



# ABBOTSFORD MISSION NATURE CLUB ACTIVITIES

March/April 2025

***“Know nature and to keep it worth knowing”***

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

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

*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*

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS/FIELDTRIPS - 2025

March 12, 2025 - Andrea Gielens: “Conservation Collaboration: A Tale of three species”



Explore the biology and reintroduction efforts to save three small but iconic BC species and the science and advancements that have led to challenges and successes over the past 20 years. **Andrea manages our captive breeding and release programs for the Oregon spotted frog, the Coastal Western Painted turtle, and the Taylors Checkerspot butterfly**

**Wednesday, March 19, 2025, Fieldtrip to Greater Vancouver Zoo and  
tour the breeding facility. (Spring Break)**



Join Andrea Gielens for a two-hour behind-the-scenes tour of the captive breeding programs of the Oregon Spotted Frog, the Coastal Western Painted Turtle and the Checkerspot Butterfly at the Greater Vancouver Zoo. Meet at 9:45 am on March 19th at the Zoo's entrance, 5048 264th Street in Aldergrove.

We were able to get a group rate which is - Adults \$20 (Reg \$36), Children \$13 (Reg \$25) for a minimum of 15 people. It being Spring Break we encourage members to take their children and grandchildren. Not suitable for children under the age of 10.

After the breeding program tour, you can visit the rest of the zoo at your own leisure.

Register with Quirien at [gmuldertenkate@gmail.com](mailto:gmuldertenkate@gmail.com) by 7 pm on March 17th. Please include the names of the people attending and a cell phone number in case she needs to contact you and have no access to Wi-Fi!

**Blackberry Removal Blitz March 26 Wednesday (Spring Break)**



We are hoping to be able to do the whole park in one day. At this time of the year the shoots and patches are very accessible. The park will be assessed whether there are ground nesting birds active just in case. This has been an ongoing activity when the weather is favorable. The City with their equipment flailed areas that we had mapped for them, but we still need to try and get rid of areas along the trails.

**Needed:** 20+ volunteers ages 10 and up

**Equipment:** Garden clippers, loppers, leather gloves (some equipment available)

**Time:** 9:30 - 12:00 Bateman Road entrance

**Lunch:** Pizza lunch courtesy City of Abbotsford (20+ volunteers)

**Register:** [haroos12@gmail.com](mailto:haroos12@gmail.com) by March 21

## April 9, 2025, by Dr. James Scott



The HNP encourages people to turn their yards into wildlife-friendly habitats, creating interconnected corridors that are like a park.

By planting native species and promoting richness and variety, individuals can support native wildlife and healthy air quality, reduce their water usage, and lessen flood risk. The [homegrownnationalpark.org](http://homegrownnationalpark.org) website offers resources and tools to help people get started on their conservation journey. By being part of the HNP movement, the Abbotsford-Mission Nature Club can be a leader in the community, modelling how their neighbours, too, can become better stewards of the earth we all love. The David Suzuki Foundation has partnered with the HNP movement.

## April 10, 2025 - Fraser Valley Regional Science Fair at UFVC in Abbotsford



The fair offers students, from grades K-12 in the Fraser Valley region (Langley, Chilliwack, Abbotsford, Hope, Mission, and Maple Ridge) the opportunity to present their findings, interact with their peers, and to be recognized for their efforts and accomplishments. Adding excitement to the event are prizes and public recognition which often encourages students to further their scientific enquires.

The AMNC offers two prizes for the best nature related presentations - first prize is \$100 and second \$75. The winners will make a presentation at our May club meeting. Rita Bot and Lindsay Babineau will be our judges.

## Community Clean-up Month- April 2025

Abbotsford's Community Clean-up program spans the whole month of APRIL. This is an EASY way to get involved in our community, contribute to environmental stewardship, help beautify our neighbourhoods. The Abbotsford Mission Nature Club participates in different areas of the city.



**Wednesday Evening, April 16 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm on Valley Road**

**Equipment:** Garbage picker uppers, gloves and bags are provided by the City

**Register:** with Hank/Alice Roos at 604-853-4283 or [haroos12@gmail.com](mailto:haroos12@gmail.com)

**Hogan Family Nature Park Springtime Walk and Work Party — April 23,  
Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon.**

**Easy:** There are no toilets or picnic tables at the park.

**Leader:** Wendy DaDalt

**Location:** A small dead-end parking lot at 28632 Debruyne Road, west off Bradner Road and north of the Fraser Highway.

Come to Hogan Family Nature Park to enjoy a quiet, mixed forest with blooming spring flowers. The 8ha (20 acre) City of Abbotsford Park on the headwaters of the Salmon River, is open again after the 2021 "Atmospheric River" damaged its small bridges. We will start with a 1 km easy walk around the trail loop. This should be a great time to see and photograph trilliums, vanilla leaf and bleeding hearts. During this walk we will also flag invasive plants.



The AMNC has "Adopted" this park, which was donated to the City. A lite work party will follow for those wishing to prune or remove plants needing attention. Details will be provided to registrants.

**Register** by emailing [wendy@dadalt.net](mailto:wendy@dadalt.net).

**Saturday, April 26, 2025**



**iNaturalist City Nature Challenger 2025**

From April 25-28, 2025, cities around the world will be working together to share observations of nature in the 2025 City Nature Challenge. The CNC encourages people to explore and document the wildlife in their cities while using the iNaturalist platform. This helps to raise awareness of local biodiversity while contributing to a better understanding of urban ecosystems. Come out and participate in Citizen Science! We can all make a positive difference.

Joan Septiembre is coordinating the following group activities in Abbotsford:

April 12 @ 1 pm - iNaturalist training walk at Stony Creek Park (meet at parking lot off Bateman Rd).

April 26 @ 1 pm - Abbotsford Parks Bioblitz (meet in front of *The Reach Gallery Museum*)

Please email Quirien Mulder ten Kate ([qmuldertenkate@gmail.com](mailto:qmuldertenkate@gmail.com)), the AMNC club representative for this iNaturalist project, if you any questions.

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-challenge-2025-abbotsford>



**Saturday, April 26, 2025 - Earth Day in Mission**  
**11 am - 3pm**

'Green Living' earth day celebration at the Fraser River Heritage Park. The event will feature a variety of family fun, including live performances, guest speakers, interactive activities and demos, food trucks, a sustainable marketplace and more.

The Abbotsford Mission Nature Club will have a display. This is a free event!

**May 10, 2025, Saturday Migratory Bird Day at Reifel**  
**Migratory Bird Sanctuary, 9 - noon**



The second Saturday of May marks peak spring migration in Canada—a time to connect, admire, and advocate for these incredible travelers. As they journey across borders, we must ensure they have safe habitats along the way.

Join us in celebrating and protecting migratory birds. Wonder at their incredible journeys, learn about conservation efforts, and take action to help them thrive in our cities, towns, and villages. Together, we can make a difference for our shared spaces and bird populations.

**Leaders:** Vince and Ruthanne Clements

**Admission:** Adults \$8, Seniors (65+) \$6, Children (2-14) \$6

**Register:** Hank/Alice Roos 604-853-4283 or [haroos12@gmail.com](mailto:haroos12@gmail.com)



**May 14, 2025 - Carmen Sprang: "Garter snakes and the hibernaculum area along a Delta dyke"**

Carmen will share her three years of experiences and observations of the garter snakes and the hibernaculum area along a Delta dyke.



**2025 BC Nature Conference and AGM**

**Nature in the Rainshadow**

The Nicola Naturalist Society is hosting the 2025 BC Nature Spring conference and AGM in Merritt, 22-24 May 2025.

For more information and to register <https://bcnature.org/2025-bc-nature-conference-and-agm/>



### **June 2025 - Field trip**

led by Kelly Kitsch on one of Mission's many forest trails.

Details to follow when available.

### **June 11, 2024 - Annual Picnic/Social @ 6:30 pm location to be determined**

**Time:** 6:30 pm

**What to bring:** Picnic Lunch (not potluck), plates, cutlery, cups, chairs

**Provided:** Coffees, tea, and our traditional dessert of strawberries and ice cream



### **Abbotsford Mission Nature Club Board**

Interested in getting more involved? We are looking for a few more members to join the board. Do you have an interest in communications or social media or any other area. You are welcome to sit in on a board meeting to get a feel for what goes on behind the scenes. Meetings are held monthly, are informal and enjoyable. No obligation!