



BC NATURE CONFERENCE & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING PROGRAM
“Nature in the Rain Shadow – grasslands, forests and wetlands”

Hosted by the Nicola Naturalist Society - May 22-24, 2025
 Merritt Civic Centre – 1950 Mamette Ave, Merritt, BC V1K 1R6

We acknowledge that we are meeting on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the Nlaka'pamux and Syilx people

Registration opens Thursday, January 2, 2025 (online and mail-in)

Date	Event
Thursday, May 22	
1:00 – 7:30 pm	Registration Desk Open
1:30 – 3:30 pm	BC Nature Board of Directors meeting
4:00 – 6:00 pm	Council of Club Representatives meeting (light dinner provided)
6:00 pm	Dinner is on your own
7:00 – 9:00 pm	RECEPTION and PRESENTATIONS a) <i>Introduction to nature in the rain shadow</i> (Alan Burger) b) <i>Wildlife videos from the BC Interior</i> (Frank Ritcey) c) <i>Nature macro-photography in the Nicola Valley</i> (Leanne Cleaveley)
Friday, May 23	
6:00 – 8:00 am	Early morning birding (Pre-registration required)
8:00 – 9:00 am	Registration desk open (tea, coffee and light snacks)
9:00 – 9:30 am	Official welcome by Merritt Mayor (Michael Goetz), Nlaka'pamux and Syilx representatives and BC Nature president (Dr. Nancy Flood).
9:30 – 10:30 am	Feature presentation: Dr. Jill Harvey – <i>Wildfire in the BC Interior – past, present and future</i>
10:30 – 11:00 am	Break: coffee, tea and Snacks
11:00 – 11:45 am	Concurrent presentations: a) Dr. Karl Larsen – <i>Wildlife research in the BC Interior</i> b) Dr. Tom Willms – <i>Thermal refuges for salmonids in the Nicola Valley rivers</i> c) Peter Ballin – <i>The wisdom of turtles</i>
11:45 - noon	Field trip instructions
Noon – 1 pm	Light Lunch is Provided
1:00 – 4:00 pm	Field trips (pre-registration required)
4:15 – 6:00 pm	Meetings: BC Naturalists' Foundation and BC Nature Committees
6:00 pm	Dinner is on your own
8:00 – 11:00 pm	Night outings (pre-registration required) a) Moths with Bob Scafe and Dr. Dave Holden b) Owling – location to be determined c) Great Basin Spadefoots at Pennask Lake Road
Saturday, May 24	
6:00 – 8:00 am	Early morning birding (Pre-registration required)
8:00 – 9:00 am	Registration Desk Open (coffee, tea and light snacks)
9:00 – noon	Field Trips (Pre-registration required)
Noon	Light Lunch is Provided
1:30 – 4:00 pm	BC Nature Annual General Meeting
5:00 – 6:30 pm	Social Hour – beer and wine tickets obtained from registration desk
6:00 – 9:00 pm	Banquet (extra cost, pre-registration required, silent auction, awards) Keynote speaker: Lennard Joe – <i>First Nations' stewardship – a history and current applications in the BC Interior</i>
Sunday, May 25	
9:00 – noon	Farewell Field Trips (pre-registration required)