

Stanley Park Nature News:

Prospect Point Bald Eagles are recovering from the storm....

For the past few weeks, the paired eagles at Prospect Point have been seen carrying sticks and placing them in their new nest, and have also been observed mating on numerous occasions. Hopefully they are now laying and incubating their eggs, and the first chicks will be seen in early May....



Stanley Park's First Heron Eggs of 2007!



There is also lots of excitement at the Park's heronry these days. Since their first arrival around Valentine's Day, the Great Blue Herons have been busy courting, nest building, and are now starting to incubate their eggs. Be sure to come down with binoculars and join other enthusiastic heron observers to witness one of Stanley Park's great natural wonders!

For further information, please contact:

***Robyn Worcester, Urban Wildlife Program Coordinator, Stanley Park Ecology Society.
604-681-9453 coyotes@stanleyparkecology.ca***

For more info on Urban Eagles please see our website www.stanleyparkecology.ca

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:

Urban Camping

This fun program introduces inner city grades 5-7 students to an enjoyable an outdoor experience in Stanley Park (see our website at www.stanleyparkecology.ca). Volunteers will assist the Day Leader in environmental education and outdoor recreation activities including forest and wetland studies, knot-tying, shelter-building, distributing gear, liaising with adult chaperones and assisting student learners. The first camp is April 10, and the last camp is June 22, 2007. Volunteers will be trained starting April 4 and will be working until June 25. A variety of shifts are available (you can find more information about this on www.govolunteer.ca). Benefits include developing leadership skills and communication skills, learning and improving your outdoor and camping knowledge base, exploring outdoor recreation, getting valuable work experience with children and experiencing the beauty of Stanley Park first hand! **For further information, please contact Kim or Tracey at school@stanleyparkecology.ca or phone 604-257-6907.**

'Playing for the Park':

Join a team of energetic volunteers and performers at this new, exciting family event! Music, movement and make-believe are the tools of choice for families wishing to show their appreciation for Stanley Park during this year's Earth Day celebrations. On April 22nd, 2007 families are invited to come together at Playing for the Park, a family benefit concert celebrating the wonders of nature in Vancouver's own backyard. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Stanley Park Ecology Society's environmental education and stewardship programs.

When: Sunday, April 22nd, 9am - 3pm

Where: Roundhouse Performance Centre

What: Volunteers are needed to help out at the event in a variety of roles, including box office, concession, SPES booth, children's activities and theatre ushers. Training will be provided.

How: **Please contact Lorraine at 604-718-6523 or lorraine@stanleyparkecology.ca by April 5th, if you are interested in joining the Playing for the Park volunteer team. Thank you for your support!**

BIRD MONITORING:

First time birders can join Robyn on the second Sunday of the month at 10:00AM starting at the Nature House for counting birds around Lost Lagoon and Beaver Lake. This is a great way to familiarize yourselves with local birds and learn ID skills. **For details, please contact Robyn at coyotes@stanleyparkecology.ca.**

The loss of so many trees in the park may have had significant impacts on bird habitats. In order to understand these changes and help plan for wildlife stewardship in the future, it has become more important than ever for SPES to continue monitoring efforts in the Park.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities (cont'd):

Volunteers, especially those with some birding experience and/or a background in field biology are needed to help us continue to monitor birds around Lost Lagoon and Beaver Lake, as well as in the deeper forest areas. Interested volunteers will receive training on conducting bird behaviour and habitat surveys. **Please contact Koren at vols@stanleyparkeecology.ca for further information on these and other monitoring opportunities.**

Here are the results of the last bird counts, ***thanks to Robyn and our volunteer birders Sahriar, Hyunjoo, Sherri, Paul, Warwick and Jeremiah:***

Lost Lagoon: American Coot, American Robin, American Wigeon, Bald Eagle, Black-capped Chickadee, Brown Creeper, Bushtit, Canada Goose, Cedar Waxwing, Chesnut-backed Chickadee, Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser, Dark-eyed Junco, Double-crested Cormorant, European Starling, Fox Sparrow, Glaucous-winged Gull, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Great Blue Heron, Greater Scaup, Gull spp., House Finch, House Sparrow, Lesser Scaup, Mallard, Mew Gull, Mute Swan, Northern Flicker, Northern Pintail, Northwestern Crow, Red-winged Blackbird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Rock Dove, Song Sparrow, Spotted Towhee, Swallow spp., Wood Duck and Vireo spp.

Beaver Lake: Bald Eagle, Bufflehead, Canada Goose, Glaucous-winged Gull, Great Blue Heron, Hooded Merganser, Mallard, Northwestern Crow, Red-winged Blackbird, Song Sparrow, Spotted Towhee, Steller's Jay, Winter Wren and Wood Duck.

Devonian Pond: American Wigeon, Gadwall, Red-winged Blackbird and Song Sparrow.

After the count was finished, 130-140 scaups showed up at the Lagoon (70-80% LESC and 20-30% GRSC) and a Cooper's Hawk was mobbed near the Nature House. Our first swallows of the season were not identified to species because they were flying too high.

ASSISTANT TO WILDLIFE SPECIALIST:

- Volunteer to assist Urban Wildlife Program Coordinator with 'Coexisting with Coyotes' program, special events and eagle and heron data management, promotion and marketing.

GPS/GIS and FIELD PROJECTS:

- Volunteers with GPS experience (and field equipment would help) to GPS sites such as birds' nests, nest boxes, recently used wildlife trees, woodpecker sites, owl sightings, bat roosts, invasive species sites, etc.
- Volunteers with GIS and mapping experience to compile and enter monitoring data.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities (cont'd):

SPES BIRD WEBSITE:

- Volunteers with website experience to help set up layout for birding website, including counts, life lists, observations, seasonal birding, etc.

RESEARCH:

- Volunteers to help compile bird and other wildlife species descriptions.

PHOTO BANK:

- Volunteer to organize (date, source, caption) photos for SPES' Image Bank, and to fill in gaps with our own scanned slides, or with photos taken by the volunteer (for example, before- and after-windstorm photos).

GRAPHICS:

- Volunteer with local natural history (especially birds) and artistic ability to create a scrapbook based on year-long observations in Stanley Park by naturalists and the public.

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

SPES News:



Meet SPES' New Public Programs Manager:

In this issue, we wish to introduce you to Jarrid Jenkins, who is taking over Annemarie's DeAndrade role as Public Programs Manager. He comes with a wealth of interpretation experience, having previously worked for the GVRD, the Vancouver Aquarium, Dinosaur Provincial Park, and Interpretation Canada. Jarrid is deeply committed to Environmental Education and is keen to take on the challenges of his new position. He looks forward to meeting and working with SPES' volunteers in both ongoing and future projects.

For information on SPES Public Programs, please contact: Jarrid Jenkins, Public Programs Manager, Stanley Park Ecology Society. Phone 604-718-6522 or email [programs@stanleyparkecology.ca](mailto: programs@stanleyparkecology.ca) also please see our website www.stanleyparkecology.ca



SPES News (cont'd):

'Playing for the Park':

This event is fast approaching, so please make sure to highlight it on your calendar!

It will be a family concert benefiting SPES' education and stewardship programs and is produced as a partnership between SPES and Bobolo Productions. A variety of sponsorship opportunities are available to assist in covering the production costs of the event. Revenues further to ticket sales will be generated through merchandise, concession and a live raffle.

When: Sunday April 22, 2007
11:00am and 1:00pm

Where: Roundhouse Performance Centre
181 Roundhouse Mews
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2W3

'Playing for the Park' will feature the best of Vancouver's home-grown talent for kids. Headliners Bobs & Lolo present the perfect voices for this musical event as they aim to inspire their audiences with an appreciation for the natural world through music, movement and make-believe. Combined with the fun, interactive and silly onstage antics of entertainers Will Stroet and Chris Hamilton, 'Playing for the Park' is guaranteed to be a success with participating families. **For more information, please contact Lorraine at 604-718-6523 or sponsors@stanleyparkecology.ca.**

For Sale:

'Musical Adventures' CD:

Local children's entertainers, Bobs & Lolo, inspire their audiences with an appreciation for the natural world through music, movement and make-believe. Their newest CD, 'Musical Adventures', was released in December 2006, and met immediate success with songs about enjoying the outdoors (My Bike, The Great Outdoors, Little Breeze), conserving wildlife (Wish for a Fish—in celebration of the Fraser River Sturgeon), and going green (Recycle with Me).

'Musical Adventures' can be purchased through the Stanley Park Ecology Society for \$15.00 (including tax) with partial proceeds benefiting SPES' education and stewardship programs.

For more information about Bobs & Lolo, audio clips and press materials please visit www.bobsandlolo.com.



SPES News (cont'd):

Stanley Park: Wilderness in our Backyard

Be mesmerized by nature just steps from the busy downtown streets and sidewalks of Vancouver, BC. From evergreen forests to marshy wetland to rocky seashore, skim the pages of this guidebook to uncover plants and wildlife living in Stanley Park. Partial proceeds supports SPES and its programs. Only a few books left!

Cost - \$23.00 (includes GST)

Visit www.stanleyparkecology.ca or call us at (604) 257-6908 for information.

Eco Friendly Gift Idea – Winter Sale – 20% off Bamboo T-Shirts.

Celebrate winter in style with your very own chemical-free manufactured eco-friendly bamboo T-shirt. A unique gift for your special someone. Proceeds promote environmental awareness and stewardship initiatives at SPES.

Sale Price: \$15 (includes tax) Call 604-681-7099 and pick up your bamboo T-shirt today.



Join Our Events:

Birding in Stanley Park:

Date: April 29th and May 27th (the last Sunday of every month)

Time: 9 am

Meeting place: Stanley Park Dining Pavilion

Join well-known birder Cathy Aitchison for a 2-hour tour in Stanley Park to identify migratory and resident birds, and learn bird watching skills. By donation.

EcoWalks:

Date: See below

Time: 1:00 pm

Place: Stanley Park Dining Pavilion (rain or shine!)

Apr 1 – April Fools: Camouflage & Mimicry in the Forest Prowl the forest with Nature Interpreter Andrew Scott in search of insects that have perfected an astonishing array of fool-you-looks& behaviours. Check out how some insects pretend to be what they're not and why they do it.



Join Our Events (cont'd):

Apr 15 - **The Small World of the Forest: Mosses, Liverworts, & Lichens** Biologist Terry McIntosh strolls through Stanley Park's various plant communities examining often overlooked small organisms that add colour and diversity to the forest. Explore their unique roles in the ecosystem, and their very different microhabitats. Discover how these ancient organisms survive and thrive in our modern world.

Apr 29 - **Tales the Trees Tell** In celebration of Arbour Day, Vancouver Park Board arbourist Bill Stephen tours us through a diverse selection of native and exotic trees of Stanley Park. Bill can read stories in the limbs and trunks the way few others can.



Community Nature Walks and Events:

Thursday, March 29

BC's PROVINCIAL PARKS: CAN THE IMAGE BE RESTORED?

Guest speakers will be Derek Thompson, a former Deputy Minister for Ministry of Environment and a member of the Parks Elders Council; Scott Benton, Executive Director for Parks & Protected Areas, Ministry of Environment; and Ben West, a former Green Party candidate and the organizer of the 2006 BC Park Lovers Tour. Topics include objectives of the parks and protected areas system, and linking parks to people through recreation, stewardship, staffing and communication.

The forum will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall of St. Mary's Kerrisdale, 2490 West 37th Avenue (at Larch), Vancouver (regular meeting place of the Birding Section).

Saturday, March 31

Join Kelly Sekhon on a hiking trip to Galiano Island. The circular route from Sturdies Bay to the top of Mt. Galiano (400 m elevation gain) is ideal for scenic views, wildflowers, birds and a glimpse of life on the island. The leisurely hike takes about 5 hours and there is enough time for a relaxed lunch and to browse in local markets. Carpool at 42nd & Oak at 0715 and then meet Kelly at 0815 outside the ticket booth in Tsawwassen to walk onto the 0835 ferry. Return ferry arrives back at 1835. Bring a lunch and wear good walking shoes or hiking boots. Kelly Sekhon: phone: 604-526-9091; email: kellysekhon@yahoo.com.

Sunday, April 7

Join Istvan Orosi for a half-day bird walk around Burnaby Lake. You will look for the first Rufous Hummingbirds, other early migrants and remaining winter passerines and waterfowl. Kids are welcome. Bring hiking boots, rain gear, sunscreen, water and lunch. Meet Istvan at the Nature House, located on the north side of Burnaby Lake, at 0830. (The Nature House is at the south end of Piper Avenue, accessed from Winston Street). Contact Istvan at 604-524-8046 or iorosi@shaw.ca.

Community Nature Walks and Events (cont'd):

Saturday, April 14

Join John and Marian Coope on their annual botany and birding trip to see the spring flowers and birds at Horth Hill, within walking distance of the Swartz Bay ferry terminal. Carpool at 42nd and Oak at 0745 to walk onto the 0900 ferry at Tsawwassen (allowing time to reach the ferry terminal ten minutes before sailing time, as required). Join the Coopes on the ferry or at the Swartz Bay ferry terminal. Plan on catching the return ferry at 1700, arriving back at Tsawwassen at 1845. Bring lunch, drinks and suitable clothing for a day in the open. Phone the Coopes for details at 604-224-6192 or email: marian.coope@ubc.ca.

Thursday, April 19

Virtual Botany: A Peak into the World of E-Flora

Brian Klinkenberg

E-Flora BC, an online atlas of the plants of B.C., is a cooperative partnership project aimed at providing a comprehensive, centralized source of information on our native plant species. Using an interactive atlas format, E-Flora provides detailed information on the distribution, ecology, biology, taxonomy and conservation status of B.C.'s plant species. Together with an extensive photo gallery, E-Flora BC offers an unparalleled resource for students, educators, amateur and professional botanists, and researchers. In this dynamic and colourful presentation, Dr. Brian Klinkenberg, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, UBC will provide an overview of the project and demonstrate its great value to anyone interested in B.C.'s botanical treasures.

at 7:30 p.m. at the Vancouver Museum, 1100 Chestnut Street, Vancouver.

Sunday, April 22

Look for spring migrants on a birding walk with Bill Kinkaid in Everett Crowley Park in South Vancouver. This park includes a mix of restored grassland, scrub and woodland habitats, plus a hidden wetland. Meet in front of Champlain Recreation Centre at 3350 Maquinna Drive at 8:00. Contact Bill at 604-731-3243 or littlegreenplants@yahoo.ca.

Sunday, April 22

Meet John Chandler for a morning walk around the Iona Island Regional Park ponds and marshes. You'll be looking especially for migrating shorebirds in their new spring plumage – they're much easier to identify at this time of year – and the Yellow-headed Blackbirds should be setting up territories in the marsh. Meet John in the parking lot near the washrooms at 0830. Contact John at 604-274-4117.

SPES Volunteers Enjoy:

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

- Regular volunteer bulletins and updates
- 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 SPES 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@stanleyparkecolgy.ca

Meet SPES' 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 Host 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 and Dr. Graham Rodwell