



ABBOTSFORD MISSION NATURE CLUB ACTIVITIES

Nov/Dec 2024

“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*



November 13, 2024 - Monthly Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.

“Bats, Sounds and Sonograms” by Keith Chrystall

Recordings acquired with the Langley Field Naturalist's Bat Echometer will be presented, along with some details regarding bats and bat species found in the lower mainland. Audio samples of the calls made by several types of bats will be played to illustrate the differences between species and the use of echolocation for hunting.



Fundraiser

During this meeting we will be having a fund raiser for the Club. We have about 40+ gently used and new **puzzles** for sale from \$5-\$15. Funds to be used to upgrade our equipment, i.e. camera on pole to check inside the owl boxes without disturbing the nest.



November 16, 2024, Saturday, 9:30 - noon-Harrison River area Eagle Watch



Come to observe the large number of Bald Eagles that congregate on the flats at the outlet of the Harrison River area. Besides eagles expect to see Herons, several species of waterfowl, Trumpeter Swans, Loons, and Grebes. **Register in advance with Ken Summers** ken.summers@telus.net (you will be notified of any changes). Dress for the weather. We'll be mostly on level gravel trails, but there may be short off-trail excursions for those who wish (boots recommended for the latter).



Nature Club Christmas Social

Wednesday, December 11, 2024, at 6:30 pm (note time)

Join members of the Nature Club for a festive evening of fellowship, light snacks, music, singing, year-in-review slideshow, bake sale.

Please **bring** to share a **dessert** or an **appetizer** in individual portion sizes (to be served with tongs or in paper muffin cups).



Hot apple cider will be provided. Please bring your own mug.

The **bake sale is a fundraiser** for Nature Club activities. **Bring** a wrapped treat e.g., loaf cake, cookies, cupcakes, brownies, etc. All items will be sold for \$15.00.



And don't forget to **bring** cash/cheque to buy some baking, too!



December 30, 2024 - Christmas Bird Count

This year the Christmas Bird Count will be held on Monday December 30th. No experience

necessary as every area within the count circle has an expert birder. If you want to join the fun and haven't already received our email, contact ken.summers@telus.net There will be a post-count gathering afterwards at the Mandarin Gardens in Abbotsford for those interested, even if you don't take part in the count.



WORK PARTIES

Bird Box Monitoring

During the winter months we will be cleaning/monitoring and recording 60+ swallow boxes at Willband and along the Matsqui Trail. Wood duck boxes at Willband and Fishtrap Creek will also be cleaned/monitored and recorded.



Invasive Plant Removal

This is an ongoing activity when the weather is favorable. The shrub and trees by the kiosk at the viewing platform are visible again. 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.

Venue Improvements

Work is underway to enhance the entryway at the hatchery by installing a canopy to shelter from the elements. We are in the process of purchasing comfortable and better chairs. The Hatchery will be purchasing replacement tables.



Watch for emails requesting participation from club members

AMNC Board needs more bodies!

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 informal and enjoyable. No obligation!

UPCOMING PROGRAMS/FIELDTRIPS - 2025

Programs arranged by Quirien Mulder ten Kate, our program coordinator

January 8, 2025 - Zoom meeting - Christine Thuring: "Pollinators in the City: How urban environments can support native bees"

January 19, 2025, Sunday – Peach Creek's new spawning channels

Feb 12, 2025 - Bernie Walter: "Wolves in the Yukon: A personal Journey"

February 8, 2025, Saturday – Reifel Waterfowl Refuge

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

April 9, 2025 - (tentative) Patricia Fantillo (Fraser Valley Conservancy) "Habitat Healers"

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