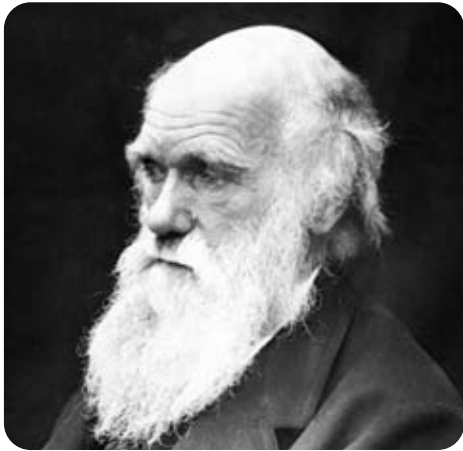


STANLEY PARK ECOLOGY SOCIETY

Connecting People with Nature



Charles Darwin



Rachel Carson

The Naturalists!

Roger Keyes, Public Programs Manager

Grebes, cormorants, swallows, herons, swans, beavers, and insects galore; all are to be found in the landscape around the Stanley Park Nature House. One creature, in particular, found ambling the trails, is quite captivating and not just because of its intense curiosity.

I can usually identify the genus but individual variation within the species is great. Some carry binoculars, others cameras or drawing materials, and some come with nothing but their five senses. They are The Naturalists!

Naturalists have been around since humans first started relating to their environments. In Hunter-Gatherer societies the profession, I am sure, was open to all. The Hunters keenly observed the patterns of their prey for predictability. The Gatherers undoubtedly knew when certain berries were in season and, more importantly, which would sustain you or kill you. Being a naturalist was no pastoral art, but a matter of life and death. It was everyone's responsibility and occupation.

Today a naturalist is defined as someone who studies nature and can – to the untrained eye – seem quite tame, even domesticated. Main characteristics

seem to be rationality, determination and, as mentioned, curiosity. We can partly trace the lineage of this species back to a Greek – of course, it would be a Greek – named Thales.

Thales of Miletus, who observed this earth from 624-546 BCE, put forward that what we see in the world is endless modifications of water. It's not this discarded theory that ranks Thales as the "first naturalist" but the radical act of *creating* a theory. On a good day, the pen is mightier than the sword – or in this case, the Oracle. Thales was one of the first sparks that would slowly ignite the processes of critical thinking and inquiry: that is to say, asking questions and not taking, "because I said so", as an answer.

His bravery exists in suggesting an alternative to the view that the natural world is the playground for a multitude

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SPES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Featuring popular naturalist-photographer, Danny Catt

"Connecting People with Nature across Hemispheres"

October 18, 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Where: Coal Harbour Community Centre, 480 Broughton St

Admission Free!

...continued from cover.

of gods and supernatural forces. In the curious and rational world of Thales, crop failures and solar eclipses resulted from natural forces. Ironically for the man who theorized about water, it was not the gods that struck him down, but of course, dehydration on a hot day.

Determination is another common trait and is displayed beautifully by Pliny the Elder. His obituary would read, "Died, age 53, in the aftermath of the explosion of Mount Vesuvius, trying to save a friend, 79 C.E.". His name might not exactly come racing at you as the *Young Naturalists: Crabitat Boys at the Beach*, Photo: SPES



answer to, "who was fundamental to the study of natural history throughout the ages?"

This Roman's revolutionary encyclopedia, *Historia Naturala*, however, pointed the way to the orderly study of Natural History. Known to us only through the references of others, this lost work gave form to all the existing knowledge of the time and, just as important, how knowledge would be structured going forward. Talk about the power of controlling the agenda!

In any Naturalist ID book, the trait of rationality would be illustrated with Ab 'Ali al-Hasan ibn al-Hasan ibn al-Haytham, born in 965 C.E. in Basra. By setting down steps to productive inquiry he set in motion the birth of the Scientific Method, key in the development of the sciences and the modern world: Make an observation, state a problem, form an hypothesis, conduct an experiment, analyze the results, form a conclusion and publish the results. Seems simple today – to most – but in a world where Ibn al-Haytham did much of his thinking from a jail cell, it was thinking outside of the box, to say the least. Dedication



Insect in amber, Photo: Eva Kröcher, GNU Free Documentation License can also be noted here.

The Naturalist's curiosity and rationality shifted the paradigm; society had a new pair of glasses through which to see the world. No longer would a light in the sky be seen as a message from the gods but as a comet that could be studied. An earthquake would change from being viewed as punishment from angry gods to the natural result of shifting and sometimes colliding tectonic plates.

But it didn't happen all at once. These new glasses did not always fit comfortably. It would take nearly two millennia before the Englishman Francis Bacon focused clearly and ushered in the Enlightenment based firmly in the Scientific Method.

The Scientific Method led and informed biologists and other naturalists like the Englishwoman Mary Anning, legendary 18th Century fossil hunter and French naturalist, Georges Cuvier, who founded the disciplines of vertebrate paleontology and comparative anatomy. Google them today: Etienne Saint Hillaire, Alexander von Humboldt, Charles Darwin, Alfred Wallace, John Ray, Rachel Carson, Lynn Margulis. The list goes on. All the tested, duplicated and verified methods and results that are the hallmark of this inquiry model have helped people live more objectively with nature.

I am in awe of those who can sit and stare at the mad lines of nature and see patterns. The patterns they have found have changed not only our view of the world, but of human civilization and psychology itself. They hold us to account with the information they gather and analyze. And, if we don't act on that information, at least we can never say, "We didn't know."

Foster a Fledgling Naturalist

Roger Keyes, Public Programs Manager

Here's the punch: like many species, Naturalists are at risk if not endangered. As the majority of humanity now lives in urban areas, more and more of us are isolated from the other elements of the natural world. The Naturalist must be protected, nurtured and encouraged. There are many ways you can help. Organizations such as Nature Vancouver, Metro Vancouver Parks, Sea to Sky Outdoor School and of course the Stanley Park Ecology Society offer a diversity of School and Public Programs for the young and adult alike. Get involved!

In the case of the Stanley Park Ecology Society, some of our offerings include: our monthly Young Naturalists Club, School Programs from which youth and teachers can choose from a variety of ecology-based programs and Conservation Programs such Ivy Busters and the Build-a-Bat-Box Workshop for all ages. As well, the Eco Ranger program offers youth and adults a chance to get top-notch natural history training and the opportunity to share that information with park visitors.

Through the Stanley Park Nature House's Foster a Fledgling Naturalist Campaign you can sponsor a naturalist for any of our programs. Your ten-dollar sponsorship will pay for one participant in one of our programs. \$10 a Fledgling! (Fee Subsidy Program) Do your part and save a Naturalist! Call 604-718-6522 for more information.

Bibliography and Links:

<http://www.westerncultureglobal.org/thales.html>

<http://www.naturalism.org/history.htm>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alhazen>

<http://www.macroevolution.net/louis-agassiz.html>

or Google "Naturalists + History"

Big birds, babies and bats

Robyn Worcester,
Conservation Programs Manager

Thanks to the keen eyes and persistence of Park naturalists and photographers, a number of rare occurrences are able to be recorded and documented in turn by SPES. This great egret was spotted by photographer-naturalist Peter Woods off the seawall earlier this year. Usually found farther south, this is the first time this bird has been sighted
Great egret, Photo: Peter Woods



Fledgling barred owl, Photo: Mark T. White
in Stanley Park. It stayed for only a short while and seemed quite comfortable feeding only meters away from one of our local great blue herons.

Owl enthusiast and photographer, Mark White, caught this amazing image of a young barred owl fledgling from the nest. Often the case with young birds, it took a little while for the owl to get coordinated. It eventually climbed up the tree to join its sibling in safety and was later fed by the parents. Mark has been tracking the breeding owls in Stanley Park; you can find out more about them at: www.owlsinthepark.ca.

In July a bat was noted displaying erratic behaviour at Lost Lagoon, not far from the Nature House. The bat was first seen flying low over the water, around mid afternoon. While being watched, it fell into the Lagoon but was scooped out by a local photographer. The small bat (presumably a little brown myotis) was put on the ground from where it quickly climbed a nearby tree. This unusual behaviour may be the result of the rabies virus, but we do not know for sure. The possibility prompts a reminder that it is important to never touch a bat.

Little brown bat being scooped out of Lost Lagoon, Photo: Mikul Culver



EdVentures

Mariee Deverieux, School Programs Manager

It is never too late to learn something new. Whether you are young or simply young at heart, the wonders of the wild never cease to amaze. Another school year is upon us and our Environmental Educators are ready to engage kids with
Soil Soup, Photo: SPES



the many eco-wonders that live right here in Stanley Park. We offer a diverse array of Eco-Edventures that get kids dipping for aquatic insects in Beaver Lake, hiking deep in to the forest, or combing the beach in search of perfect items to build a “crabitat”. No matter what adventure they join us on, our hands-on programming is essential in connecting children with the natural world.

But what if students can’t make it to the park? We’ll come to them! We offer an array of hands-on science workshops in the classroom, and Coyote 101 conservation presentations for the entire school. This year we are also excited to offer innovative science theatre programming on climate change for both forest and wetland ecosystems. So when the weather turns dreary, we are happy to bring the best of the park to schools throughout the Lower Mainland.

Another way we continue to promote environmental stewardship is through professional development workshops for teachers. Our goal is to help teachers feel empowered to take their students outdoors. We demonstrate effective and fun ways to get kids connected with nature, and all workshops include a copy of new teacher resource CD-ROM, Urban Stewards. This 12-unit lesson series is ready-to-use and BC Ministry of Education approved! This perfect all-in-one resource includes lessons on climate change, biodiversity, and sustainability. Urban Stewards is designed for grades 4 to 7, and is available exclusively from SPES at a cost of \$25.

The kids we engage with today are the environmental ambassadors of tomorrow. For more on our School Programs, visit www.stanleyparkecology/schoolprograms/

Fall 2009 nature programs

Your Guide to SPES...



The Young Naturalists' Club of Stanley Park

This monthly event is a chance for children (with their parents) to enjoy two hours of nature exploration. Activities include hiking, games, wildlife observation, outdoor art, and more, presented by the Stanley Park Ecology Society and the Young Naturalists' Club of BC.

Call (604) 718-6522 to sign up.

We meet from 10 am to 12 noon, the first Saturday of every month, at the Lost Lagoon Nature House.

For details email us at:
ync@stanleyparkecolgy.ca

TD Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup

This year during the 2009 TD Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup, join thousands of Canadians in cleaning up aquatic debris for our nation's waterways to make them safe places for wildlife and people. **The Stanley Park Ecology Society staff and Board invite you to join our team.**

**Saturday, September 26,
9:00 to 11:00 am**

This event is appropriate for individuals, couples, families, and children over 6 years of age.

For further information or to register, contact Greg Ferguson, SPES Stewardship Programs

Coordinator: stewardship@stanleyparkecolgy.ca
Phone: 604-718-6522

For more information, visit www.stanleyparkecolgy.ca or call (604) 718-6522

Sun. Sept 20
1-3 pm
Discovery Walk: Metamorphosis
Many insects are radically transformed from birth to adult, often changing environments and lifestyles. Join naturalist Andrew Scott as we take a look at some of those living in Lost Lagoon. Discover which of them may become flying insects as adults, and how remarkably they'll change. **Meet at the Stanley Park Nature House at Lost Lagoon. \$10.00 adults, \$5.00 members and children.**

Sat. Sept. 26
Drop-in: 10 am to noon, 1 pm to 4 pm
Workshop: The Ivy Project
Bio-netting? SPES invites you to join artist Sharon Kallis as she installs bio netting for slope stabilization made from English Ivy. This is part of an on-going project exploring the artistic and ecological applications of English Ivy and other invasive materials of Stanley Park. **Meet at the parking lot near the intersection of Park Drive and Pipeline Rd. Drop in: 10 am to noon, 1 to 4 pm. Free Event!**

Sat. Sept. 26
10 am - 2:30 pm
Dig in: Environmental Art
Event at the Roundhouse Community Arts & Recreation Centre. The Vancouver Park Board, Stanley Park Ecology Society and the Community Arts Council of Vancouver are pleased to present a day of activities and discussion exploring art and the environment to mark the completion of the Stanley Park Environmental Art Project. **Free but please pre-register with the Roundhouse as space is limited. Phone 604-713-1800. Free Event!**

Sun. Sept. 27
9-11 pm
The Birds of Stanley Park
Join this popular two-hour walk with naturalist and expert bird watcher Cathy Aitchison to explore Stanley Park's varied and beautiful bird life. **Meet at the Stanley Park Nature House at Lost Lagoon. Admission by donation.**

Sat. Oct. 3
The Young Naturalists' Club of Stanley Park (see sidebar)

Sun. Oct. 4
1-3 pm
Discovery Walk: Forests, Feathers & Foreshores
Naturalist Murray Lashmar leads us on an insightful waterfowl walk. Go in-depth with swans, harlequins, dabbling ducks and whatever else is gracing our shores this autumn! Meet at the Stanley Park Nature House at Lost Lagoon. \$10.00 adults, \$5.00 members and children.

Sun. Oct. 11
1-3 pm
Mushrooms, Mushrooms, Mushrooms!
Get in on the ground floor! Well, actually the forest floor with expert botanist Terry Taylor as he leads this walk on what the mushrooms are doing and why they are so important. Learn their names and their intriguing roles in the forest. **Meet at the Stanley Park Nature House at Lost Lagoon. \$10.00 adults, \$5.00 members and children.**

Sun. Oct. 18
1-3 pm
Manager's Special! Bike the Highlights!
Who is Harry Jerome and why does he have a statue dedicated to him? The Nine O'clock Gun once aimed at City Hall! Really? How do the ferns, nurse stumps and towering trees work together to create this lush forest? These just some of the topics on this bike tour of the highlights of Stanley Park. Join Public Programs Manager, Roger Keyes, for this ride on the Seawall and into the forests. **Registration is limited to ten cyclists; reserve ahead to avoid disappointment. Meet at the Stanley Park Nature House at Lost Lagoon. Blue Light Special Price: Members free, non-members, \$5. Call 604-718-6522 to register.**

Sat. Oct. 24
6:30 pm
Forest Foray & Aquarium Sleepover Adventure
Join us for a themed evening adventure in the forests of Stanley Park followed by a fun-filled overnight program at the Vancouver Aquarium! **Call 604-659-3504 for more information or 604-659-3552 to register. Cost: Non-members \$120.00/\$96 Members.**

Sun. Oct. 25
9-11 pm
The Birds of Stanley Park
Join naturalist and expert bird watcher Cathy Aitchison for a two-hour walk exploring Stanley Park's varied and beautiful bird life. **Meet at the Stanley Park Nature House at Lost Lagoon. Admission by donation.**

STANLEY PARK ECOLOGY SOCIETY

SPES Presents

Creatures of the Night



If you go down, way down, you'll discover the dark world of strange and stunning creatures. Ghost Train's theme this year is

The Underworld!

Come along on our annual "Creatures of the Night" walk. Denizens of the underground will guide you into their nighttime world of bats, flying squirrels and much more!

Evenings October 8,9,10, 15, 16, 17, 22,23,24, 29, 30, 31 and November 1
Miniature Train Plaza

For more information call the Public Programs at 604-718-6522

Sun. Oct. 25
1-3 pm
Build-A-Bat-Box Workshop
Ever wonder what those dark shapes are swooping under the street lamps at night? You guessed it – BATS! Come to this two-hour workshop, led by Biologist Susan Leech and find out why bats are our friends. Build a bat box for your backyard. Perfect for families who want to join the Lower Mainland Bat Network. **Meet at the Stanley Park Ecology Society Offices, 2nd Floor, Stanley Park Dining Pavilion. Pre-registration required: 604-681-9453**
Free Event!

Sat. Oct. 31
Drop-in:
10 am to noon,
1 pm to 4 pm
Workshop: The Ivy Project
Sharon Kallis will lead an exploration of the artistic and ecological applications of English Ivy and other invasive materials of Stanley Park. Can they be used for good? Weave, learn and make as much or as little as you want! **Meet at the parking lot near the northern intersection of Park Drive and Pipeline Rd. Drop in: 10 am to noon, 1 to 4 pm. Free Event!**

Sun. Nov. 1
1-3 pm
The Trees of Stanley Park
Walk the trails and garden paths of Stanley Park with biologist David Cook for an insightful introduction to the characteristics of native and introduced trees. **Meet at the Stanley Park Nature House at Lost Lagoon. \$10.00 adults, \$5.00 members and children.**

Sat. Nov. 7
The Young Naturalists' Club of Stanley Park (see sidebar)

Sun. Nov. 8
1-3 pm
Women of Stanley Park
Join Historical Interpreter, Jolene Cumming as she explores the diverse lives of the famous and the forgotten women of Stanley Park. **Meet at the Stanley Park Nature House at Lost Lagoon. \$10.00 adults, \$5.00 members and children.**

Sun. Nov. 15
10 am - 2 pm
Seawall Bird Blitz
Join Stanley Park Ecology Conservation Programs Manager, Robyn Worcester and volunteers as they count every bird that they can find along the Stanley Park seawall on Nov 15 th. This will be great experience for people learning to identify birds or people who want to practice conducting bird surveys. All experience levels are encouraged to attend. **Meet at the Stanley Park Nature House at Lost Lagoon. Admission by donation.**

Sun. Nov. 22
1-3 pm
The Coyote Zone
How coyotes use our parks and neighbourhoods reveals as much about coyotes as it does humans. Join Phil Dubrulle, Co-existing With Coyotes Coordinator for this 1.5 hour walk on the coyote way of life, and what to do if you ever encounter one. **Meet at the Stanley Park Nature House at Lost Lagoon. \$10.00 adults, \$5.00 members and children.**

Sat. Nov. 28
Drop-in:
10 am to noon,
1 pm to 4 pm
Workshop: The Ivy Project
Join artist Sharon Kallis in experiencing artistic and ecological applications of English Ivy and other invasive materials of Stanley Park. Can they be used for good? Weave, learn and make as much or as little as you want! **Meet at the parking lot near the northern intersection of Park Drive and Pipeline Rd. Free Event!**

Sun. Nov. 29
9-11 pm
The Birds of Stanley Park
Join naturalist and expert bird watcher Cathy Aitchison for a two-hour walk exploring Stanley Park's varied and beautiful bird life. **Meet at the Stanley Park Nature House at Lost Lagoon. Admission by donation.**

Sat. Dec. 5
The Young Naturalists' Club of Stanley Park (see sidebar)

Sun. Dec. 6
1-3 pm
The Edge of Winter
Looking for ideas on how to get through the winter? Want to find out how to avoid the mid-winter blahs naturally? Join naturalist Murray Lashmar and discover how other animals and plants do it. **Meet at the Stanley Park Nature House at Lost Lagoon. \$10.00 adults, \$5.00 members and children.**

Sun. Dec. 13
1-3 pm
The World of the Skwxwumesh Peoples
Join artist and naturalist, T'Uy"Tanat – Cease Wyss – who will share her knowledge of traditional plant foods, medicines, and stories of the local indigenous peoples who continue to dialogue with this forest. **Meet at the Stanley Park Nature House at Lost Lagoon. \$10.00 adults, \$5.00 members**

Stanley Park's New Environmental Art

Jonanne Gage, Environmental Educator

Environmental art is a worldwide art movement with a philosophy based on ecological awareness, the coexistence of humans and nature, and the emphasis of nature's beauty being its own masterpiece.

On December 15, 2006, gale-force winds felled over 10,000 trees in Stanley Park. In the aftermath, a strong desire to renew, restore, and reconnect with the park was felt throughout Vancouver and even globally. Out of this desire arose the Stanley Park Environmental Art Project (SPEAP) – a dynamic partnership between the Vancouver Park Board, Stanley Park Ecology Society, and the Community Arts Council of Vancouver. The goal of SPEAP is to honour Stanley Park as a special place in the heart of Vancouver and to showcase nature as integral for our very survival.

Using only natural materials with either a neutral or beneficial affect on the surrounding environment, artists created ephemeral artworks through-



out the park in 2008. In summer 2009, in the final stage, the artists installed works that are semi-permanent in nature.

The works seek to both inspire the imagination and engender discussion about what the natural environment means to us. They prompt people to examine how we view and use nature and what nature gives back, and also to ask questions about whether the way we use our natural resources is always appropriate.

SPES' Conservation Programs pro-

vided guidance to the artists to ensure both the scope and site of their works posed the lowest impacts to the natural environment. Through this Fall, SPES continues to offer Public Programming surrounding the project, with guided walks and a photographic display in the Stanley Park Nature House.

A celebration marking the completion of SPEAP was held at the Nature House



on August 9. A fuller panel presentation is slated for September, 26 at the Roundhouse Community Centre.

Artist Tania Willard's semi-permanent piece *Entwined* now hangs high against a cedar tree along a trail behind Lumberman's Arch Cafe. This piece explores the Park's natural and cultural history by interweaving native plants and materials used in traditional indigenous ways. It invites reflection on the cedar as the First Nations' Tree of Life, and the interconnectedness of humankind's relationship to the land and to each other.

Listen, by John Hemsforth and Peter von Tiesenhausen, is situated within a manmade gap in an ancient fallen cedar near the junction of Lover's Trail with Squirrel Trail. The artists mean the carved cedar orb to be a place of reflection, helping us to hear the sounds of the forest and find inner silence in the natural environment and the world around us.

Co-creator with T'Uy'Tanat Cease Wyss, artist Davide Pan sands a portion of the piece *K'aycht'n! (We Hold Our Hands Up To You!)*, which is located off a service



road west of the totem poles. This work comprises a series of sculptures integrating carved wood, living vegetation, and Coast Salish writing, and encourages us to recognize and rejoice in the many gifts the earth gives us.

Cozy, by Shirley Wiebe, is located along South Creek Trail near the Rose Garden. It is composed of over 1,500 slices (cookies) of pruned vine maple engraved with messages from hundreds of people. It acts as a nurturing blanket to the remains of a tree in an acknowledgement of the care and attention our environment needs in order to continue caring for us.

For more information, visit <http://vancouver.ca//parks/arts/spea/ephemeral.htm/> For information about guided walks, or for a copy of the SPEAP self-guided tour pamphlet, please visit the Stanley Park Nature House at Lost Lagoon on weekends.

Photos : Paul Colangelo



Species at Risk: California Gull

(*Larus californicus*)

Koren Johnstone, Nature House Interpreter

Utah designated the California gull as its official state bird to honour it for saving the Mormon settlers' crops from grasshopper plagues in 1848 – this event was called the 'Miracle of the Gulls'...

This medium-sized gull is recognized by its mostly grey and white body, black and white wingtips, and yellowish-green legs. It has dark eyes and a large yellow



California Gull

Photo credit: Creative Commons / docentjoyce on Flickr

bill with a black ring toward the tip, and a red spot on the lower mandible.

Although often informally called 'seagull', the California gull is often found far inland from the ocean. It ranges from southern Mexico into southwestern BC. Chiefly found on interior lakes, farms, and marshes during the breeding season, it winters along the Pacific Coast and inland in Utah, Oregon, and California. It is fairly common in Stanley Park in the fall. Look for it foraging around Lost Lagoon, and on the foreshores off Ferguson Point and Coal Harbour.

These birds play an important ecological role as scavengers and are considered beneficial by agriculturalists. Ever the opportunists, they find food in fields, cities, wetlands, beaches, docks, campgrounds, oceans and dumps. Although they do eat lots of garbage, they will also catch live food from fish to agricultural pests like rodents and insects. They will follow farm cultivators, feeding on

exposed insect larvae. They are the only Pacific coast gulls that will follow ships offshore, hoping to grab food morsels tossed in their direction. California gulls build nests in large flocks. Two to 4 eggs are laid in a scrape on the ground. Both parents help to feed the young.

Under Threat:

Because of its small population size and restricted breeding locations in BC, the California gull is 'Blue-listed', meaning it is legally designated as 'sensitive or vulnerable' by the BC Ministry of Environment. Threats include:

- oil spills: mortality can result from fouling of plumage and ingestion of oil
- human and animal disturbances at nesting sites and the degradation of suitable nesting habitats
- pesticide contamination in agricultural areas
- ingestion of, or entanglement in, plastic while foraging at landfills

How you can help:

- Properly dispose of netting and plastic debris that can choke or strangle wildlife.
- Don't discard used oil into city sewers – it can taint waters where gulls feed.
- Don't disturb nesting California gulls when hiking or boating; keep dogs on a leash.
- Join local beach cleanups: join the SPES staff and volunteers for the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup on September 26. Contact stewardship@stanleyparkecolgy.ca.
- Join local water bird surveys. Contact conservation@stanleyparkecolgy.ca

For more information on the California gull and other local birds, visit the Stanley Park Nature House on Lost Lagoon (phone 604-257-8544).

Crying the Blues

Patricia Thomson, Executive Director

Typically a deep green in summer, this August Stanley Park's Lost Lagoon suddenly became a "Blue Lagoon":

or at least it was the waters beneath and near the stone bridge over Ceperly Creek that transformed almost overnight and for a week as a turquoise hue reminiscent of glacial-fed lakes in the Canadian Rockies. Opposite to glacial cold, however,



Mallards seemed oblivious to the water quality shift.

Photo: Fiona Sinclair

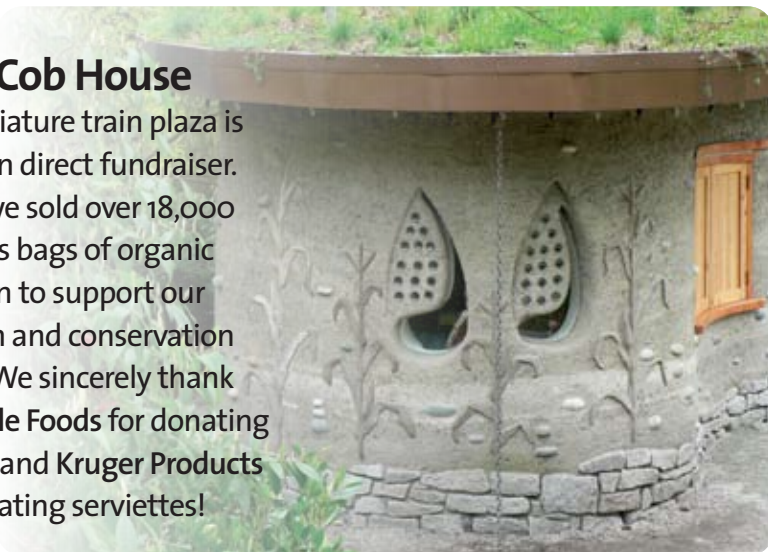
this natural microscopic plant reproduction was in response to the hotter-than-normal weather in earlier weeks. That, along with long daylight hours, and an abundance of nutrients pooped into the system by geese, ducks, and other critters that frequent this area, favours such a natural population explosion known as a "bloom".

Water samples revealed moderate levels of Chlorophyta algae and included *Anacystis*, *Chlorococcus*, *Anabaena*, and *Ulothrix* genera, as well as a heavy concentration of filamentous bacteria. The *Anabaena* is one of many blue-green algae that can demonstrate such a vivid and stunning colour shift in water columns. They dissipate as cooler waters and mixing rains return. Blue-green algae can cause 'swimmer's itch' for humans, and sickness if ingested, but as far as can be noted, there has not been any apparent adverse affect on the wildlife.

The Cob House

in the miniature train plaza is SPES' main direct fundraiser.

In 2008 we sold over 18,000 delicious bags of organic popcorn to support our education and conservation projects. We sincerely thank Capers Whole Foods for donating the kernels, and Kruger Products for donating serviettes!



Canada Helps! Donating to the Stanley Park Ecology Society has never been easier, thanks to CanadaHelps! This online donation portal is accessible through our website, www.stanleyparkecolgy.ca. Simply click the "Donate Now" icon on our homepage. CanadaHelps provides secure service for monthly or one-time gifts. Tax receipts will be issued for donations over \$30.

SPES Membership Supports:

- School and Public Programs helping more than 30,000 children and adults to discover nature each year through hands-on stewardship adventures
- The Lost Lagoon Nature House, Vancouver's only ecological interpretive centre, welcoming over 15,000 visitors each year
- Wildlife monitoring, habitat restoration and biodiversity conservation in Stanley Park

SPES Members Enjoy:

- Discounts on Discovery Walks, Hikes, Family Programs and Events
- Seasonal activities calendar and our quarterly newsletter
- Voting privileges to help SPES enact ecological stewardship in Stanley Park
- Special perks & promotions from community partners
- Free preview nights on Christmas Bright Nights and the Halloween Ghost Train

YES! I Want To Contribute!

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 Postal Code _____ Phone _____
 E-mail _____

All information will be kept confidential according to the Personal Information Protection Act.

Payment Method
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Card Number _____
 Expiry Date _____
 Cardholder _____

Cheques are payable to:
 Stanley Park Ecology Society
 PO Box 5167
 Vancouver, B.C. V6B 4B2 Canada

I Want to Become A Member

Family (\$40) Individual (\$20)
 Junior <19 (\$15) Senior/Volunteer (\$15)
 Renewal membership
 Send newsletter by e-mail

My Gift Is Enclosed
 \$20 \$50 \$100 \$_____

I Want to Make A Monthly Donation
 I Authorize the following monthly credit card donation to the Stanley Park Ecology Society:

\$10 \$15 \$25 \$_____

SPES is a registered charity #11916 6890 RR0001. Charitable Tax Receipts issued for donations of \$30 or more

Special Supporters:



The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian Visual and Expressive Arts Program which is made possible through a generous gift from The Ford Foundation



Keith Lord Sports Foundation Fund held at the Vancouver Foundation

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