

**Summer - 2026**

Editor: Janne Perrin

www.naturechilliwack.ca**MEETINGS**

Neighbourhood Learning Centre at 46361 Yale Road, Chilliwack at 7 PM. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month 8 times a year. Meeting attendance in-person or Zoom

SPEAKERS

- March 24 2026:** After delicious pot luck "supper" of savories and dessert, Stan Orchard, herpetologist and amphibian expert, who now operates Bull Frog Control Inc. in Victoria, treated us to an informative show on BC amphibians. Stan told us about the many species of salamanders and frogs found in BC. Western toads are the most abundant amphibian. The Western Red-backed salamander is lungless but entirely terrestrial. With torches and electro frogging devices, Stan and his crew remove invasive American Bullfrogs from ponds in Victoria, keeping them out of the City's water works. Who knew bullfrogs eat everything from salmon fry to western painted turtles, can jump 9X their own length and are only active if the temperature is 16 C or above! With



the potluck and presentation being so much fun, the AGM was postponed to the following month. However, about to retire president, Janne, was gifted with a bouquet. It was presented by Denis Knopp, a former president and butterfly expert.



- April 21 2026:** Denis Knopp, spoke following our 55th AGM Meeting. His illustrated talk covered the importance of

keeping larval host plants in butterfly gardens and city spaces. Clodius Parnassian, a white translucent mid-sized butterfly with orange spots uses Pacific bleeding heart as a larval food, flies in mid-May to August and nectars on Douglas aster, self-heal and sweet William. Western Tiger Swallowtails fly at the same time; larval food is Saskatoons plus other plants. It nectars on many plants including cottonwoods. WTS puddles on scat & urine for minerals. Stinging nettle is the larval host plant for several butterflies including the Red Admiral, Milbert's Tortoiseshell (pictured), West Coast Lady and the Satyr Comma. Denis told us of many other local butterflies in addition to those above.



- May 19, 2026: Paulina Selles** saved the evening when our scheduled speaker was not available. Paulina gave an encore presentation on Leucestic Birds. Afterwards club members took the opportunity to share sightings and discuss conservation concerns.

FIELD TRIPS

- March 21 2026:** Deb Ego, NC member and GBHNR volunteer gave us an insider's tour at the Reserve. The GB herons were in full nesting mode, calling, flying, stick gathering and preening. A common garter snake (see photo) warmed itself in the sunshine. Among the 26 species submitted to ebird were Lesser Scaup, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, and a mature Cooper's Hawk.

**2. April 25, 2026**

A walk along the Kettle Valley Railway cut on the north shore of the Fraser River at Hope with leader Scott Denkers followed by a trip to Syéxw Chó:leqw Adventure Park on Hwy #7 yielded a myriad of interesting observations. We saw Dark-eyed juncos gathering nesting material, salamander sp. egg masses in a receding vernal pond, butterflies, many song birds and informative signs on traditional native plant use. Over 25 species of birds were sent to ebird for

the two sites.

- May 23, 2026:** At the Bumble Bee ID workshop Nature Chilliwack Club members learned how to tell a Bumble Bee from other pollinating insects. Using 'Bumble Bees of Coastal BC' ID cards members learned how to read the colour patterns and pick out the key identifying features. As well, members learned what angles to photograph for identification purposes. Members found several colour forms of the trickster Yellow Head Bumble Bee, *Bombus flavifrons*, pictured here on lupines.



- May 30 2026:** Skagit Valley Trip led by Lee and Denis on a chilly day treated us to some amazing birds, including a Brewer's sparrow and several Cassin's Finches, both usually not seen in the area. The forest had a scattering of native Pacific Rhododendrons in bloom. Twinflower, native Orange honeysuckle and Prince's Pine poked out of the mossy forest floor. As the temperature rose, we found some very slow moving native bees and, after lunch, at Whitworth Meadows, flowering Arctic Lupines, Field Chickweed & Spreading Dogbane attracting early spring butterflies.

**THIS N' THAT**

- Four NC members attended the BCN AGM in Kamloops May 21-24. The Grassland trips both at night for owls & in the day for ecology were great!
- Our 2026-27 Executive are: President: Scott Denkers, VP: Maggie Mazurkewich, Secretary: Danielle Grisnich, Treasurer: Ashley Parshyn. Thank you all for stepping up!
- Remember bird photo submissions in landscape format for our 2026 Calendar project deadline is September