliwack Museum October 2024.
2. The exhibition has both a public education mission and will give Nature Chilliwack publicity. It highlights how essential bats are to the environment. It also provides a chance to celebrate these amazing creatures and foster stewardship within BC.
3. The cost to rent and to transport this travelling display to Chilliwack is close to \$1000. Many years ago member Valerie Whetter bequeathed us \$10,000 that is invested with Envision Credit Union where we bank. Money from this was used. The yearly interest from this GIC is used to pay rent for meetings, pay for speakers and for other club expenses.
4. Membership fees cover some club costs but from every paid membership, family or single, \$19 is paid to BC Nature. Membership alone cannot cover the costs of running our Club.
5. **FVRL Bat Pack** can be borrowed and used to monitor what bats are in your neighbourhood. Lee Larkin, who is the lead on this project, suggests 1-2 nights from June 1-21 and 1-2 nights from July 11 to August 5 to help NC compile a list of bats in our area.