

SPES VOLUNTEER BULLETIN *JULY 2007*

Volunteer News:

Our summer programs are now in full swing and our volunteers are engaged in a variety of exciting activities. Here are some of the latest highlights:

GIS/Mapping/Monitoring:

- SPES volunteer environmental monitoring teams have set up stations throughout the Park to monitor 'Environmentally Sensitive Areas' (ESAs) and blow-downs. Under the guidance of our Urban Wildlife Program Coordinator, Robyn Worcester (pictured above), our crew is being led in the field by volunteer Amy Anderson, a BCIT student who will be writing up procedures for subsequent volunteers longterm monitoring. The information gleaned from these surveys will eventually be used towards a State of the Park report, an important step in the conservation of Stanley Park.
- Volunteers on SPES' GIS team have finished mapping all 'Species at Risk' habitat and ESAs as well as other ecologically important data for the Park.



Office:

- Our valiant Office Manager, Regina, is getting much-needed help from her team of 4 volunteers coming in 1-2 times per week, including 1 practicum student from CDI College helping with accounting, finances, etc.

Nature House:

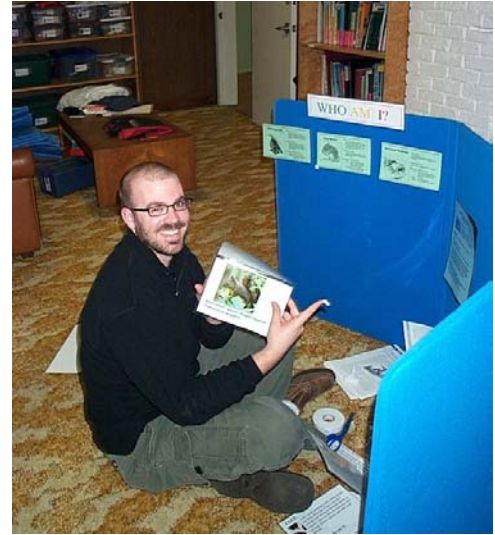
- We now have 3 NH host summer staff, including a volunteer intern, Joselin, who will be with us for 2 months until she enters the Capilano College tourism program in the fall.
- Our crew of volunteer NH designers, including 2 Emily Carr students, is working on various displays this summer
- Dave, our multitalented handyman and long-term SPES volunteer, has been conducting some baseline water quality testing of Lost Lagoon
- Our amazing Computer Hardware volunteer Sunny has been diligently working to get 2 upgraded computers up and running at the NH

Native Garden:

- The garden looking fabulous thanks to the coordinated efforts of our garden stewards Jill, Wilma and Dave.
- Jill and Wilma have also been putting together a garden monthly journal (beautiful watercolor illustrations by Jill and informative species account by Master Gardener Wilma – you are invited to view these at the Nature House)
- Dave has just finished building a mason bee home, soon to be installed in the garden.

Volunteer Coordination:

- Edward, a former Creatures of the Night volunteer is now very busy as our new volunteer VC assistant.
- Goodbye and heartfelt thanks to Steve (pictured on right), who has put in many hours for SPES helping out with our database, newsletter production and special events – you rock!



EcoRangers:

- Our EcoRanger training went very well, and we now have 12 new fully-fledged EcoRangers in addition to our 7 veterans returning from last year. They have already been doing a great job handling questions from Park visitors about natural and cultural history of the Park, injured wildlife, blowdown areas, etc.
- For Invasives Day, EcoRangers crews worked around Beaver Lake deadheading Yellow Flag Iris, an invasive species threatening wetland habitat.

- Stay posted for announcements about our summer EcoRanger/SPES Volunteer party at the end of August!!





(Spotted Towhee Nest)

Welcome New Volunteers!

EcoRangers: Carolyn, Ingrid, David, Michael, Pascal, Rob, Derek, Joycelyn, Norma, Patrick, Tania

Nature House Host: Joselin

GIS/mapping: Angela, Joanna, Amy, Zoltan and Karen

Garden: Wilma

Office: Nick, Sam, Tetyana, Karen

Graphics: Wim, Carol, Vania, Rich, Lisa and Kirsty

Volunteer Coordinator Assistant: Edward

Upcoming SPES Events:

EcoWalks:

Place: Nature House

Time: 1 PM

Join a Stanley Park Ecology Society guide for an in-depth exploration of one or more of the fascinating aspects of this Park. Our 'Sunday Specials' guides are recruited for their expertise and insights into the ecological or cultural histories of the local environment, and specifically of Stanley Park. Bring your cameras and curiosity with you as these experts reveal the past, present and future stories of this National Historic site.

The EcoWalks are:

July 22 – Strolling Beaver Lake

Why are wetlands so important and why are they under threat? Walk with biologist David Cook to explore the ecology of the wetlands in Stanley Park.

July 29 – Between a Rock and a Soft Place

What creatures stand on its head and eats with its feet? Find out by joining naturalist Murray Lashmar for a look at life between the tides. Waterproof shoes are recommended.

August 5 – Stanley Park Tree S.I.

Join SPES Interpreter Noah O'Hara for our Tree Storm Investigation hike as he explores some of the theories around the "Big Blowdown of 2006". Features a presentation by Dr. John Maclean – a UBC researcher hunting for tree-craving insects in the park.

August 19 – Transformers

Nature interpreter Andrew Scott uncovers the bizarre and incredible changes that occur as insects move from egg to adult.

August 26 – The Rainforest Café

Fast food or ten-course meal? Explore the forest plans the West Coast First Nations people used for food with Naturalist Murray Lashmar.

September 2 – Stanley Park Secrets

How much do you really know about this park? Join the Stanley Park Ecology Society for a rather revealing hike as we discover some of this National Historic Site's secrets – the ones you won't discover on a brochure!

September 9 – Connecting the Dots: Linking What We See & Hear in Nature

Join Roy Jantzen on a nature walk that is designed to make you think about the connections we often don't see on our walks through the forest.

September 16 – Old Growth Forests

Join biologist David Cook on a rare walk through some of the old growth areas on the Stanley Park and discover how a forest develops from the early beginning to the mystery of great age.

Monthly Birding with Cathy Aitchison

Date: July 29, August 26 and September 30

Time: 9:00 AM

Place: Nature House

Join naturalist and bird watcher Cathy Aitchison for a 2-hour tour in Stanley Park to identify migratory and resident birds and learn bird watching skills.

Women, Wildflowers & Willows: A Historical Walking Tour

Date: August 12

Time: 1:00 PM

Place: Stanley Park Dining Pavilion

Stroll the park's gardens with historical interpreter Jolene Cumming and discover where natural and human park history meet.



(Hardhack)

Ivy Busters:

Date: Saturday, September 8

Time: 9 am

Meeting place: Stanley Park Dining Pavilion

Join our Fine De-Vine team on this stewardship project to control the expansion of English Ivy in Stanley Park. Volunteers will be removing this highly invasive species, which is known to create 'ivy deserts' by establishing itself as the predominant groundcover in many of the large urban forests of the Pacific Northwest. This project is a partnership between the SPES and the Vancouver Park Board. See the Web site for more details or contact [Jarrid, Public Programs Manager](#) at 604-718-6522 or email programs@stanleyparkecology.ca.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:

Bird Monitor:

Help us to collect data about waterfowl and songbirds on Lost Lagoon, Beaver Lake and forest trails in the Park. Knowledge of local waterfowl and passerines a definite asset. For further information, please call [Koren](#) at 604-681-7099 or email vols@stanleyparkecology.ca.

Nature Journal Writer and Designer:

Assist with gathering materials and designing 'A Year in the Life of a Stanley Park Wanderer', a nature journal for the Lost Lagoon Nature House. For further information, please call [Koren](#) at 604-681-7099 or email vols@stanleyparkecology.ca.

Nature House Host:

Welcome visitors to the Nature House and share information about Stanley Park's history, flora and fauna. Help in creating, maintaining, and explaining educational displays in the Nature House, promoting other Stanley Park Ecology Programs and special events, organizing resource materials such as books, photos, and articles, and assist with wildlife counts.

For further information on these opportunities, please call [Koren](#) at 604-681-7099 or email vols@stanleyparkecology.ca.

Public Education Assistant (Coyotes):

Volunteers help reduce conflicts between humans, pets and coyotes through public education. The main duties are to assist at community events. Answer questions from the public in regards to coyote natural history and co-existing with coyotes, demonstrate and explain display exhibits. Volunteers may get involved with other aspects i.e. Community Leaders, Info Line assistants, coyote archive assistants.

For further information on these opportunities, please call [Koren](#) at 604-681-7099 or email vols@stanleyparkecology.ca.

SPES Volunteers Enjoy:

The SPES Volunteer Program is dedicated to giving our volunteers a quality experience. It features:

- Regular training opportunities at low or no cost
- Free admission to Sunday guided EcoWalks
- A reduced membership fee
- An opportunity to be part of an interesting group of people who are dedicated to encouraging stewardship of the natural world and connecting people with nature

A SPECIAL REMINDER TO OUR VOLUNTEERS:

Please remember to submit your volunteer hours. This is very important for our records as well as for funding purposes. You can do this electronically at the end of each month - if you need a copy of the tally sheet, please contact us and we will be happy to supply you with one.

Special for Our Volunteers:

As a Park-Perk, the Stanley Park Ecology Society (SPES) extends a special invitation to its volunteers to get onboard SPES membership for the discounted Volunteer rate of only \$10!

Membership also includes:

- Quarterly Newsletters from the heart of Stanley Park
- Discounted Admission on all SPES programs and events
- Other perks from Park partners

To register for memberships, or for more information, contact **604-257-6908** or info@stanleyparkecology.ca

Meet SPES's Staff And Board:

SPES Staff:

Executive Director:	Patricia Thomson
Development Coordinator	Lorraine Toor
School Programs:	Mia Haab
Public Programs:	Jarrid Jenkins
Urban Wildlife:	Robyn Worcester
Volunteer and Nature House Coordinator:	Koren Johnstone
Office Coordinator:	Regina Bandong
Popcorn Sales:	Norm Andreassen

SPES Board of Directors:

Brett Horton, Judy Chui, Judith MacPherson, Brian Herrin, Angie Gerst, Danny Catt, John Gray, Patricia Stevens, Denise Pritchard, Shiloh Bouvette, Amy Li, Paula Ramsay.



Watch for our next bulletin coming up in September!

Thanks to all of our volunteers for your valuable contributions to SPES over the summer – we couldn't do it without you...

Have a great summer!!

– Koren and Edward –

****We gratefully acknowledge Peter Woods for the use of his photographs in this bulletin.*