



ABBOTSFORD MISSION NATURE CLUB ACTIVITIES

May/June 2025

“Know nature and to keep it worth knowing”

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

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

****No need to register with the Sanctuary as we have reserved parking spaces for the Club**



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 11, 2025 - Annual Picnic/Social @ 6:30 pm at the Great Blue Heron Nature Reserve - 5200 Sumas Prairie Rd. Chilliwack, BC

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

How to get there - Take Highway 1 East, exit 109, Yale Road to Sumas Prairie Road, turn right and continue until you reach the dyke and the Rotary Interpretive Centre. Follow Abbotsford Mission Nature Club signs for directions to the shelter.



The 325-acre **Great Blue Heron Nature Reserve** backs onto the Vedder River and houses abundant habitat for wildlife including forests, marsh and swamp wetland systems, and cool water streams. A multitude of wildlife, including several species at risk, call the nature reserve home.

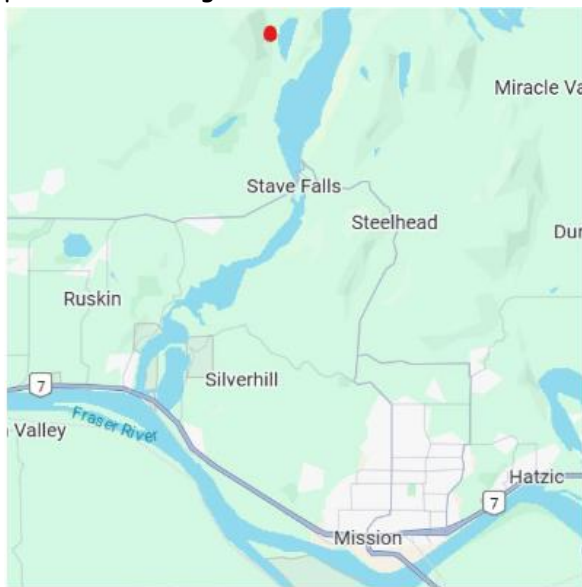
The southwestern portion of the Reserve houses **one of the largest heron nesting colonies** in the Lower Mainland. With 90 nests, the colony is active from March through July and requires significant conservation efforts to ensure the long-term viability of its population.

Thursday, June 19, 2025 - Field trip -9:30 at Trailhead

DEVIL'S LAKE INTERPRETIVE TRAIL - MISSION FOREST

Dress for the weather, wear sturdy footwear, bring snack/lunch and water, walking poles recommended

Directions: Cross Mission Bridge and continue north on Cedar Valley Connector from the Junction of Hwy 7 and Hwy 11. Turn left on Dewdney Trunk Road, and Right again on Dewdney Trunk Road when it turns into Keystone Ave. Drive to the Stave Dam and proceed north for 5km on the Florence Lake Forest Service Road (west side of Dam) also listed as Burma Road. Large parking pullout on the right, with 1 outhouse.



Trail description

A gentle descending in beautiful mature 2nd growth forests, for 350m down to the Devil's Lake. From there a virtually flat 1km hike through interpretive signage stops. Once completed, we will head back the way we came for 1km, and then we will proceed about 600m (flat) to the floating bridge at the south end of the lake for sunshine, views and photo ops.

We will head back to our trail and slowly make our way back to our vehicles. It is a short uphill, and we will take many breaks to catch our breath and enjoy the sounds and sites in the forest.

Total length: just under 4km, mostly flat.



Kelly Kitsch is a registered Forest Technologist, who has worked for the City of Mission in the Municipal Forest for 28 years. She will provide tree and plant interpretation, and general history of area and the history of how Mission became the manager of Canada's first community managed forest.

To Register email haroos12@gmail.com or call 604-853-4283 carpooling recommended

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!

Wednesday Summer Walks/Hikes

Reserve these dates in July - 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

We are always seeking local trail/outing **suggestions** and **volunteers** to lead?

A separate bulletin will follow with more information

