

Summer 2012



Discover the Heart of Stanley Park

Krystal Pyke, Public Programs Manager

Every year millions of visitors from around the world explore our beautiful city, and most of them come to Stanley Park to walk, rollerblade or bike along the 8.8km seawall.

Leading you past monuments, famous attractions and breathtaking views of the North Shore mountains, the seawall seems to be the best way to experience Stanley Park. Or is it? With over 8 million visitors each year sticking to the perimeter of the Park, relatively few people experience the awe inspiring wonders of the interior and its trails.

Did you know that Stanley Park is home to some of the largest trees in the province? Find them here along with 236 species of birds and 30 different mammals including mink, beavers, and flying squirrels.



The seawall is stunning but it can only show you a glimpse of the incredible diversity Stanley Park has to offer.

At Stanley Park Ecology Society (SPES) we are all about connecting people with nature, and every day we invite people to explore the Park with us through a wide range of initiatives.

Drop by the Lost Lagoon Nature House and let our friendly naturalists welcome you into this educational interpretive centre where you can start your journey into the Park. Take a trip around Lost Lagoon and spot some of the beautiful birds that nest along its shores this time of the year.

Loop up Bridle Trail and over the Causeway, to arrive at Beaver Lake, home to many waterfowl, dragonflies and amphibians. You'll likely encounter one of the SPES EcoRangers, who can provide you with a wealth of information about wildlife, Park history, and how to find secret groves of old-growth trees. Return to Lost Lagoon on the serene South Creek Trail.

Sneak Peek:

Stanley Park: Inside Story	2
A Bog Job Well Done!	3
Summer Nature Programs	4-5
Cool Wildlife Sightings	6
Wildbook	7

Contact Us:

Stanley Park Ecology Society
 PO Box 5167
 Vancouver BC V6B 4B2
www.stanleyparkecology.ca

Reception:	604-257-6908
School Programs:	604-257-6907
Public Programs:	604-718-6522
Conservation Progs:	604-718-6547
Co-Existing with Coyotes:	604-681-9453
Stewardship Progs:	604-718-6547
Volunteers:	604-681-7099
Nature House:	604-257-8544

Discover the Heart..., cont'd



Located within one of Canada's largest urban centres, Stanley Park is under constant pressure from invasive plant species. These introduced species from around the world have planted their roots along stream banks, shorelines and forest edges - a slowly advancing attack on the space of native plants and animals. Get involved today with our Ivy Busters program and help remove these introduced invaders and promote stewardship of our shared environment (see pg 5). With so much life and diversity in the Park, we invite you to join us and learn more about this wonderful rainforest.

Join our naturalists on a Discovery Walk (see pg. 4 and 5). Every Sunday there's a new topic to explore and a new trail to discover. Birds of a Feather events take place on the last Sunday of every month and are all about learning more about bird behaviour and identification.

For more information on events, upcoming programs and volunteer opportunities, visit www.stanleyparkecolgy.ca



Stanley Park: Inside Stories

Anita Georgy, School Programs Manager

Stanley Park has many stories to tell. Even though plants can't talk, they still have stories to share. Showcased below and on the next page are two plants that live in Stanley Park. Visit the Park's forests to find them and learn their stories for yourself.

Salmonberry: leaves shaped like butterflies

Salmonberry bushes grow on forest edges, and in late summer they are full of berries that are delicious for birds and people to eat. Salmonberry leaves have three parts. If you cover the top part of the leaf in this picture with your hand (or gently bend it back when you see the real plant), you will see the shape of a beautiful flying insect!



Salmonberry leaf @ Anthony Ho.



Douglas-fir: mice hide in the cones

Many people call all cones 'pine cones', but cones grow on many types of trees - not just pine trees. This cone is from the Douglas-fir tree. These trees are some of the biggest in the Park, and have very rough bark with cracks so deep you can put your whole hand inside! This makes the bark a great place for other animals, like spiders and little brown bats, to rest. *(Continued on page 3)*

A Bog Job Well Done!

Brian Titaro, Conservation Technician

It has been one year since SPES staff bushwhacked through huckleberries and skunk cabbage, past Sitka spruce and into a thick salal-covered lake edge and knew that “somewhere under all of this is a bog”. With high hopes and a legion of volunteers, the goal was clear. We would restore this area into a healthy bog ecosystem that would join Camosun Bog as the only two representative bogs within the City of Vancouver.

Since June 2011, SPES has worked on the restoration with the Young Naturalists’ Club, the Camosun Bog Restoration Group, UBC and BCIT, as well as 160 SPES volunteers over the course of 30 work parties. Participants have contributed more than 450 hours of mapping, surveying, cutting, pruning, digging, uprooting, leveling and planting. Today the site is hardly recognizable. In place of the salal, there is exposed sphagnum hummocks from the historic bog, patches of bog laurel and Labrador tea, and carnivorous round-leaved sundew plants. Between the hummocks, volunteers have toiled to remove the organic topsoil and expose the water-saturated peat in which to plant over 850 sphagnum plugs and 40 vascular plants, including bog cranberry graciously donated from Camosun Bog.



SPES volunteer with sphagnum plugs.

Today the site more closely resembles a bog than it has in the past decade. With the continued help of our dedicated volunteers, the restored Stanley Park bog, complete with an interpretive boardwalk, will be a unique addition to the wealth of natural beauty in Stanley Park before the next decade is over. Aside from its recreational and education values, the restored bog will help sequester carbon through its accumulation of peat as well as regulate water flow, and provide habitat to many locally unique plant species. For more information, visit www.stanleyparkecolgy.ca to learn how you can become involved as a volunteer, or join a Discovery Walk focused on wetlands in Stanley Park.



From left to right: Sphagnum, bog laurel, round-leaved sundew and Labrador tea.

Stanley Park: Inside Stories, cont'd

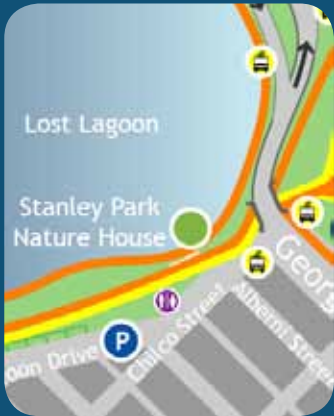
“In the forest, a long long time ago, there was a great fire. All of the animals ran or flew away as fast as they could to escape the fire, but the little deer mice could not run fast enough. They huddled in fear at the bottom of a large Douglas-fir tree. The Douglas-fir tree heard them cry, and offered to help. He told the mice they could climb up his thick, fire-resistant bark and hide in the cones where they would be safe from the fire”. If you look closely at the cones of a Douglas-fir tree, you can still see what looks like little mice tails and feet poking out from under the scales, where they hid from the fire.



A young girl discovers secrets in a Douglas-fir cone.

Remember: Please do not pick things to eat or bring home from the Park. If you want to get a closer look and remember what you see, bring your camera or notebook and pencil to draw a picture.

SPES Nature Programs



Nature Programs

Meet at Lost Lagoon Nature House on Lost Lagoon

July - August
Tuesday-Sunday
10am-6pm

Spring Fall Winter
Weekends
10am - 4pm



Birthday Parties

Educational, interactive and fun birthday adventures for kids.

For more information:
programs@stanleyparkecolgy.ca
604-718-6522

Preregistration suggested as space is limited:

programs@stanleyparkecolgy.ca

\$5 Members,
Seniors & Children

\$10 Non-Members

Young Naturalists' Club: Our Friends the Frogs

What makes a frog a frog? Examine their life stages and sounds. Get introduced to the BC Frogwatch program and even make your own frog to take home. For kids 5-14 accompanied by a guardian.

Sat, June 2, 10am-12noon

Dragons and Damsels

Dragonflies were among the first creatures on earth to take flight millions of years ago. Learn how special adaptations make these ancient predators perfect survivors.

Sun, June 3, 1:30-3:30pm

Stumped: The Life of Dead Trees

How can a dead tree come back to life? Explore the complex forest community of plants and animals like woodpeckers and flying squirrels that inhabit standing and fallen, dead and dying trees.

Sun, June 10, 1:30-3:30pm

Creatures in Disguise

Ever wonder why all the ducks are different colours?

Or why raccoons have that sneaky mask? Discover inventive ways animals have adapted to keep themselves out of harm's way when living life on the wild side.

Sun, June 17, 1:30-3:30pm



Regal Eagles

Get to know your wild neighbours a little better this summer by meeting the bald eagle families that live in Stanley Park's fantastic forest. With four active nests there is eagle action to be seen.

Sun, July 1, 1:30-3:30pm

Young Naturalists' Club: Ocean Commotion

We live next to an amazing intertidal zone. Many creative creatures living in this waterfront habitat will astound you. For kids 5-14 accompanied by a guardian.

special starting location

Sat, July 7, 2:00-4:00pm

Invasive Plant Basketry

Families can work together at the Stanley Park Nature House, learning easy coil basketry techniques using invasive plant materials pulled as part of ongoing invasive controls with the SPES Ivy Busters program.

Sat, July 7, 12:00-3:00pm



Splish Splash: The Intertidal Zone

Explore the intertidal zone and discover the amazing creatures that live in this unique waterfront environment. Learn how they've adapted to flourish along the BC coast.

special starting location

Sun, July 8, 1:30-3:30pm

Stanley Park Ecology

Ever wonder how a forest functions? Discover the hidden connections that create a healthy ecosystem and how each living thing plays an important role.

Sun, July 15, 1:30-3:30pm

Habitat, What's That?

Room with a view, waterfront property, high rise apartment or temporary accommodation? Discover what wildlife look for in prime forest real-estate when building or occupying a home.

Sun, July 22, 1:30-3:30pm



Super Colonies

Termites. Bees. Super colonial ants. Insect colonies are not only fascinating, but have changed many of the earth's ecosystems into what they are today. Join us and discover the often astonishing world of colonial insects.

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

Young Naturalists' Club: Bugs Alive

Legs, wings, antennae, oh my! Let's search for creatures with more eyes and ways to get around than you can imagine. We will explore the overlooked but always fascinating world of arthropods. For kids 5-14 accompanied by a guardian.

Sat, Aug 11, 10am-12noon

Animal Crossing

With the autumn rain on the way, muddy boots are to be expected, but whose muddy feet left all these curious tracks? Take a closer look at the signs animals leave behind that can tell us who's hiding just around the corner.

Sun, August 12, 1:30-3:30pm

Stanley Park's Historic Trails

Ever wonder who wandered along the Park's trails 100 years ago? Discover the rich history of Stanley Park's trails and the interesting people who used them for hunting, logging and recreation.

Sun, August 19, 1:30-3:30pm

Young Naturalists' Club: Seedy Characters

Join us in search of the wind born sailors, hidden hitchhikers, and pirate boarders of the plant and fungi world as we discover the sneaky ways they get around. For kids 5-14 accompanied by a guardian.

Sat, Sept 8, 10am-12noon

Stanley Park's Champion Trees

Home to some of the largest and oldest trees in BC, some of the Park's trees are over 700 years old! Explore this ancient forest and discover how these trees have survived to reach such a great age and size.

Sun, Sept 2, 1:30-3:30pm



Fragmented Forests: Living on the Edge

Isolated from other forests, how do plants and animals survive in Stanley Park? Bordered by ocean and city on all sides, learn about the challenges of fragmented forests and what you can do to help.

Sun, Sept 9, 1:30-3:30pm



BIRDS OF A FEATHER

Join us every month for an easy 2 hour walking exploration to learn about bird ID and behaviour. Meet at the Stanley Park Nature House.

Sun, June 24, 9-11am
Sun, July 29, 9-11am
Sun, August 26, 9-11am

IVY BUSTERS: COMMUNITY INVASIVE PLANTS MANAGEMENT EVENTS

Stanley Park's natural habitats are being overtaken! Come learn about the ecology of the Park and dive in to help conserve its biodiversity from the threat of invasive plants.

For information on how to register, what to bring, and our meeting location, please contact Greg: stewardship@stanleyparkecology.ca

Dates and times:

Saturday June 9,
10am - 1pm
Sunday June 24,
12:30 - 3:30pm
Saturday July 14,
10am - 1pm
Sunday July 29,
12:30 - 3:30pm
Saturday August 11,
10am - 1pm
Sunday August 26,
12:30 - 3:30pm
Saturday September 8,
10am - 1pm

Cool Wildlife Sightings

Robyn Worcester, Conservation Programs Manager

Salamanders

This spring SPES has found a great abundance and diversity of salamanders in Stanley Park. It is possible that this increase is a result of all of the downed wood produced during the 2006 windstorms, which is now getting on in age and becoming prime habitat for these terrestrial amphibians. On one notable survey day in the South Creek Trail blow-down area, a large adult northwestern salamander was discovered under a log (see image on the right), while only inches away the smaller western red-backed salamander was found under another piece of



Northwestern salamander.



Ensatina salamander.

rotting wood. About seven or eight red-backed and ensatina salamanders were all hiding under the same piece of loose bark in the Merilees Trail blowdown area. A few days later, a northwestern salamander larva was found by pond-dipping children during a school program. So do stay on the trail when in the Park as there are many of these ground-dwelling, gentle, cold blooded creatures living out their lives underfoot!



Brian shows the size of a salamander.

Green Heron

Green herons are much smaller birds and do not have the long necks of the more familiar great blue herons. While SPES staff and volunteers conducted a Spring monthly bird count, they were surprised to see a pair of these elusive green herons being chased by raucous crows around the west end of Lost Lagoon. None of the birds offered up any explanation for their odd behaviour, but we are hopeful that the (presumed) mated pair was looking for a suitable nest site. Fingers are crossed that young green herons will be spotted during the summer.



Green heron.

Sora / Yellow Rail

The sora is a species of small wading bird that while common and widespread in North America is very rarely seen. This bird can be heard calling what appears to be its own name near shallow lakes and wetlands during the breeding season, but due to its small size and secretive nature it is very elusive. A local birdwatcher recently found one of these birds being attacked by crows near the Stanley Park Nature House on Lost Lagoon. Although temporarily stunned and allowing itself to be caught, it appeared on closer inspection by SPES staff to have suffered no injuries. It was released a short time later at Beaver Lake, a much more suitable habitat. There was some debate after the fact about whether this bird was in fact a sora or the even less common yellow rail, but in trying to reduce stress to the bird, we released it as soon as possible without making a definitive identification.



Sora or yellow rail.



*Sora or yellow rail.
Photo: Mike Baird,
flickr.bairdphotos.com*



Blue Dasher Dragonfly

Looking for some flies to eat

10 mins ago

Wall Info Photos +

Latin Name: *Pachydiplax longipennis*
 Lives in: Lakesides, bogs and marshes
 Family: Skimmer
 Order: Odonata (5500 members) Greek for "tooth-jawed"
 Favourite Food: Especially flying insects, sometimes spiders and tiny frogs.

What's on your mind?

Attach:

Share

My Lakeside Home



Beaver Lake at Stanley Park

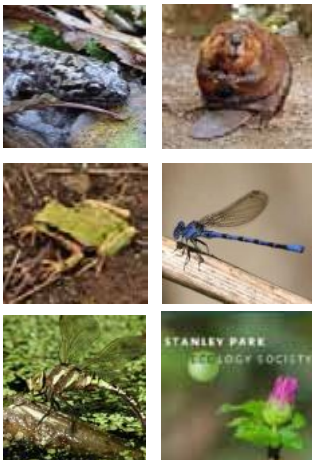
Information

Relationship Status:
Mated in September

Living in:
Southern British Columbia

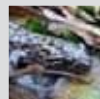
Interests:
Flying fast, perching,
and still waters

Friends



Blue Dasher Dragonfly

Look what I found for lunch!! Tasty times



Pacific Giant Salamander Mmmm save some for me.



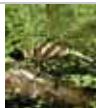
Pacific Chorus Frog

Hanging out at the lake side, who wants to join?



Blue Dasher Dragonfly → Northern Bluet Damselfly

Hey little cuz, I wish I could rest my wings on my back like all you damselflies. Do you know how much work it is to be a dragonfly with our bigger bodies and no way to rest our wings?



Canada Darner Dragonfly → Blue Dasher Dragonfly

Got a pic of your new baby dragonfly larvae. What a cute nymph. How many molts until she gets her wings?

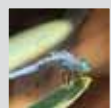


Blue Dasher Dragonfly Let's see. She's molted 4 times already, so 5 or 6 more and she'll be flying around all on her own. They grow up so fast ☺



American Beaver → Blue Dasher Dragonfly

You enjoying this pond habitat? I made it myself out of some sticks and mud! You're welcome :p



Blue Dasher Dragonfly This place is wonderful, what a great place to hang out and relax, have some grub with some friends. Thanks

...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.

Donating to Stanley Park Ecology Society is fast and easy thanks to CanadaHelps which provides secure service for monthly or one-time gifts. Click the "Donate Now" icon on our website, www.stanleyparkecolgy.ca

Tax receipts will automatically be issued for donations over \$30.

SPES Members Enjoy:

- Discounts on Discovery Walks, Family Programs and Events
- Seasonal activities calendar and quarterly newsletter
- Special perks and promotions including:
 - 20% Discount Vancouver Aquarium general admission
 - Free preview nights for Christmas Bright Nights, Halloween Ghost Train and Theatre Under the Stars

YES! I Want To Contribute!

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 Postal Code _____ Phone _____
 Email _____

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

Payment Method

- Cheque Visa Mastercard

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)

- This is a renewal membership
 Send newsletter by email
 Send newsletter by post

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 will be issued for donations of \$30 or more

THANKS to our SUPPORTERS and PARTNERS



Keith Lord Sports Foundation
 Fund held at the Vancouver Foundation



Prospect Point Cafe and Stanley's Bar & Grill offer Stanley Park Ecology Society members

20% OFF

full service dining (excludes liquor)

20% off purchases at the Stanley Park Gift shop (Prospect Point)

featuring unique Canadiana, gifts and souvenirs. Not valid on post-cards or film

Valid until Sept 30, 2012

for more information:
www.prospectpoint.ca
 604-669-2737
www.stanleysbar.ca
 604-602-3088