



Fall - 2026

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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 (for most)

SPEAKERS

1. No speakers over the summer.
2. September 15, 2026 will be Ron Long who is an expert nature photographer. Ron, now retired, worked in the Biological Sciences Department at SFU for 36 years. Ron's talk on photographing nature brings together the experience gained in a lifetime of photography. Included are discussions of equipment and techniques that he has found to work well and ways to approach wildlife for frame-filling photographs.

FIELD TRIPS

1. **June 16, 2026:** Under clear skies, 10 members enjoyed the **Annual Picnic at Cheam Lake Wetlands Regional Park**. Lee brought the newly updated NC info board with this neat display of native bees. Many birds and flowers observed included nesting Tree Swallows, Cedar Waxwing and Willow Flycatchers. The osprey was chasing the Bald eagle both of which have nests visible from the wetland.



2. **June 17, 2026:** An evening walk in **Little Mountain Forest** with Deb Soutar and Ashley Parshyn as guides proved to be a delight. Towering cedars, fir, maple and hemlock towered above us. Red admiral butterflies patrolled the stinging nettle, a native banana slug crawled the path way but we did not see the Oregon Forest Snail, a rare mollusk that is found there. We did see red elderberries, pale brittlestem mushroom and candy flower (Claytonia sibirica) in bloom.



3. **July 5 2026:** **Peach Creek** on a bright Sunday saw many club members come out to look for song birds. Flycatchers, wood ducks, cedar waxwing, red-wing blackbirds and many other birds were seen. The highlight was a Bewick's wren nesting in this man-made box. Many Coho salmon



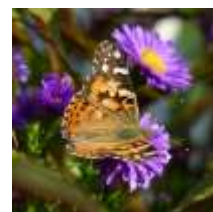
juveniles swam in the pristine waters of Peach Creek.

4. **Manning Park on July 21, 2026** was canceled due to a wild fire burning in the park and poor air quality.
5. **August 14, 2026** the trip to **Lewx Qwo:m Park** on Elk Mountain was also canceled due to poor air quality caused by all the big forest fires up the canyon and in the interior of the province.
6. **August 23, 2026 SAY Restoration Project** along Chilliwack River was a very popular trip with 12 NC members in attendance. After no spawning salmon for over 70 years in this part of the river, many have returned since restoration. Standing snags and downed debris are an integral part of riparian restoration and many are included. Native plants include choke cherry, sweet gale, willow sp. and red osier dogwood. Lots of birds were seen but only one member had binoculars!

THIS N' THAT

1. Remember bird photo submissions in landscape format for our 2026 **Calendar Project** is extended to mid-September. Lee is requesting photos of male hummingbirds and their nectar plants, nesting birds (orioles etc.), any bird bathing or drinking water, berry eaters (robins or waxwings), seed eaters (finches, grosbeaks, siskins), warblers or swallows for a migration theme, eagles herons & loons for wetland habitat theme, and stashes like jays, nuthatch or chickadee for the "unintentional foresters." PLEASE, NC photographers, send photos to Lee so she has a choice. leelarki@gmail.com ASAP.
2. To order your copy of this 2027 calendar, you can sign up at a regular meeting or email leelarki@gmail.com. The cost is \$20
3. The calendar project is funded by a BC Nature Foundation Grant. The purpose is to raise the community's awareness of good nature stewardship. All funds raised will be used for our long term Camp Slough Wildlife Area native plantings and stewardship.
4. On Tuesday, October 20th starting at 10 AM, 140 native plants will be installed at Camp Slough Wildlife Area. Please come out to help.
5. The Cheam First Nation is looking for engagement with the "recreation community" on their proposed Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) on the Heart of the Fraser roughly between Agassiz and the Harrison River confluence. Maggi Mazurkewich, our new Vice president, will attend the 1-hour video call.
6. The Grade 2 teacher at John Calvin School in Yarrow has requested our help for their theme of Butterflies. She's starting the year with a mini unit on the Woolly Bear Caterpillars. They end the year by watching the life cycle of the Painted Lady Butterfly. The teacher wants to tie this focus into healthy Watersheds. You executives are all unavailable in September for the woolly bears. Is there a member who could help? Contact Maggie, our VP, who is the liaison with the teacher, if you can help. maggiemazure@gmail.com

Woolly Bear Caterpillar



Painted Lady Butterfly