Fur Flies in Stanley Park
After the sun goes down, northern flying squirrels cruise the tree tops.

_Celina Starnes, Public Education and Outreach Manager_

Look! It’s a bird! It’s a bat! No, it’s the elusive northern flying squirrel! Unlike Stanley Park’s other two squirrel species – the common bushy-tailed eastern grey squirrel and the smaller Douglas squirrel – the northern flying squirrel, _Glaucomys sabrinus_, is rarely spotted in the Park.

What makes this species so hard to find? For one thing this squirrel is strictly nocturnal. Its large eyes and whiskers help it to see and feel in the dark, and a sensitive nose leads it to its favourite food: truffles (fungi). This squirrel’s penchant for truffles benefits the forest when the squirrel inadvertently spreads the truffles’ spores. The fungus has a symbiotic (mutually beneficial) relationship with the forest that provides the trees with otherwise unavailable water and nutrients from the soil and the fungi with carbohydrates from the trees.

The same feature that gives these fascinating rodents their name is another reason why this squirrel eludes detection. They cannot fly, but they do adeptly glide five to 25 metres through the forest canopy on thin “wings” of skin stretched from wrist to ankle. The skin flaps that help them fly, however, hinder their locomotion on the ground, so these squirrels stick to the trees to get around. They are so elusive up there, though, that the last one identified in Stanley Park was in 2007 by a biologist thinning branches during post-windstorm restoration initiatives.

Your best chance to spot one of these night creatures, then, would be on our annual _Creatures of the Night_ candlelit walks in parallel with the Stanley Park Halloween Ghost Train. For more information about these and other Fall events, please turn to page 5.
What’s New...

Vancouver is for the Birds
Dan Straker, Urban Wildlife Programs Coordinator

Vancouver is one of the premier places for urban birding in the world, and Vancouver will officially be “Bird-Friendly” when it adopts the Vancouver Bird Strategy expected to go forward this fall. The goal of the bird strategy is to create the conditions for native birds to thrive in Vancouver. The strategy consists of five action areas that address the biological, social and economic challenges to creating a bird-friendly city. These action areas will address the most pressing issues facing our native birds including, but not limited to, habitat loss, building collisions, invasive species and more. Due, in part, to the new Bird Friendly Strategy, Vancouver has just won the bid to host the prestigious 2018 International Ornithological Congress! This is the world’s oldest and largest international series of meetings of ornithologists.

SPES is proud to have worked closely with the Vancouver Bird Advisory Committee in the creation of the bird strategy over the past 18 months, and will continue its work to help native birds in the city. Watch our website www.stanleyparkecology.ca for a link to the full report as soon as it is officially approved.

World’s Best Park!
Kathleen Stormont, Fundraising and Communications Specialist

We love Stanley Park – and apparently a whole lot of other people do, too! TripAdvisor travelers’ reviews and opinions of Stanley Park garnered our 126 year old urban jewel a “best park in the world” acclamation in TripAdvisor’s 2014 Travelers’ Choice Awards. Stanley Park was the only Canadian park to make the top 10 list which included New York’s Central Park (#3) and Paris’ Luxembourg Gardens (#10).

What do you love about Stanley Park? A morning seawall run? A Siwash Rock sunset? An eagle cry from an ancient cedar? Let us know by November 1 at sponsors@stanleyparkecology.ca and you could win a free Discovery Walk with SPES. For a list of upcoming walks, please see pages 4 and 5.

What Lurks in Lost Lagoon?
Celina Starnes, Public Education and Outreach Manager

Have you ever looked out over the Lost Lagoon and wondered what is living under its surface? Thanks to the efforts of Chris Ketcheson and Gwilym Haynes, exceptional SPES volunteers, some of the aquatic animals we share the Park with - including three-spined sticklebacks and many invertebrates - will be a part of a new display.

Visit the Nature House this fall for a glimpse under the surface of Stanley Park’s largest freshwater body and learn more about the efforts SPES is taking to revitalize not only the habitats of Lost Lagoon but the Park’s other freshwater habitats including the many creeks, the bog and Beaver Lake.
Watch for big changes in Beaver Creek this fall. Over the next few months SPES will be taking on its largest habitat restoration project ever! Beaver Creek will be getting a major overhaul as the Beaver Creek Salmonid Enhancement in Stanley Park project is set into motion. Over the last year, SPES staff and volunteers undertook habitat restoration and monitoring work at the creek to create favourable conditions for fish. This next phase involves working with engineering consultants to eliminate barriers for fish migration within the creek.

Restoration work will be focused on the waterfall below Pipeline Road and around the seawall where the creek empties into the ocean, both of which act as migration barriers to fish. To mitigate these barriers, detailed engineering plans will be created, contractors will be hired to perform the work during periods of least risk to fish, and monitoring will take place at the sites before, during, and after the construction.

Work will begin at the Pipeline Road waterfall in early September following a plan developed by Northwest Hydraulic Consultants to install a step-pool to allow fish to bypass the barrier.

The 10 to 12 meter step-pool channel will be built immediately downstream of the artificial waterfall to provide access to both adult and juvenile fish. The step-pool consists of a straight or winding channel section that is constructed of boulders and cobble, resembling a natural stream bed. Currently, fish cannot migrate up this barrier due to its height and the lack of water depth at its base.

This winter, restoration will begin on the estuary at the mouth of Beaver Creek to create a diversity of habitats suitable for both outward migrating juvenile fish and returning adults. This will involve complexing the estuary through the installation of large woody debris, creating a permanent access channel in the intertidal zone and increasing salmonid access to the creek through alterations to the seawall.

This ambitious two-part project would not be possible without the gracious support of the Vancouver Park Board and our funders:

- HSBC Bank of Canada
- Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnerships Program (Fisheries & Oceans Canada)
- Pacific Salmon Foundation
- Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation
- EcoAction (Environment Canada)
Pre-registration recommended for Programs:

programs@stanleyparkecology.ca
604-718-6522

$5 for SPES members, children and seniors. $10 for non-members unless otherwise noted.

For all Programs, meet at Stanley Park Nature House unless otherwise noted.

SPES Membership info:
604-718-6523

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stanley Park Young Naturalists: Painting the Park</th>
<th>Rainforests of the World</th>
<th>Mindful Nature Walk</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Join Kim Hunter, SPES’ Artist in Residence, for a painting class in the Park. Take a closer look at the subtleties of the natural world and learn painting skills. Children take home their glass-framed artwork. Wear paint-friendly clothing. $2 for materials. For accompanied children ages 5-14. To preregister, email <a href="mailto:ync@stanleyparkecology.ca">ync@stanleyparkecology.ca</a>.</td>
<td>Shelter from November’s rains during a walk under the green cover of Stanley Park’s great trees. Discover how this forest compares with the temperate and tropical rainforests of the world.</td>
<td>Experience the restorative power of nature with a mindful walk in the forest. The practice of mindfulness reduces stress, anxiety and other negative qualities while improving concentration, inner peace, health and quality of life. This guided walk includes mindful walking theory and instructions. Presented in partnership with LearnMindfulness.org.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun, Sept 7, 1:30-3:30pm</td>
<td>Sun, Sept 28, 9:00-11:00am</td>
<td>Sun, Sept 14, 10:00-noon</td>
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<tr>
<th>Logging Stanley Park: A Historical Walk</th>
<th>Birds of a Feather: Feathers in the Forest and Offshore</th>
<th>Demystifying Mushrooms Workshop</th>
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<td>Before it was a park, teams of oxen hauled away massive Douglas fir trees over skid roads covered in dogfish oil to the Stamps Sawmill at Brockton Point. Join us for National Forest Week and look back on Stanley Park’s logging history. Tour includes historical photographs.</td>
<td>From deep in the woods to out in the inlets, Stanley Park is starting to see the wave of migrating birds returning from the North. Join us for a two-hour easy walking exploration to learn about bird identification and behaviour. Participation by donation.</td>
<td>Learn the basics of mushroom identification. Michelle Duncan from Metro Vancouver leads this introduction to mushrooms in the Park. Pack a lunch. No harvesting.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun, Sept 21, 1:30-3:30pm</td>
<td>Sun, Sept 28, 9:00-11:00am</td>
<td>Register early. Ages 12 and up. SPES Members: $15 Non-members: $25</td>
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<tr>
<th>Stanley Park Young Naturalists: Crafting Wood Critters</th>
<th>Rainforests of the World</th>
<th>Crows: A Talk by Rob Butler</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The holiday season is not far away. Artist in Residence Kim Hunter will lead this workshop to craft ornaments of Stanley Park animals. For accompanied children ages 5-14. To preregister, email <a href="mailto:ync@stanleyparkecology.ca">ync@stanleyparkecology.ca</a>. Meet at Stanley Park Dining Pavilion, 610 Pipeline Rd.</td>
<td>Shelter from November’s rains during a walk under the green cover of Stanley Park’s great trees. Discover how this forest compares with the temperate and tropical rainforests of the world.</td>
<td>Join wildlife biologist Rob Butler as he delves into the clever minds of crows. Peek into crow society, learn about the collective act of chick raising and more.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat, Nov 1, 10:00-noon</td>
<td>Sun, Nov 9, 1:30-3:30pm</td>
<td>Space is limited; register early by calling the West End Community Center: 604-257-8333 Participation by Donation.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Meet at Stanley Park Dining Pavilion, 610 Pipeline Rd.</th>
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<th>West End Community Center, 870 Denman St.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat, Nov 6, 10:00-noon</td>
<td></td>
<td>Thurs, Nov 20, 7:00-8:00pm</td>
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</table>
**Duckling Discovery: Nature Learning for Preschoolers**

Tuesdays and Thursdays, September 16, 18, 23, 25 9:30-10:30am

Price per session:  
SPES members: $8 adult+child  
Non-members: $10 adult+child  
Additional children: $4 each

Please see page 8 for details.

**Birds of a Feather: Fall Travelers**

We might feel like the weather is getting worse but there are a number of ducks making their way south to Stanley Park for the comparatively “fairer” weather of our region. Join us for a two-hour easy walking exploration to learn about bird identification and behaviour. Participation by donation.

Sun, Oct 26, 9:00-11:00am

**Stanley Park Young Naturalists:**

**Halloween Leaf Crafting**

Leaves are starting to fall, the days are getting shorter and Halloween is approaching. Join Kim Hunter, SPES’ Artist in Residence, to transform fallen leaves into Halloween creatures!

Accompanied children ages 5-14. To preregister, email ync@stanleyparkecology.ca.

Sat, Oct 4, 10:00-noon

**Nocturnal by Nature**

The days are getting shorter and the nights longer; a perfect combination for the creatures of the night. Join us for an afternoon stroll that reveals the true nature of Stanley Park’s night life.

Sun, Oct 5, 1:30-3:30pm

**Drawing from Life…and Death**

Take a closer look at SPES’ taxidermy collection and develop your drawing skills with ‘Artist in Residence’ Kim Hunter.

Charcoal, pastels and sketching paper provided. Additional supplies (sketch books and pencils) available for purchase. Register in advance to ensure materials are available. Ages 16+.

SPES Members: $15, Non-members: $19

Meet at Stanley Park Dining Pavilion, 610 Pipeline Rd.

Thurs, Oct 13, 6:00-8:00pm

**Creatures of the Night**

Join a candle-lit adventure for explorers of all ages at the Stanley Park Ghost Train. From the train plaza, follow your guide through the forest on a 30min walk to meet some of the Park’s elusive nocturnal animals!

Lanterns are provided; bring your sense of adventure!

Walks: Thu-Sun only, Oct 10 - Nov 1, 6:30-9 pm; every half hour

Wildlife Display Table: Every night, Oct 10 - Nov 1

**Spooky Features**

**Stanley Park Young Naturalists:**

**Christmas Bird Count for Kids**

Calling all young birders: join other youth and experts for the annual bird survey! After a quick intro to bird ID, we split into groups and head into the forest for a 1.5 hour bird counting adventure and a regroup to share our findings.

Pack a lunch. Accompanied children ages 5-14. Preregister: ync@stanleyparkecology.ca.

Sat, Dec 6, 9:30-1:30pm

**Christmas Ornaments Workshop**

Create the cutest gifts this season with Artist in Residence Kim Hunter as we craft ornaments of the animals of the Park. Register in advance to ensure there are sufficient workshop materials. For all ages.

SPES Members: $15  
Non-members: $19

Meet at Stanley Park Dining Pavilion, 610 Pipeline Rd.

Thurs, Dec 11, 6:00-8:00pm

**Birds of a Feather:**

**Surf Scoters Return**

The so-titled “Bird Boy of Vancouver”, Iaron Gertsman has been birding since he was five! At this special edition of Birds of a Feather, he will share his decade-long passion for the surf scoter. These birds are returning in the thousands to the ocean waters surrounding Stanley Park!

Participation by donation.

Sun, Nov 30, 9:00-11:00am

**Birds of a Feather:**

**Ghost Train**

From the train plaza, follow your guide through the forest for a 1.5 hour walk to learn about Stanley Park’s plants and animals.

Meet at Stanley Park Dining Pavilion, 610 Pipeline Rd.

Sat, Dec 6, 9:00-1:30pm

**SPES Annual General Meeting**

Featuring “Stanley Park’s Secrets” by acclaimed author-historian Jean Barman

Sun, Oct 26, 2-4 pm

West End Community Center, 870 Denman St.

Free admission; donations appreciated

More info or pre-register: 604-718-6523

Call for Board Nominations: For opportunities, contact Board@stanleyparkecology.ca by September 10

**Stanley Park Nature House**

Visit Vancouver’s only ecology centre. Explore interpretive displays to learn about Stanley Park’s plants and animals.

Find us under the viewing plaza at the north end of Alberni Street.

Open on weekends 10 am - 4 pm

[Image] - stanleyparkecology.ca/events 604-718-6522
Batty about Environmental Education
Jennifer Sibbald, Environmental Educator

Have you ever gone for a twilight stroll, perhaps by Beaver Lake, and noticed flittering dark shadows above your head? Some may find the experience unnerving or even scary, but that’s nothing a little education about bats can’t cure - especially when you learn how incredibly important bats are to local ecosystems.

These furry flying mammals help control insect pest populations, and are one of the main predators of nocturnal flying insects (good-bye mosquitoes!). One bat can consume between 100 to 600 bugs per hour!

Each fall, SPES’ School Programs unveils its Beautiful Bats program, designed to educate young people about these airborne nocturnal mammals. Last season, nearly 300 students from across the Lower Mainland visited Stanley Park for a Beautiful Bats field-trip, learning that bats may not be so different from us after all. By taking a look at bat physiology and adaptations, students experience what it feels like to echolocate with bat “sonar”, and find places to “sleep” in a Douglas-fir tree, just like the little brown bats (Myotis lucifugus) do here in Stanley Park.

If you empathize with these often misunderstood and mysterious creatures, you can help to educate others by introducing a grades 2-5 student or teacher to SPES School Programs at http://bit.ly/1nCC424. Or, learn more about bats yourself during our Nocturnal by Nature program, details on page 5.

Bats in our Belfry
Jenn Barrett, Volunteer Team Leader

SPES’ long-term Bat Monitoring Program is having a great season this summer. A core group of six volunteers has been meeting weekly and biweekly to monitor bat feeding activity on Lost Lagoon and count the Stanley Park Pavilion bat colony above SPES’ offices (the Pavilion’s rafters provide a secluded roost for females and their pups). We monitor the bats by listening to their echolocation using a device called a bat detector. Bat detectors convert high frequency sounds into lower ones that humans can hear. The little brown bat (Myotis lucifugus), our most common bat, echolocates around 40 kHz compared to humans whose top hearing threshold is around 18-20 kHz. This baseline data will help us track changes in this bat population over time.

The first bat roosting in the Pavilion this year was spotted on April 13th, the earliest one we’ve ever recorded here. On June 7 we had our busiest night ever, with a record high of 237 bats emerging from the Pavilion. This large colony could consume up to 237,000 insects every hour! Great news for any Stanley Park Pavilion diners pestered by mosquitoes.

With breeding season ending in August, the colony will disperse as the bats leave for hibernation in early September. We will continue to monitor the Pavilion throughout the year. If you are interested in bat monitoring please contact jsbatty@gmail.com for more information.
Supporting the Park

TDFEF: Banking on Environmental Education
Anita Georgy, School Programs Manager

Education in our modern world is very different from 20 or even five years ago. The BC Ministry of Education recognizes this and has announced significant changes underway to the BC curriculum. One key piece of the new BC Education Plan is “learning empowered by technology”. With information freely available at the click of a mouse, it is increasingly important for students to understand big ideas and concepts rather than facts. Since SPES School Programs are aligned with the BC curriculum, our programs will shift to include technology as well.

We work to connect students with nature through sensory, hands on experiences that help inspire them to appreciate and steward nature and we will continue to do so. But thanks to our friends at TD Bank’s Friends of the Environment Foundation (TDFEF), we now also own an iPad that we can use to enhance our students’ outdoor experiences. Using a tool that youth are drawn to, SPES educators demonstrate the incredible array of iPad apps that students can use to study nature. There are so many incredible apps with sounds and pictures, such as iBird and the Audubon series, that are engaging tools for learning. Even simply using the iPad to take a photo of an unidentified species can help students ID it later. TDFEF funding also supports our staff with time to research, strategize and implement this cutting edge work in using technology to transform environmental education in Vancouver. Thank you, TDFEF!

The iBird app at work! (Photo: Jen Sibbald)

Thank You
SPES relies on the generous support of individuals and organizations whose financial support help us to continue our longstanding commitment to environmental education, stewardship and conservation in Stanley Park.

We would like to thank our most recent donors:

Paula Caird
Alexandra King
Rosanne Levitt
TELUS Community Affairs
Irene Dudra
Michael Green Architecture, Inc.
Victor Balon
Bill Jeffries
Spencer Chandra Herbert
Nancy Brooks
Susan Brooks
Margaret Duncan
Roy Purssell
Gene Zackowski
Rory Wallace
Ingrid Northwood
Shari Douglas

SPES is a registered charity #11916 6890 RRR0001. Charitable tax receipts will be automatically issued for donations of $30 and more.
Fall Fun!

Duckling Discovery: Nature Learning for Preschoolers

Spend time with mother nature. SPES presents an outdoor nature learning program that introduces young children, aged 3-5 years old, to Stanley Park’s flora and fauna. This program offers a place for children, parents and caretakers to play, learn and connect with the great outdoors and each other. Get your hands dirty with our skilled environmental educators. Enjoy educational experiences and fun activities centered around our natural world within the safety of Stanley Park. Come play with us!

Tuesdays and Thursdays, September 16, 18, 23, 25
9:30-10:30am

Meet at Lost Lagoon Nature House; dress to go outside.
SPES members: $8 per session, adult/child pair
Non-members: $10 per session, adult/child pair
Additional children: $4 each

Contact Us:
Stanley Park Ecology Society
PO Box 5167
Vancouver BC V6B 4B2
info@stanleyparkecology.ca
www.stanleyparkecology.ca

Reception: 604-257-6908
Membership & Donations: 604-718-6523
Media: 604-718-6523
Volunteering: 604-681-7099
Conservation: 604-718-6547
Urban Wildlife: 604-681-9453
School Programs: 604-257-6907
Nature House: 604-257-8544

SPES promotes awareness of and respect for the natural world and plays a leadership role in the stewardship of Stanley Park through collaborative initiatives in education, research and conservation.

To get the latest news, follow SPES on Facebook and Twitter @ StanleyPkEcoSoc

SPES Holiday Membership Perks!

Hallowe’en Ghost Train
Ride the rails for a macabre nursery rhyme experience! In a clever Halloween twist, the Stanley Park Ghost Train presents Mother Goose’s Ghastly Garden.
Oct 10 – Nov 1
Ride FREE with your SPES Membership card on Oct 9
Event info: 604-257-8531 or ghosttrain.ca

Bright Nights in Stanley Park!
Take the train through a forest of two million twinkling lights. Enjoy animated displays, holiday tunes and organic SPES popcorn.
Dec 1, 2 and 3
Ride FREE with your SPES Membership card on Dec 1, 2 and 3
Event Info:604-257-8531 or brightnights.ca

New program

Become a Member!
With your support we connect people with nature and make a real difference for wildlife in Stanley Park.
To purchase your membership and learn about the many benefits of joining SPES, visit www.stanleyparkecology.ca, or call 604-718-6523.