



LATE AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2025 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Learn more about and enjoy the natural world of Strathcona Park through our workshops and guided hikes for people of all ages and fitness levels

Saturday August 30th - 9:00AM to 12:00PM - Presentation - "Connected by Water"

Join Meaghan Cursons, community educator for the Comox Valley Watershed Protection Plan, to explore the connections between Strathcona Park and the Comox Lake Watershed, followed by a walk in Paradise Meadows led by SWI director Loys Maingon.

Sunday August 31st - 9:30AM to 12:00PM - Interpretive Walk - Subalpine Trees

Forester and naturalist Fred Newhouse will lead this easy walk around the Paradise Meadows and Centennial Loop trail (3.5km round trip) or out to Battleship Lake (7.6km round trip, 180m elevation gain) to illustrate tree growth in a subalpine ecosystem.

Saturday September 6th - 8:30AM to 4:30PM - Guided Hike - Mariwood Lake

Experienced hiker and dedicated SWI volunteer Janet Beggs will lead this intermediate day hike by way of Battleship Lake and the Plateau Traverse Trail out to Mariwood Lake, just south of Kwai Lake (21km round trip, 700m elevation gain).
Pack a lunch and plenty of water.

Saturday September 13th - 9:30AM to 12:00PM - Interpretive Walk - "Fall in the Subalpine"

Comox Valley Nature's Botany Group will join up with SWI for a guided walk around the Paradise Meadows Loop trail (2.8km) looking at and identifying berries and seeds of the meadows.

Sunday September 14th - 10:00AM to 1:00PM - Workshop - Smartphone Photography

Experienced photographer Darrell Tomkins will lead this workshop demonstrating the opportunities that smartphone cameras bring to observing and recording nature. This workshop will feature an in-class presentation followed by a walk along the Paradise Meadows Loop trail (2.8km) focusing on smartphone photography techniques and tips.

Saturday September 20th - 8:00AM to 5:00PM - 7th Annual Mycology Workshop

Led by some of the best experts on Vancouver Island, please join us for this one-day immersion into the world of subalpine fungi featuring in-class and in-field sessions on mushroom ecology and identification.

***Limit of 15 participants - \$70 registration fee (\$25 for seniors and students)**

Sunday September 21st - 9:00AM to 4:00PM - Mycology Workshop Hike - Divers Lake

SWI research director and fungi expert Loys Maingon will lead this moderate hike (11km round trip) to the mycologically rich old-growth forest of the Divers Lake area.

***This hike runs as part of the previous day's Mycology Workshop**

Saturday September 27th - Chris Carter Memorial

9:00AM to 3:00PM - Tim Penney and Janet Beggs will lead this moderate hike (12km round trip) out to Croteau Lake and a spot unofficially named "Chris Carter Lookout".
2:00PM to 4:30PM - SWI director Alison Maingon will lead this walk around the Paradise Meadows Loop trail (2.8km) featuring the beautiful fall colours of the meadows.

***Both hikes to be followed by tea and cookies in the Ruth Masters Nature Hall (lower floor of the Strathcona Park Wilderness Centre)**

Unless otherwise indicated, all hikes and presentations start from and take place at Strathcona Park Wilderness Centre, Paradise Meadows.

Sturdy footwear is essential - be prepared for sudden weather changes in the mountains.

Always carry water. No dogs, please.

If you have potentially been exposed to somebody with an illness or are feeling sick yourself, please do not join our workshops/hikes.

Pre-registration is required.

For more information and to pre-register, please email: strathconawilderness@gmail.com

There is no charge (except where specified), but as a volunteer- run non-profit organization, SWI relies on your support through donations.