

June 28th - Workshop in SWI's "Discovering our Biodiversity" Series

From the Salish Sea to Paradise Meadows: exploring flora, habitats, and communities.

Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Place: Ruth Masters Nature Hall, SPWC, Paradise Meadows

Limit: 20. To register, email strathconawilderness@gmail.com

Registration Fee: \$15 (adult); \$10 (student / volunteer)

Leaders: Mary Sanseverino and Loys Maingon

Join photographer Mary Sanseverino and SWI research director Loys Maingon, together with local botanists, for a day of exploring the amazing flora from VI's east coast to the mountains of Strathcona Park. The day will also be an homage to ecologist Dr. Hans Roemer, who passed away earlier this year. We will use his method of presenting plant diversity in defined communities as a guide to developing a greater understanding of plant ecology in both Paradise Meadows and lower down in the Comox Valley. The day will be a mix of classroom instruction in the morning and fieldwork - in Paradise Meadows in the afternoon. Everyone is welcome! The only prerequisite is a curious mind; we think there will be something here for beginner and expert alike.

The morning session will consist of two slide presentations: Loys, revealing 'All You Wanted to Know About Plants but Were Afraid to Ask,' followed by Mary, featuring 'Native Plants of BC's Coastal Dry Belt,' which she co-authored with Hans Roemer. The group will then turn to a Q&A session with the presenters to discuss the issues raised. After a lunch break, we will venture out to examine plant diversity within the subalpine meadow ecosystems of Paradise Meadows.

Refreshments - beverages (tea, coffee, juice, water), cookies and fruit - will be provided, but please bring your own lunch and a mug for beverages.

Mary has retired from teaching in the Computer Science Department at UVIC and now devotes her time to various activities including the Mountain Legacy Project, charting the state of Canada's glaciers in the Rockies and BC by comparing the photographic record from the early survey expeditions in the west, as well as the records of the Alpine Club of Canada. This spring Mary gave a lively and stimulating presentation to us on that multi-year project. An active member of the ACCVI she takes every opportunity on hikes and climbs to indulge in her passion for photographing the amazing plants on Vancouver Island.

Dr Hans Roemer (April 25, 1938 - Feb 2026) was one of BC's foremost plant ecologists, overseeing the major Ecological Reserves in BC for many years and through his leadership and example promoting research into and the protection of rare ecosystems. As a mountaineer he spent much time in the Alpine areas of Strathcona Park, producing among his many publications the guide to Alpine Flowers of Vancouver Island. And of particular

note for SWI, in 2005 he put together a Plant List for Paradise Meadows and Vicinity, which was updated in 2022 for the annual Botany BC Gathering that SWI hosted at the Wilderness Centre. It now includes almost 200 species of trees, shrubs, grasses, ferns and perennials, as well as some mosses.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER PLEASE EMAIL

strathconawilderness@gmail.com