



# INVERMERE BRANCH UPDATE

2016



Photo: Pat Morrow

**Who are we?** Wildsight Invermere is the local voice for the environment since 1989. Our mission is to inspire action and lead the way in conserving wild spaces and improving our relationship with nature.

**Want to get involved? Got ideas?** We want to hear from you. Watch out for our outreach booth at public events. Join one of our committees. We need enthusiastic, energetic people with varying skills to get involved in one of the following areas: Programming, Communications, Finance and Fundraising, Volunteer Recruitment and Management. For more information, email us at [invermere@wildsight.ca](mailto:invermere@wildsight.ca).

## CONNECTING WITH NATURE

With summer upon us, it's time to get outdoors. Explore the Columbia Wetlands, North America's longest intact wetland. Stretch your legs on a Rocky Mountain hike. Get in a canoe and float down the Columbia River. Listen to birdsong.

It's all about finding deeper connections with the natural world around us. Your well-being depends on it. That's why we've created a programme for 2016 called Connecting With Nature. By offering a variety of educational and experiential activities, we hope to foster environmental stewardship in the Upper Columbia Valley. Activities will include Wild Nature Tours, a speaker series, documentary films, Wild Ideas discussion cafés, community work bees, and more!

## WILD NATURE TOURS

For locals and visitors alike, a guided hike is a great opportunity to head off the beaten path. Our local guides include Wildsight's environmental educator, Kim Urbaniak, international birding guide Cam Gilles, and award-winning photographer and mountaineer Pat Morrow.

Wild Nature Tours run weekly from June 25 – August 27, and offer participants of all ages and abilities the chance to get active outside and appreciate our surroundings. Tours will range in difficulty from family friendly to more physically challenging, and focus on a variety of topics including nature interpretation, native and invasive plant species, and birding. For information and bookings check out [wildnaturetours.ca](http://wildnaturetours.ca).

# LOVELY LAKE ENID



Photo: Pat Morrow

Have you checked out the boardwalk and the new interpretive signs at Lake Enid yet? After three years and the help of dozens of Wildsight volunteers, we've wrapped up our restoration project on the south shore of this favourite local hangout 6km west of Wilmer. Walk the 3km trail to the boardwalk and around the lake and see the results of our trail rehabilitation and reparation of the sensitive marsh area. Bring your binoculars and watch for loons, grebes and muskrats as they enjoy the newly transformed wildlife haven. Keep an eye out for Western Painted Turtles too, BC's only native freshwater turtle. You might see them feeding in the morning, or out basking in the afternoon sun.

## KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOUR: CAM GILLIES



Dedicated, passionate, inspired. This describes long-time local Cam Gillies - one of Wildsight Invermere's core volunteers and Vice President of our Board of Directors. He is the co-owner of Eagle-Eye Tours, x-country ski leader with the JackRabbit Kids ski program, father of 3, as well as an extremely accomplished birder. Cam holds a PhD on the movement of forest birds in Costa Rica, and has participated in a variety of research projects including catching endangered leopard frogs and snow tracking wolverines.

Join Cam on our first Wild Nature Tour, *Flycatchers to Nutcrackers: A Birding Adventure* on June 25.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Wild Nature Tours

**Jun. 25 – Aug. 27**

Join us on weekly hikes and explorations of the wetlands, grasslands and alpine areas of the Columbia Valley. Suitable for all ages and abilities.

### Community Weed Pull with East Kootenay Invasive Plant Council

**Jul. 14 and Aug. 13**

Participate in a hands-on work project and learn about plants -- what's native, and what's not—and help remove invasive plants and protect our native species.

### Wild Ideas

**Jul. 21, Aug. 18, Sep. 15**

Let your wild ideas flow over food and drink at this casual discussion evening at the Circle Café. On the 3rd Thursday of each month, a guest speaker will introduce a different topic.

### Royal BC Museum's Invasive Species Travelling Exhibit

**Aug. 4**

Wildsight is hosting the Species at Risk mobile museum, a full and illuminating exhibit looking at what BC could lose if we don't make big changes to our relationship with the natural world.

### Briony Penn's *The Natural History of Ian McTaggart Cowan* Book Tour **Sep. 29**

Presentation on Ian McTaggart, Canada's Father of Ecology, plus a daytime nature walk exploring journaling as a tool for connecting with nature.