

July 30, 2014

Royal BC Museum nature talks come to Prince George

VICTORIA, BC – The Royal BC Museum and the Prince George Public Library are hosting a series of free public presentations on the rich natural world of British Columbia.

Each year with the support of Teck, **Canada's largest diversified resource company and Royal BC Museum's** lead partner in biodiversity, teams of Royal BC Museum expert researchers head out into the wilds of British Columbia to collect, study and discover its wondrous treasures. This year a portion of the field work is centred on areas near Prince George, and research teams will be visiting the Prince George Public Library to share some of their findings.

Field Work: Spiders!, on Saturday, August 2 at the Prince George Public Library, will **feature BC's foremost spider expert, Royal BC Museum Entomology Senior Collections Manager Claudia Copley**, and her team as they shed light on the **province's rich spider diversity**.

This presentation provides a chance to learn about spider biology and discover the work being done by researchers from the Royal BC Museum as they leave no stone unturned in an effort to determine which species of spider occur here. Guests are even invited to bring along any spiders they would like to have identified.

With the Field Work: Alpine Plants presentation, on Saturday, August 9 at the Prince George Public Library, Royal BC Museum Curator of Botany Dr. Ken Marr will discuss **his team's** botanical explorations of alpine habitats in northern British Columbia.

In terms of plants and animals, one of the most poorly documented parts of the province is the alpine habitats of Northern BC. For 12 years botanists at the Royal BC Museum have been collecting specimens of the plants growing in these difficult to reach locations.

This illustrated presentation will feature the methods used to collect and preserve plant specimens, some of the beautiful species that occur in these habitats and some of the stories they tell about the history of the landscape. The presentation will also include new ideas, based on genetic analyses, concerning the migration of selected arctic-alpine species into B.C. following the last ice age.

Both presentations start at 3 p.m.

About the Royal BC Museum

The Royal BC Museum explores the **province's human history and natural history**, advances new knowledge and understanding of BC, and provides a dynamic forum for discussion and a place for reflection. The museum and archives celebrate culture and history, telling the stories of BC in ways that enlighten, stimulate and inspire. Looking to the future, by 2017 the Royal BC Museum will be a

refreshed, modern museum, extending its reach far beyond Victoria as a world-class cultural venue and repository of digital treasures.

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