

Strathcona Wilderness Institute
Summer 2009 Program

Get fit and learn about alpine ecology in a beautiful setting with Strathcona Wilderness Institute 2009 summer program. Plant and animal life get busy once the snow melts and the earth warms up, taking advantage of the short sub-alpine summers. Every visit holds the opportunity to learn or observe something new.



Families are welcome to join the resident naturalist, on Saturdays 1 – 3:00 pm, for an “Explore the meadows” informal walk, or a local expert for a theme walk and talk on Sundays, 1:00 – 3:00pm. A series of easy, medium and strenuous hikes are planned throughout the summer and can be incorporated into a get fit plan (see specifics below). Cost for all programs is by donation. Dress for the weather and bring water, sunscreen and bug spray.

Programs start at the Paradise Meadows Interpretation Centre located in the Raven Lodge Parking Lot on Mt Washington. Follow the inland island highway heading north from Courtenay or south from Campbell River and take Exit 130, Strathcona Parkway. Follow the paved road and signs to the Raven Lodge, where you’ll find ample parking. Visit the Paradise Meadows Interpretation Centre for trail information.

Strathcona Wilderness Institute is a non-profit organization – donations welcome.

Sun, July 5: Birth of a sub-alpine summer - Helen MacKenzie / Battleship Lake Loop. Observe the thaw and appearance of life in this easy 3 hour hike. Meet at the interpretation center at 11:00 am. Bring food and water.

Sun, July 12: Rocks and flowers. Author and naturalist E. Chris Pielou talks about geology and early sub-alpine flowers.

Sat, July 18: Celebrate Parks Day with Strathcona Wilderness Institute and friends, 10:00 – 4:00 pm. Meet some of the groups and people involved with Strathcona Wilderness Park. Look for more details in your local newspapers.

Sun, July 19: Meet your sub-alpine trees. Registered professional forester Margaret Symon shares fascinating facts about the trees and the ecology of the area. May go longer than two hours if the weather is nice.

Sun, July 26: Lakes, lakes, lakes - Hike and picnic at Croteau Lake. An easy to moderate 5 hour hike travels over very uneven terrain through old growth forests and past beautiful lakes. Meet at the interpretation center at 10:00 am. Bring lunch and water.

Sun, August 2: TBA

Sun, August 9: Sub-alpine flowers. Local expert Fred Constable provides an in depth look at the mid-summer flowers of Paradise Meadows.

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Sun, August 16: Damsels and Dragons - the shiny flyers. Naturalist Tyler Johns brings his nets for families to learn about the insects in Paradise Meadows.

Sun, August 23: Leaves and Stars – capturing solar energy on earth. Astronomer stream-keeper Roy Myers uses unique visuals to relate the properties of leaves and makes some astonishing cosmic connections.

Sun, August 30th: Hike to Lake Beautiful and Cruickshank Canyon. A spectacular hike through beautiful meadows and forests to an amazing viewpoint. This moderate to strenuous hike will take 8 - 9 hours return. Bring LOTS of water and food. Meet at the Info Hut by 8:00 am