



**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*

Date	Event
<b>Thursday, May 22</b>	
1:00 – 7:30 pm	Registration Desk Open
1:30 – 3:30 pm	BC Nature Board of Directors meeting – meeting room #2
4:00 – 6:00 pm	Council of Club Representatives meeting (light dinner provided) – meeting room #2
6:00 pm	<b>Dinner is on your own</b>
7:00 – 9:00 pm	<b>RECEPTION and PRESENTATIONS</b> 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)
<b>Friday, May 23</b>	
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>Movement ecology of rattlesnakes in BC: complications for conservation</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	<b>Bag lunch is provided</b>
1:00 – 4:00 pm	Field trips (pre-registration required)
4:15 – 8:00 pm	<b>Meetings – BC Nature Committees and BC Naturalists' Foundation</b> 4:15 – 5:30 PM: Education Committee – meeting room #2 5:30 – 6:45 PM: BC Naturalists' Foundation – meeting room #3 6:45 – 8:00 PM: Conservation Committee – main auditorium
6:00 pm	<b>Dinner is on your own</b>
8:00 – 11:00 pm	Night outings (pre-registration required) – See field outing descriptions
<b>Saturday, May 24</b>	
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)
9:30 – 11:30	NatureKids BC meeting in meeting room #2
<b>Noon</b>	<b>Light lunch is provided</b>
1:30 – 4:00 pm	BC Nature Annual General Meeting
5:30 – 6:30 pm	<b>Social Hour</b> – beer and wine tickets obtained from registration desk
6:00 – 9:00 pm	<b>Banquet (extra cost, pre-registration required, silent auction, awards)</b> <b>Keynote speaker:</b> Lennard Joe – <i>First Nations' stewardship – a history and current applications in the BC Interior</i>
<b>Sunday, May 25</b>	
9:00 – noon	Farewell Field Trips (pre-registration required)