

In this and future newsletters we'll provide news and events of botanical interest under this heading. In addition to vascular plants, we'll also give attention to mushrooms.

Last year there were no official CONC botany excursions because of the pandemic. In 2022 we hope to return to our pre-pandemic routine of Friday excursions between early May 6 and mid-July. This is the period of peak flowering, when there's lots to see. Outside of this period member interest usually wanes. However, depending on interest, we may do other excursions. For example, in previous years we've gone to see Steer's Head blooming in April and looked for mushrooms in September.

Of interest for this first quarterly period will be early spring flowering plants (see photos), which could begin as early as late January or early February. Typically, first flowering will occur lower in the valley in areas of good sun exposure. Knox Mountain <https://okanagannature.org/Knox%20Mountain.pdf> and roadsides along the lower part of Beaver Lake Road <https://okanagannature.org/Beaver%20Lake%20Road.pdf> are good places to look for early spring wildflowers.



Sagebrush Buttercup *Ranunculus glaberrimus*
Photo Credit Peter Courtney

Geyer's Lomatium *Lomatium geyeri*
Photo Credit Peter Courtney



With respect to upcoming events, you might want to register soon for Washington's annual weekend botany get-togethers, Study Weekend (April 29-May 1) <https://www.wnps.org/calendar/1464> and Botany Washington (May 12-15) <https://www.wnps.org/calendar/1465>. Having attended these in the past I highly recommend them. BC's one comparable event, Botany BC, usually held in the 3rd week of June, has not been announced yet <https://eastons.ca/botanybc/>. Watch for events of botanical interest offered during the Meadowlark Festival at <https://meadowlarkfestival.ca/> and during our BCNature AGM in May here in Kelowna (stay tuned).

Regarding botany field guides and helpful references, I recommend *Plants of the Southern Interior of British Columbia*, Lone Pine Press. The best online resource for BC plants is *eFlora* <https://ibis.geog.ubc.ca/biodiversity/eflora/>. An excellent FREE cellphone/tablet app is *British Columbia Wildflowers* available for both Android and iPhone/iPad. If you want a simplified approach to learning plants, *Botany in a Day*, *The Patterns Method of Plant Identification* is a good place to start.

We don't get up as early as the birders (9:30 AM) and we don't walk as much as the hikers (1-5 km) but we do enjoy great scenery, fresh air and good company. Details of when and where to meet are provided on CONC's webpage. If you have questions or suggestions regarding this upcoming season, please forward them to botany@okanagannaturalist.com