



# NEWSLETTER

## NOVEMBER 2018

***“To know nature and to keep it worth knowing”***

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

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

Email: haroos12@gmail.com

### *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*

### ***Executive of the Abbotsford Mission Nature Club***

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Field Trips-Vacant

Speakers – Vacant

Sheila Flavelle – 604-870-4221

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Facebook/Website – Nathan Loewen

**November 14, 2018 at 7:30 pm**  
**“Marbled Murrelets in BC”**

Speaker Dr. Alan Burger, is a seabird research biologist and semi-retired Adjunct Professor at UVic and President of BC Nature. His 30 Year Research involved field work across the BC coast and in Alaska

His research took him to some amazing places most recently as a lecturer/naturalist in the Antarctic, Russia and Arctic. “As a field biologist you will never be rich, but if you are lucky someone will pay you to work in wonderful, exotic places.” Says Alan.

**NOTE :** Club elections will also be held at this meeting. If you have a nomination(s) please advise us of this prior to the meeting. Refreshments will be served but please bring your own mug.

**Plant list from Nancy Moore's presentation on Naturescape**  
**(October 10, 2018)**

Species Crocus  
Winter Aconite  
Dandelion  
Hamamelis 'Arnold Promise' (witch hazel)  
Oemleria cerasiformis (Indian Plum)  
Ribes sanguineum (flowering currant)  
Enkianthus campanulatus 'Red Bells'  
Berberis aquifolium (Oregon Grape)  
Gaultheria shallon (salal)  
Lonicera crassifolia 'Little Honey'  
(Honeysuckle)  
Lonicera periclymenum 'Belgica'  
(Honeysuckle)  
Rhododendron  
Physocarpus 'Diablo' (ninebark)  
Monarda didyma 'Jacob Cline' (bee balm)  
Echinops ritro (Globe thistle)  
Echinacea purpurea (coneflower)

Oenothera (evening primrose)  
Allium senescens  
Abelia grandiflora  
Fuchsia magellanica (hardy fuchsia)  
Lavender  
Rosa chinensis mutabilis  
Heptacodium myconioides  
Aster novi-beigii (Michaelmas daisy or fall aster)  
Cotoneaster dammeri  
Erica X darleyensis 'Kramer's Red' (winter blooming heather)

These are just a few of many plants that provide food for wildlife. Always try to include some native plants in your garden.

# The Annual Willband-Creek Blackberry Pull

Reported by Alex Lewinsky, Abbotsford  
Photos credit Alex Lewinsky except as noted

It wasn't always like that ... Once upon a time blackberry were highly appreciated for their nutritional value. This is still the case albeit with some caveats. They are loaded with vitamins, antioxidants, are a source of fibre and excellent for salads or just as a snack. And some insist that tea from their leaves have medicinal properties. So, it shouldn't surprise anyone seeing people bagging their fruit from bushes found everywhere in the wild during lazy summer days.



There is something negative to this story, not to consumers but to the environment. Blackberries, commonly known as the Himalayan Blackberry, is native to Western Europe and it was introduced to North America around 1885 as a crop. Just over half century later, about 1945, it had naturalized along the Pacific coast. It adapted extremely well to its new home and today is listed among the invasive species in the continent. Once well established in a new location, it forms dense thickets displacing native vegetation, preventing development of some trees, and limiting the movement of large animals. In general, it is a poor functional replacement for the displaced native flora. The problem is that once they take root, it is very difficult to prevent its expansion. Nonetheless, some measures can be taken to control their presence mostly in public parks and inhabited areas.

The Abbotsford-Mission Nature Club, as part of the ongoing development of the Willband Creek Park, took the initiative to coordinate activities to prevent the expansion of this invasive plant in the park. It is a multi-year effort. This past October 20th the third Blackberry pull was conducted in areas surrounding the new Observation Platform, another initiative envisioned, planned and eventually fulfilled by the Club. Previous similar pulls occurred on July 2016 and March 2017. This is part of a comprehensive plan that includes planting trees in the same areas and, in collaboration with the City of Abbotsford Parks, flailing blackberry patches already identified and marked around the park. The hope is that all these measures will prevent their expansion and eventually lead to the elimination of this tasty, but otherwise aggressive, thorny plants.

Early in a foggy morning, 16 members of the club joined 7 volunteers from the community, recruited by the City of Abbotsford Volunteer Coordinator, Chrissy Borseth by the information kiosk at the Viewing Platform entrance. It was intensive work, but as a result an area close to the Platform were cleared, basically eradicating some thickets already in formation, and when possible, roots were dug out with picks and shovels. Piles of branches accumulated along the path, and they will be removed by Shawn Gurney from Abbotsford Parks. The City also purchased pizza that was fully appreciated by all at the end of the



shift, sitting by a canopy and table installed by the City for the occasion. Although most of the participants brought their tools, Home Depot donated extra clippers, loppers and leather gloves. Government, people, business, civil society all together. An all-encompassing grassroots effort!

Soon after the sun burned out the fog for what turned out to be a beautiful day. We were not alone. A Kingfisher was heard in the vicinity, Song Sparrows were active



in nearby bushes and high there, two Bald Eagles, a male and a female, were perching across the pond, one on the South Pond island and the other in the peninsula just across it, inspecting the waters. During a break,

about half a dozen of Trumpeter Swans were observed, first time this season! from the Observation Deck, and



later taking off to other destinations in a truly spectacular sight. Flocks of Canada Geese were constantly passing over our heads, singing in their typical flight formations, landing on the waters. That was probably too much to a Double Crested Cormorant who relocated in a hurry, skipping low over the water to a quieter location not that far away. And finally, in the distance, maybe because of the massive arrival of geese, two Great Blue Herons suddenly took off moving to the Northern Pond where they could pursue their fishing away from this commotion.



Within three hours it was done, a superb way to start the weekend. Let's meet again at the next blackberry pull, maybe early in the spring. Stay tuned.

## **JOHANNA SAALTINK – Founder of Abbotsford-Mission Nature Club**

1928 (October 16) - 2018 (October 5)



Fraser Valley naturalist champion, Johanna Saaltink, passed away October 5 just shy of her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Always a lover of nature she was active with the Langley Field Naturalists and then founded the Central Valley Naturalists in 1992, which later became the Abbotsford-Mission Nature Club. She and her husband of almost 70 years, Henk Saaltink, greatly advanced local conservation efforts through intelligent, respectful conversations about environmental issues, education and advocacy.

Johanna was a tireless contributor to nature walks, displays for community events, meetings, committees and stewardship activities. For this she was recognized with a BC Nature Club Service Award in 1997; the Governor General of Canada's Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee Medal with Henk in 2002 and the Order of Abbotsford-Citizen of the

Year Award in 2008. She was also an enthusiastic volunteer and organizer with PTA, Unitarian Fellowship and UNICEF.

Described by many as a relentless optimist Johanna inspired people to take a positive approach, do their best, and appreciate the wonders of nature whenever possible. She was a curious student of nature who greatly enjoyed outdoor time with one of BC's finest field naturalists,

Glenn Ryder. Her grandchildren observed that her daily routine included vigorous walks in all conditions and afternoon tea with chocolate.

One of Johanna's legacy is the 20-acre Hogan Family Nature Park which was donated to the City of Abbotsford through her interactions with Mrs. Hogan.

Johanna was born in the city of Delft in the Netherlands and with Henk raised four children in New Brunswick and British Columbia. They were world travelers who brought their extensive international experiences, vision and charm to any relationship.





## PROGRAMS AND FIELDTRIPS November 2018 to June 2019

Wednesday, November 14, 2018 Monthly Meeting at 7:30 pm  
"Marbled Murrelets in BC"



Speaker Dr. Alan Burger, semi-retired  
Adjunct Professor at UVic and  
President of BC Nature  
His 30 Year Research involved field  
work across the BC coast and in Alaska

Refreshments will be served  
but please bring your own mug.



\*Club elections to take place at this meeting



23<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL

## Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival

Celebrating the Season of the Eagles & Salmon

Saturday and Sunday, November 17th & 18th, 2018

[fraservalleybaldeaglefestival.ca/](http://fraservalleybaldeaglefestival.ca/)

Check website for events, Presentations and viewing areas.

Saturday, November 24, 2018 Memorial Tree

### Planting

We will be planting 4  
trees, 2 Dogwoods, a  
Douglas Fir and a Sitka  
Spruce in memory of  
Henk Saaltink, Johanna Saaltink, Dick Bunbury  
and Stan Olson in **Hogan Family Nature Park**.  
More details to follow





**Wednesday, December 12, 2019 Christmas Social and Potluck at 6:30 pm** (note time)

For the potluck dinner, please bring a **dish to share**, bring your own plates, cups and cutlery

We will again have our traditional apple cider and other beverages. It will be an evening of food, song, games and just plain old fun.

We will not have a Silent Auction - we are accepting donations of **baked goods & treats** which will all be sold for **one** set price, i.e. \$10. Put your creativity to work and bring your donations for others to purchase and you go home with your newly acquired treasures.



**Audubon's 119th Christmas Bird Count will be conducted between the dates of Friday, December 14, 2018 through Saturday, January 5, 2019.** The Christmas Bird Count is a census of birds in the Western Hemisphere, performed annually in the early Northern-hemisphere winter by volunteer birdwatchers and administered by the National Audubon Society.



The Abbotsford Mission count will be held on **Friday, December 28<sup>th</sup>**  
Contact Ken Summers [ken.summers@telus.net](mailto:ken.summers@telus.net) or 604-851-2301 for more information or if you would like to partake in this event. After count dinner at the Mandarin Gardens Restaurant to be confirmed.



**Wednesday, January 9, 2019 Monthly meeting  
at 7:30 pm**  
**"Our Carbon Footprint"**  
Speaker Dr. Tim Cooper of UFV

**Wednesday, February 13, 2019 Monthly meeting at  
7:30 pm**  
**"Bird Studies - Who they are and what they do?"**  
Speaker Catherine Jardine with Bird Studies Canada



**February 2019 Annual Fieldtrip to Reifel Bird Sanctuary**  
Details to follow

**Wednesday, March 13, 2019 Monthly meeting at 7:30 pm**  
Speaker to be determined



**Fraser Valley Regional Science Fair**  
April 3 - 6, 2019 at the University of the Fraser Valley

**Wednesday, April 10, 2019 Monthly Meeting at 7:30 pm**  
**Topic and speaker to be determined**  
Winners of the Science Fair will present their projects at this club meeting.



**May 2 - 4, 2019 BC Nature AGM**  
**"Nature in the Warmland"**  
presented by the Cowichan Valley Naturalists.

**Wednesday, May 8, 2019 Monthly Meeting at 7:30 pm**  
Topic and Speaker to be determined

**June 12, 2019 Annual Picnic at 6:30 pm** Location to be determined