

SPES VOLUNTEER BULLETIN *MAY 2007*

Volunteer News:

SPES has been celebrating the welcome return of the sun with festive spring events:

Playing For The Park

The children's entertainment troupe, 'Bobs & Lolo', featuring our very own Lorraine Toor, performed a family benefit concert celebrating the wonders of nature in Vancouver's beloved Stanley Park. SPES was proud to present this event, which had nearly 200 guests attend and raised over \$2000 for our society's education and stewardship programs. Many thanks to our fabulous volunteers as the success of this event was due in large part to their generous support.



30th Annual Vancouver International Children's Festival

SPES teamed up with Capers to help children learn more about the wonders of nature. Dedicated volunteers helped kids plant their own sunflower in plant-fiber, biodegradable cups to be placed directly into the ground. Our booth was flooded with eager new gardeners throughout the festival, and Capers generously contributed the donations collected from their food samples to SPES.

Taste of Capers

This event was hosted simultaneously at the Capers stores across the greater Vancouver area, and SPES was invited to set up booths and distribute information about its programs. a feat only possible through our team of volunteers who came out to greet people and introduce them to our society. Capers again generously contributed the donations collected for their food samples to SPES, helping us to raise money for our programs.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:

EcoRangers:

Through newly developed Ecology Walks, an updated EcoRanger nature-training module and specific interpretation techniques, we would like to engage the public and answer questions about the cause and effect of the past year's winter storms, the clean-up process and the future of the park. For further information, please contact [Noah O'Hara, EcoRanger Coordinator](#) by email ecoranger@stanleyparkecology.ca or phone [604 257-6909](tel:604-257-6909), for more information.

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](tel:604-681-7099) or email vols@stanleyparkecology.ca.

Natural History Display and/or Brochure Designer:

Help to plan interactive displays for the Nature House based on a natural history and/or conservation theme, either on a general topic or one that is specific to Stanley Park. Gather, create and arrange materials attractively to best display information and catch public interest. For further information on these opportunities, please call [Koren at 604-681-7099](tel: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](tel: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](tel:604-681-7099) or email vols@stanleyparkecology.ca.



Join Our Events:

If you go "Into The Woods" today...

Join us for this extraordinary concert and support SPES!

Time: May 28, 29 at 8 pm

Christ Church Cathedral's Green Group and the Cathedral Guild for the Arts present a special in-concert production of Stephen Sondheim's '**Into the Woods**' to raise money for SPES conservation initiatives and the restoration of Stanley Park. Actor/director, Peter Huck and actor Christopher Shyer, one of the lead performers of CTV's hit show, *Whistler* are joining forces with other outstanding celebrities of stage and screen in this unique collaboration, which has been a recipient of 3 Tony Awards and 5 Drama Desk Nominations. Tickets are \$20, and will be available at the door. For advance tickets or further information call: **604-682-3848 ext 30**. Don't miss it!

Ivy Busters:

Date: June 9th

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 [Jarrod, Public Programs Manager](#) at 604-718-6522 or email programs@stanleyparkecolgy.ca.

Monthly Birding:

Date: May 20th (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 bellow

Time: 1:00 pm

Place: Stanley Park Dining Pavilion

May 27: Ethnobotany: Edible Native Plants from Historic Cultural Perspectives: Ficus Chan takes you on a tour of nature's bounty. While native plants are protected from being picked in parks, it is food for thought to know that there is a variety of edible wild greens as well as materials for canoes, rope, diapers and dyes in the diversity and richness of the forest.

June 3 - Intertidal Exploration (Canadian Environment Week): Strap on your boots and join biologist David Cook in exploring the intertidal seashore, the intermediate zone between the marine and land worlds. Discover how the animals and plants in these areas have developed special means to survive in the harsh world of the ebb and flow of tides.

June 10 – Friend or Foe: A Look at the Relationship Between Herons and Eagles: Join Urban Wildlife Specialist Robyn Worcester to explore the Great Blue Heron colony and visit a Bald Eagle's nest. Discuss the tumultuous relationship between these two bird species and look closer at the habitats they occupy.

June 17 - Habitat, What's That? (Father's Day): Room with a view, waterfront property, high rise apartment or temporary accommodation? Naturalist Murray Lashmar shows you what wildlife naturalists look for when they're checking out real estate possibilities.



Community Events

Vancouver Natural History activities: for further information, please go to the VNHS website at <http://www.naturalhistory.bc.ca/VNHS>

Saturday, May 26, 2007

Spend a morning looking for birds in Jericho Park with Adrian Grant Duff. With its mix of ponds, beaches and woodland, this is a good place to spot some of our arriving warblers, vireos and maybe a Rufous Hummingbird. Meet Adrian at 08:00 in the east parking lot.

Join Larry Cowan for a half-day birding field trip to Colony Farm Regional Park in Coquitlam. Target species will be the beautiful Lazuli Bunting which has been seen almost every year on this outing. Other species expected include Green Heron, Band-tailed Pigeon and Bullock's Oriole. Meet the leader in the parking area at the east end of Colony Farm Road at 08:30.

Take a moderate hike on the Sendero Diez Vistas (translated as Ten Viewpoints Trail) at Buntzen Lake. Bring lunch, rain gear and expect some rough early season conditions. Carpool at Franklin and Penticton at 07:00, or meet in the main parking lot by the ranger station at Buntzen Lake at 08:00. For more information contact Bill Kinkaid.

Sunday, May 27, 2007

Take a walk around Campbell Valley Park with Viveka Ohman to look for recently arrived songbirds and other species. Meet in the 8th Avenue parking lot at 09:00. You will walk the Ravine Trail first and then the main trail to 16th Avenue before returning to the parking lot. Bring your lunch, water and sunscreen. This will be a two-to three-hour walk covering about four or five miles.

Saturday, June 2, 2007

Join David Cook for a hike along the Admiralty Point Trail to Burns Point in Belcarra Regional Park to look at the geology and forest ecology of this lower part of the Indian Arm fjord. Because the tide will be low, you will have an opportunity to view intertidal ecology and an eroded section of the beach where clays of a glacial lake that once covered this region are exposed. Meet at 10:00 hours in the parking lot at the corner of Franklin and Penticton behind the East Hastings Street McDonald's (two blocks east of Nanaimo) for car pooling. Wear hiking boots and bring lunch and water. The duration of the hike will be about three hours. For further information contact David.

Join Istvan Orosi to look for the Lazuli Buntings at Colony Farm Regional Park in Coquitlam. This will be a joint event between Nature Vancouver and Colony Farm Park Association. Note that there will be a 09:00 and a 15:00 trip. Meet Istvan in the parking lot at the end of Colony Farm Road in front of the community gardens. Kids are welcome. Dress for the weather. Hiking boots are good, but not essential.

Saturday, June 16, 2007

Join Stanley Park Ecology Society and Park Board urban forester Bill Stephen on a tour of this winter's Stanley Park blow-down areas. Learn about the restoration activities taking place, and discuss the ecological concerns that the Board must address. You will use the free shuttle to access several points of interest in the park, the whole tour should take about three hours. Meet at the shuttle-bus pickup pagoda at the Stanley Park bus loop, near the children's zoo, at 13:00. Wear hiking shoes, as you will be doing some walking on the trails.

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' 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.