



# NEWSLETTER

## March and April 2020

***“To know nature and to keep it worth knowing”***

[www.abbymissionnatureclub.org](http://www.abbymissionnatureclub.org)

Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month (except July and August) at 7:30 p.m.  
at the Ravine Park Hatchery, 2395 Crescent Way, Abbotsford  
by the Abbotsford Arts Centre

Email: haroos12@gmail.com

### *The objectives of the Abbotsford-Mission Nature Club*

- *To enjoy and interpret natural history*
- *To promote an understanding and an appreciation of natural ecosystems*
- *To promote the concept of stewardship of natural resources*
- *To participate as naturalists in public consultations related to questions of environment and development in the Abbotsford and Mission area*

### ***Executive of the Abbotsford Mission Nature Club***

President – Hank Roos – 604-853-4283  
Email: haroos12@gmail.com  
Vice-President/Website - Wendy DaDalt –  
604-856-2575  
Email: wendy@dadalt.net  
Herman Venema – 604-826-6872  
Email: hcpvenema@shaw.ca  
Treasurer – John Engbers-604-768-5470  
Email: jengbers@telus.net  
Membership - Rita Bot – 604-309-1263  
Email: rbot12@shaw.ca

Newsletter Editor – Heather Washburn 604-309-9574  
Email: washburn@shaw.ca  
Ken Summers – Conservation 604-851-2301  
Email: ken.summers@telus.net  
Alice Roos –Refreshments – 604-853-4283  
Email: haroos12@gmail.com  
Speakers/Field Trips – David Hopaluk 778-552-5780  
Email: dhopaluk@shaw.ca  
Secretary - Sheila Flavelle – 604-870-4221  
Email: sheila@flavelle.com

# BUSINESS

## **Planning Workshop Engages Club Members**

The Abbotsford Mission Nature Club has a great reputation in the community and is particularly known for its stewardship work at Willband Creek Park. Members enjoy the monthly speakers, field trips and evening walks. Invasive species pulls, plantings and clean-ups engage members while the Board largely supports outreach events and projects. The recent Club member survey indicates there are additional volunteer interests.

Some 19 members gathered for two hours on February 22 at Ravine Park hatchery to reflect on the Club's past and current activities, health of the organization, future opportunities, resources and member involvement.

Some highlights from the Group Discussion were:

- Our target audience is our membership and/or the general public for different activities.
- We have member skills in natural history, but we may lack some technical skills or capacity such as social media.
- Barriers to participation to consider are physical conditions at venues, ride sharing, personal schedules e.g. try a mid-week, daytime walk; perhaps themed.
- Our capacity is currently limited to help young people have access to natural history knowledge.
- Club member "age" is not an issue; it is new energy and capacity that are important.
- We want to involve the community in many ways. Dream of a nature house base at Willband.
- Promote mentorship, e.g. share tips on how to tap into our personal networks, use our contacts for club objectives.
- Create an inventory of member skills and interests. Explore interests in a comfortable social setting. Talk more about topics. Suggestion to have a member sharing night.
- Suggestion to start meetings at 7:00 p.m. with more time for socializing and learning about Club business. At every meeting a member could give a short talk about an interest.
- Leverage your community e.g. talk to local schools about using parks for nature contact; build relationships. Those that have done this could share their experiences with the group i.e. mentor.
- Explore potential of the Suzuki Foundation Butterfly Way Program and status of Naturescape BC.
- Develop a culture of membership involvement in club activities.
- The Health of the Club is Number 1 – foster an engaged and happy membership.
- Streamline Board roles to make positions more balanced and attractive.
- Continue to collaborate with other environmental organizations i.e. Fraser Valley Conservancy, Fraser Valley Watershed Coalition and UFV.
- Increase attention on communicating with membership; up-to-date news; opportunities for participation etc.

- BC Nature offers members opportunities e.g. field camps, AGM's, conservation advocacy resolutions.

The AMNC Board will consider this and other member input over the next few months as it plans for a new season and Board composition. Let's keep the conversations going!

## **SPEAKERS/MEETINGS**

### **March and April 2020**

**Wednesday March 11 at 7:30pm**

**The Story of Willband Creek Park** with Hank Roos, President

An overview of Club projects in Willband Creek Park. Abby Mission Nature Club has installed and now maintains swallow and wood duck boxes. In addition, we have planted thousands of native trees and shrubs and has removed invasive blackberries. The Club's most significant project in the Park was the Fall 2017 completion of the Co-op Community Viewing Platform thanks to the help of significant in-kind donations and funding from the Co-op Community Spaces Program.

**Wednesday April 8 at 7:30pm**

**Science Fair Winners will present their winning projects.**

**Mason Bees** with Warner Klann

Our food supply and environment depend on these amazing pollinators. Werner is a retiree whose goal is to inspire others to get involved with Mason Bees. You may see some of his Mason Bee homes in city parks and golf courses.

[www.TheMasonBeeCompany.com](http://www.TheMasonBeeCompany.com)

**Wednesday May 13 at 7:30pm**

**Fraser Valley Regional District Trail System**

David Urban, Manager of Outdoor Recreation Planning for FVRD

<https://www.fvrd.ca/EN/main/parks-recreation.html>

**June 10, 2020 Annual Picnic** – location TBD

## **CLUB FIELD TRIPS/WORK PARTIES**

**Saturday March 11**

**Willband Creek Park Fieldtrip**

Meet in the parking lot on Bateman Road at Hwy 11 (Mission Highway) at 9 am.

Level terrain

Duration 1 – 2 hours

Comfortable footwear (waterproof suggested)

Confirm your attendance to David Hopaluk, [dhopaluk@shaw.ca](mailto:dhopaluk@shaw.ca) or at 778-552-5780

by Friday evening 8 pm

## **Saturday May 2**

### **Hogan Family Nature Park Annual Work Bee and Walk**

**9:30 am** (located on Debruyne Road just off Bradner and 2 streets north of Fraser Highway). This is our annual general cleanup and the removal of some invasive species. Many spring flowers should be in bloom at that time. Sturdy footwear is suggested and bring gardening tools and gloves. Refreshments will be provided.



© Can Stock Photo

Confirm your attendance to David Hopaluk, [dhopaluk@shaw.ca](mailto:dhopaluk@shaw.ca) or at 778-552-5780 by Friday evening 8 pm

## **Saturday May 23 – Willband Creek Park with the Langley Field Naturalists**

### **Willband Creek Park**

Leader: Anne Gosse

Time: 9:00 am at the parking lot on Bateman Road off Highway 11

Willband Creek Park is a marshy wetland located in Abbotsford. The trails are easy going, level routes suitable for all ages and fitness levels circling a marshy lake. Located on the paths are sightseeing benches and wooden bridges and a brand-new viewing platform. We will walk the 2.33-kilometer circle gravel trail to check out the flora and fauna in this wetland area.

**Phone 604-888-1787 for info or to let us know to expect you.**

*If you have suggestions for future speakers or field trips, please contact David Hopaluk. Phone 778-552-5780 Email [dhopaluk@shaw.ca](mailto:dhopaluk@shaw.ca)*

## **COMMUNITY FIELD TRIPS**

### **Chilliwack Field Naturalists**

#### **Great Blue Heron Nature Reserve Tuesday March 10 at 10am**

Meet at GBNHR at 10:00am

Contact Janet Pollock to register (604-846-8608)

### **Langley Field Naturalists**

#### **George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary Saturday March 21st**

Leader Al Grass

Time: 9:00 am at Reifel Refuge

Dress warmly, bring a lunch and a warm drink.

Please note there is a \$5.00 entrance fee for non-members of the Bird Sanctuary (reduced rate for seniors)

Phone 604-219-2043 to let us know to expect you.

## **Saturday April 4th**

### **Brydon Lagoon & High-Knoll Park**

Leader: John Gordon

Time: 9:00 am at the 53rd Avenue parking lot near 198A Street, Langley.

Phone 604-533-7171 for more information or to let us know to expect you.

**May 28-1pm-4pm, May 30 9pm**  
**BC Nature Conference and AGM**  
148 Old Hedley Rd, Princeton  
See <https://vfn.ca/agm/> for registration and tickets

## **METRO VANCOUVER PARKS NATURE PROGRAM**

**Fri, Mar 20 & Sat, Mar 21, 7 – 9:30 pm**

**Night Quest** | All ages Nature at night is a magical experience. Wander 2 km of lantern-lit trails and meet squirrels, skunks and salamanders who will delight you with stories of the nighttime forest. Bring a flashlight or lantern, and a mug for the cash-only concession. Allow 1.5 hours to complete. Please leave pets at home. PACIFIC SPIRIT REGIONAL PARK Meet at park centre on 16th Ave, 400 m west of Blanca St Presented with Pacific Spirit Park Society

Two ways to register. Online: [metrovancouveronline.org](http://metrovancouveronline.org) or Call: 604-432-6359

**April 2, 2020 – Fraser Valley Regional Science Fair at UFV**

## **RECENT FIELD TRIPS**

**The Bloedel Conservatory/Van Dusen Gardens January 25**

This trip was well attended on a wet Saturday when it was nicer to stroll in a tropical paradise amongst lush plants and exotic birds. We were fortunate to get there early before the mobs descended, cameras and small kids in hand.



## Domestic Waterfowl in the Wild by Alex Lewinsky

This winter an unexpected duck was sighted in Mill Lake Park. It was a Domestic Muskovy Duck (*Cairina moschata domestica*), single without a companion. An expert from South Carolina validated the identification. The wild type from which they are derived is native to Mexico and Central and South



*Cairina moschata domestica*



America, but they also established themselves in the USA, notably in warmer Florida and Texas. The expert, someone raising this type for years,

insisted our climate shouldn't present any problem. Southern BC is not that cold for them! Apparently, they are tasty and so a favourite domesticated bird.

We can guess this individual escaped a farm and ended in Mill Lake instead of a soup pot. Nonetheless, seemed to enjoy the freedom roaming the park lawns, waters and the social interaction with other species. He was reported last December at the CBC (Christmas Bird Count) but could not be included in the count. The rules preclude considering domestic species unless they are obviously living and reproducing in the wild (e.g. pigeons). It is not the first time domestic waterfowl was observed in our lakes.



*Anser cygnoides domesticus*

On July 2018, mid-afternoon, an atypical goose was seen water-landing among a flock of Canada geese close to the new viewing platform on the South Pond in Willband Creek Park. Experts confirmed it as a domestic goose. A contact from the Delta Marsh Bird Observatory (DMBO) identified it is a Chinese Goose. In a complementing opinion from Kevin J. McGowan, a Ph.D. from the Cornell Lab of



Ornithology, he indicated it is "a domestic goose with Swan Goose ancestry". He had previously posted photos of similarly looking birds walking with Canada Geese.

The photo indeed appears to be of a Chinese Goose (*Anser cygnoides domesticus*), the domestic breed descending from the wild Swan Goose. There are two varieties: white and grey. The grey variety (similar to the one in the photo except for the beak colour) has bright black beaks. Orange beaks are

typical to the white variety. It might be a female because of the relatively small beak basal knob.