

NNTC NEWSLETTER



Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council (NNTC)'s quarterly news, announcements, and cultural and historical pieces



Pictured above is area North of Nicomen approx. 1928.

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April nkshAytkn

Brenda Walkem and Glenn Sidwell present on protein sources and wildlife conservation for Nlaka'pamux people. (pg. 2)

A Day for the Smolts: Thanking Our Community Volunteers

Approximately 700 attended the Walking with The Smolts Event, successfully supported by diverse community volunteers. (pg. 5)

Smile for the Season: Join Our Annual Nlaka'pamux Calendar

Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council invites elders and families to model for our annual calendar, showcasing our community. (pg. 8)

IhQUOOpen (Bitter Root) Digging

On May 4th, the Nlaka'pamux community engaged in traditional IhQUOOpen digging in Venables Valley, learning and bonding over cultural practices. (pg. 3)

Protecting Pollinators in the Nlaka'pamux Homeland

Pollinators maintain ecosystem health in the Nlaka'pamux homeland, facing threats from chemicals and habitat loss. (pg. 6, 7)

Lytton Past and Present

contrasts altered 2024 Nicomen photo with its 1928 counterpart, both in black and white. (pg. 9)

Recap of the Skagit Valley Presentation at Suquamish

John Haugen, Karen Dunstan, and Kevin Duncan presented on Skagit Valley's history and land connections at Suquamish's summit, receiving positive feedback. (pg. 4)

CONTACT US!

nkshAytkn April 4th Presentations by Brenda Walkem and Glenn Sidwell

Brenda Walkem: Investigating Protein Sources for the Nlaka'pamux People



Brenda Walkem presented her research on alternative protein sources, addressing the decline in salmon populations. Her study, "Investigating Protein Sources That the Land and Water Provide to the Nlaka'pamux People," highlighted the need for additional protein sources such as deer, moose, and elk due to reduced salmon availability. She emphasized the challenges in obtaining enough ungulate meat due to competition from other hunters and habitat loss, urging the need for improved access to these resources to meet Food, Social, and Ceremonial (FSC) needs.

Glenn Sidwell: Grizzly Bear and Elk Conservation Efforts



Glenn Sidwell's presentation focused on the conservation of grizzly bears and elk in our region.

Grizzly Bear Monitoring:

The A.E.W. LP has been monitoring grizzly bears in the Fountain Valley – Hat Creek region since 2021, using remote wildlife cameras. Despite seeing many animals, grizzly sightings have been elusive. This year, efforts include increasing camera placements and using bait to attract grizzlies.

Elk Population Tracking:

Glenn also discussed the tracking and preservation of the Lytton elk herd, transplanted from Jasper in 1973. The herd, now around 40 animals, faces threats from highway mortality. A.E.W. LP's Elk Assessment involves tracking the herd using GPS collars, collecting data on movement patterns, genetic diversity, and health.

Glenn demonstrated a tracking collar used on elk during his presentation and shared insights from his research on both grizzlies and elk.

IhQUOOpen (Bitter Root) Digging – May 4, 2024



On May 4th, 2024, the Nlaka'pamux community gathered in Venables Valley for the annual IhQUOOpen (bitter root) digging.

This year, the event was graciously hosted by Lee Anne, stepping in for John Haugen.

John Aleck demonstrated his traditional practices by showing his digging stick and basket, explaining how to dig for bitter root, clean it, and cook it. His demonstration was informative and engaging, providing valuable insights into traditional practices.

Following lunch, elder Marlene Stewart shared her knowledge. She demonstrated the use of her elk antler digging tool, how to find bitter root, and how to cook it, including the addition of shchaqum (dried Saskatoon berries).

Kevin Duncan reprised his beloved role as the barbecue master, ensuring everyone enjoyed a hearty meal during the 12:00 PM lunch break.

This year's event was marked by cooler temperatures, overcast skies, and a slight breeze, a welcome change from the previous year's hot and sunny conditions.

The IhQUOOpen digging continues to be a vital opportunity for the Nlaka'pamux community to connect with their heritage, learn from their elders, and strengthen family ties. As the community looks forward to next year's gathering, the invaluable lessons and memories from this day will be cherished.

Preserving Heritage: A Recap of the Skagit Valley Presentation at Suquamish

Good Day Everyone, We've had some busy times.

April 22, 23,2024- John Haugen, Karen Dunstan and I attended the 17th Annual Cultural Resources Protection Summit at Suquamish WA.



Suquamish Tribal Fisheries Manger (Marylin Jones)

We had taken in quite a few presentations, we had the opportunity to present on May 23,2024. John, Karen and I were panelists , talking about history, work and our connections to the land in the Skagit Valley our presentation was well received.

A Day for the Smolts: Thanking Our Community Volunteers



Lillooet Tribal Council, NNTC, and Splitrock Environmental would like to thank everyone who participated in the Walking with The Smolts Event! We had approx. 700 participants this year.



Thank you to all volunteers who took time setting up stations for the whole day! The shuttle service, parking personnel, hot dog chefs, LTC communications, LTC IT, the students from Mr. Fingado's class, the students from the St'at'imc class, many other volunteers. This event was a success because of your hard work and dedication! Hope to see you all next year!

Protecting Pollinators in the Nlaka'pamux Homeland

Submitted by A.E.W.LP
Directed by the Chiefs/NNTC



Imagine sitting in your favourite spot in the forest, a breeze gently cooling your skin and the light of the sun dappling the forest floor. In a moment of pure connection, you notice that the silence of the forest isn't really a silence, it is a buzzing.

Pollinators are a highly diverse group, and the most abundant and often discussed in this group are insect pollinators. These essential creatures, creating a symphony of sound, play a crucial role in maintaining the health of our ecosystems, supporting biodiversity, and ensuring ecosystem stability.

The Importance of Pollinators

Pollinators play a crucial role in maintaining a healthy of ecosystem. Hoping from plant to plant, they help in the reproduction of many plants, contributing to biodiversity and the stability of ecosystems. Unfortunately, recent studies have shown alarming declines in both wild and domesticated pollinator populations, leading to parallel declines in the plants that rely on them.

British Columbia's Unique Pollinators

British Columbia (BC) stands out as the most ecologically diverse region of Canada. It is estimated that over half of Canada's bee species are found in BC, with many species being unique to the province. This highlights the critical need to protect these pollinators and their habitats.

Threats to Pollinators

Pollinator populations face multiple stressors, including:

- **Exposure to Toxic Materials:** Insecticides and fertilizers pose significant risks to pollinators.
- **Novel Parasites:** Introduced due to human activities, these parasites further endanger pollinator species.
- **Climate Change:** Alters habitats and affects the life cycles of pollinators.
- **Habitat Loss:** Urbanization and agricultural expansion reduce the natural habitats available for pollinators.

The use of chemical herbicides, such as glyphosate, which is one of the most frequently used herbicides globally, can have sublethal effects and cause mortality in insect pollinators.

The Urgent Need for Monitoring

There is an urgent need to protect pollinators, and monitoring population trends is critical to identifying threats and developing conservation strategies. Despite this urgency, there has been limited assessment of pollinator populations in the past decade in BC.

Scope of Work

Conducting insect pollinator surveys in the Nlaka'pamux homeland will provide essential information to enhance our understanding of pollinator species' diversity in the region. This knowledge is crucial for making recommendations to protect pollinators and maintain a healthy, functioning ecosystem.

Proposed Focus for 2024

In 2024, the A.E.W.LP team will focus our field surveys on:

- **Surveying Insect Pollinator Populations:** Concentrating on endangered and at-risk species.
- **Assessing Species Abundance and Richness:** Using blue vane traps, which are highly effective for bees and other pollinators.
- **Making Recommendations:** Based on the data collected, we can recommend actions such as restricting the use of insecticides and herbicides in the homeland.

Work Completed to Date

To date, A.E.W.LP has hung traps in 40 sites to survey for pollinator species, focusing on the Fraser Canyon area. Early results indicate that many pollinators have been captured and future identification will help to expand the knowledge about the biodiversity of these important animals in the region. This work will continue through the field season and give us vital information needed to protect these important contributors to our ecosystems.

Call to Action

Protecting pollinators in the Nlaka'pamux homeland is about safeguarding our environment and our future. NNTC will determine specific calls to action based on the findings of this research. By understanding and supporting the diversity of pollinator species, we can ensure the health and stability of our ecosystems for generations to come, so our children's children can sit in the forest and listen to the quiet of the buzz.

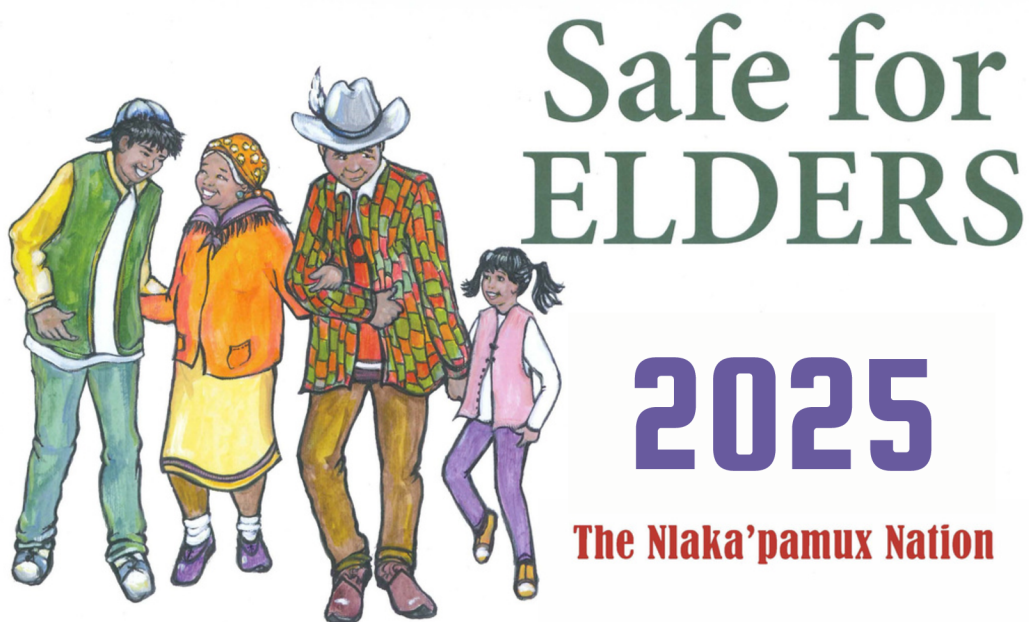
For more information or if you have questions about the Pollinator study, feel free to connect with Nicholas Grocock, Intermediate Biologist, at 403-357-4773.

BREAKING
NEWS

nlaka'pamux nation tribal council

SPECIAL
EDITION

YOU OTTA BE IN PICTURES



YOU HAVE THE POWER TO THRIVE AND BLOSSOM WHEREVER YOU ARE.

This year, we're giving you another opportunity to have your picture posted on everyone's wall! It's calendar time and we're searching for elders and families who would like to be the 'photo flavor of the month'. Imagine, you can choose your favorite month and model for it. And if you choose the month in which you were born, everyone will remember your birthday. Just imagine the presents!! We have an excellent family photographer who is personable and will take photos that show you at your best. So don't be shy, let Nathan Brown know that you'd like to be an Nlaka'pamux Calendar 'pin up'!

CALL * 250-455-2711 * NATHAN BROWN

Lytton Past and Present



Area North of Nicomen approx. 1928



Area North of Nicomen July 15th 2024

NNTC Website and Newsletter Sign-up

Check Out Our Website!

Hello Wonderful Community,

We are excited to invite you to explore our website! After considerable effort and dedication, we have developed a digital space that is intuitive, user-friendly, and brimming with all the resources and information you value from us. To keep you connected and ensure you never miss an update, we've introduced a feature that allows you to have our newsletter delivered directly to your email inbox. Here's how you can set it up:

Visit Our Website

Take a moment to explore our new website at nntc.ca

Newsletter Sign-Up

On our homepage, you'll find a 'Newsletter Sign-Up' section. Simply enter your email address to subscribe.

Stay Updated

Be the first to receive all our latest news, updates, and exclusive content, all conveniently in your email.

Connect With Us on Facebook

If you haven't already, follow us on Facebook to join in the conversation and to stay updated with all our latest posts and announcements. Share the news about our website with your friends and family to help us grow our vibrant community. We thank you for your continued support and are excited to welcome you to our online home. We have many exciting things in store for you, and by signing up for our newsletter, you'll ensure you won't miss a thing.

Visit Our Website & Sign-Up for the Newsletter <https://nntc.ca/news/>

Thank you for being a vital part of our community. We look forward to sharing this chapter with you!

Warm regards,
The NNTC Team

NNTC leadership and staff are here to answer your questions, provide updates, and support our community in any way we can. We're always eager to share more of our heritage, including Nlaka'pamux cultural and historical pieces.

- Do you have any Nlaka'pamux stories that you'd like to have featured in our next quarterly newsletter?
- Are there any specific updates that you'd like us to highlight next quarter?

We want your feedback!

Send us an email at Nlaka'pamux@nntc.ca for any ideas or suggestions for next quarter's newsletter!

