

# PROGRAMS FOR SCHOOLS, TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

Sept 2017 - Jun 2018

Student artwork, Pacific Academy, Grade 3



VanDusen  
BOTANICAL GARDEN

Bloedel  
CONSERVATORY

Vancouver  
Botanical  
Gardens  
Association

5251 Oak St. at West 37th Ave, Vancouver BC V6M 4H1  
Bloedel Conservatory: at the top of Queen Elizabeth Park  
[www.VanDusenGarden.org](http://www.VanDusenGarden.org)

# ABOUT US

Education programs at VanDusen Botanical Garden are presented by the Vancouver Botanical Gardens Association (VBGA), and are designed to foster inquiry, discovery, understanding and appreciation for nature and the importance of plants in our lives. We create fun opportunities for learners of all ages to get out into the natural world, through field trips, camps, teacher Pro-D, and adult continuing education programs in gardening, ecology, art, and wellness.



Education programs for teachers and schools would not be possible without the support of our generous donors, including:

McGrane-Pearson Endowment Fund  
RBC Foundation  
Christopher Foundation  
Vancouver Master Gardeners  
Canadian Wildlife Federation  
Diamond Foundation  
TD Friends of the Environment  
WWF/Telus Go Wild  
Hamber Foundation  
Rotary Club of Vancouver Arbutus  
Grayross Foundation

# POLLINATOR DAYS 2018

Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup> - Friday, June 15<sup>th</sup>

Spring flowers throughout VanDusen Botanical Garden provide the perfect setting to explore pollinators and the habitats that support them. **Pollinator Days** gives students opportunities to identify the pollinators in their backyards, explore pollen up close, make connections between pollinators and food, practice citizen science and become empowered to make a difference.

Plan your day around visiting various educational activity stations, where VanDusen educators will lead activities. School groups will be given maps of the Garden and the freedom to explore the Garden on their own schedule.

## Facilitated learning stations include:

- Microscopes and pollinator specimens presented by the Environmental Youth Alliance
- Pollen Collection and bee life cycles
- 'See Like a Bee' - students use special paint and black light to learn about nectar guides and the visible light spectrum of bees
- Citizen science training and monitoring, including pollinator identification training
- Visit a real beehive and sample different types of honey
- Photo booth with lots of fun and wacky pollinator props

**Who:** Grades 3-6 (*Limited spaces available, as priority is given to schools participating in the CWF Wild Spaces program. Pre-registration is required*)

**When:** Wed - Fri, June 13 - 15, 2018. 10 am - 2 pm

**Where:** VanDusen Botanical Garden

**Cost:** \$10/ student. One adult is admitted free for every 10 children. Additional adults pay \$10.

## How to register for Pollinator Days:

Call 604-257-8443 or email [cmartin@vandusen.org](mailto:cmartin@vandusen.org) to confirm availability.



# GUIDED FIELD TRIP PROGRAMS

90 minute, guided programs immerse students in discovery through VanDusen's beautiful 22 ha, exploring themes in alignment with new BC curriculum. Using inquiry-based activities, students can explore soil, plants, and animals in a hands-on experience. Programs are entirely outside, using fun methods that support Core Competencies in communication, creative and critical thinking, and social responsibility.

## All programs support these Big Ideas in BC's Curriculum:

**Kindergarten:** Plants and animals have observable features & daily and seasonal changes affect all living things

**Grade 1:** Living things have features and behaviours that help them survive in their environment

**Grade 2:** Living things have life cycles adapted to their environment

**Grade 3:** Living things are diverse, can be grouped, and interact in their ecosystems

**Grade 4:** All living things sense and respond to their environment

## Curriculum Connections

Full details on how each program's content is connected to BC's new curriculum can be found at [vandusengarden.org/learn/school-programs](http://vandusengarden.org/learn/school-programs)

## THE PROGRAMS



### Ecosystem Explorers: Grades 3–4 (Oct–Nov & Mar–June)

Within the tranquil beauty of VanDusen exists a complex and intimately-connected ecosystem. Investigate how different BC native plants interact with organisms in their environment, exploring interdependence within ecosystems with focused observation and basic tools. Students will unearth the vital role decomposers play in ecosystems during a soil search, and collaborate to construct a food web.



## Seed Secrets: K–Grade 4 (Oct–Nov)

Seeds fly, float, hitchhike – and even travel through the stomachs of birds – all in order to spread to new places and grow. Students explore the Garden, delighting in the beauty of fall colour while they search for seeds with parachutes, hooks or fleshy fruit surrounding them. Students will dissect seeds and make “seed babies” to take home.

---



## A Sense of Nature: K–Grade 1 (Oct–Nov & Mar–June)

Foster the young biologists in your students, encouraging them to explore nature through focussed observation, playful learning games, and collaborative outdoor education activities. As they walk through seasonal highlights in the Garden, students identify key parts of plants and how these parts help plants to meet their needs for growth, play the Maple Leaf Match–up, make earth art, and more!

---



## Fantastic Flowers: Grades 1–4 (April–June)

As students enjoy the beauty and fragrance of flowers throughout VanDusen, they investigate the parts of a flower, their role in pollination, and how pollination fits in the life cycle of flowering plants. Students will search for pollinators in action, explore the interdependence between pollinators and plants, and their role in food production. A visit to the beehives is included.

---



## Pond Peering: Grades 1–4 (April–June)

Hidden beneath the surface of VanDusen’s ponds, lakes and streams is a diverse world of beautiful and strange life. Students explore and learn about the pond environment, use nets to dip into a pond and identify the creatures they find. Students will also seek out the plants and birds that make their homes along the pond edge.

# SELF-GUIDED FIELD TRIP PROGRAMS



Use VanDusen’s menu of new **self-guided tours, lesson plans, guides and scavenger hunts** to design the perfect day for your students at the Garden. A diversity of learning resources are available on our website, spanning the Elementary grades and subject areas, and offering variety in complexity and depth of programming.

Visiting for a self-guided tour allows teachers to custom the experience to meet their needs and schedule, while definitely allowing time for a visit to VanDusen’s Elizabethan Maze. Teachers can also choose to add the 45 minute guided program, Connecting to Nature, to kickstart their visit.

To ensure a successful day, VanDusen Education staff will work with teachers in advance of their visit to identify the best resources for their class. We will greet the group upon arrival for a short orientation and review of the Code of Conduct with students.

*"Our day was a bit cold and rainy, however, this did not stop the children from raving about the experience. We look forward to coming again next year."*

- Teacher, Grade 2/3

# SELF-GUIDED CURRICULUM RESOURCES

>> Downloadable from our website

## Lesson plans and activities:

- Adaptation Exploration
- Biodiversity Detectives
- Art in the Garden
- A Sense of Spring

## Quick and easy tours & scavenger Hunts:

- Kids' Picks Tour
- Lake Loop Tour
- various plant/art/animal-themed scavenger hunts

## Birding guides:

- 15 Common Birds in the Garden
- Bird Watch Bingo



## ADD A SHORT, GUIDED PROGRAM TO YOUR DAY!

*Please refer to the following page for booking and pricing*

**Connecting to Nature:** Jumpstart your field trip experience with a **45 minute guided tour** designed to prepare students for a successful day of learning and adventure in the Garden. Led by a VanDusen Educator, the tour will consist of immersive activities and games for students to hone their observational skills as they tune into the intricacies and interdependent relationships that exist in the natural environment. Program instruction is presented in alignment with new BC Core Competencies in **communication, creative and critical thinking, and social responsibility.**

# BOOKING A FIELD TRIP

## Guided Program Availability

Program	Grades							
		Sep	Oct	Nov	Mar	Apr	May	June
A Sense of Nature	K-1		y	y		y	y	y
Ecosystem Explorers	3-4		y	y	y	y	y	y
Fantastic Flowers	1-4					y	y	y
Pond Peering	1-4						y	y
Seed Secrets	K-4		y	y				

## Guided Program

**Fall season:** Oct 10 - Nov 24

**Spring season:** April 3 - June 23

**Days and times available for booking:**

Tues, Wed, Thurs 10 am & 12:30 pm, Fri 10 am

**Cost per 90 minute guided program:** \$8/student. One adult per 4 students admitted free of charge as part of the group -this includes both teachers and chaperones. Additional adults are charged \$10 each.

VanDusen requires that a **minumum of one adult per ten students is in attendance**. We can accommodate a **maximum of one adult per 4 students on a guided tour**, and any additional adults are welcome to enter the Garden for \$10. Depending on the size of the class, additional adults may not be able to accompany the group.

## Self-guided Program

Available throughout the school year (Sept-June) and summer (July - Aug). Visit our website or call 604-257-8423 for the most up-to-date booking availability. Duration of your visit is entirely up to you!

**Cost per self-guided program:** \$5/student. One adult per 10 students admitted free of charge - this includes both teachers and chaperones. Additional adults are charged \$5 each.

## Connecting to Nature: Mini Guided Tour

Available as an add-on to self-guided programs throughout the school year (Sept-June) and summer (July-Aug).

**Cost per 45 minute mini guided tour:** \$50/per class (Up to 30 students)

Once you have chosen the program best suited to your class, go ahead and make your booking!

### How to book a guided program:

- Visit our website at [www.vandusengarden.org/register](http://www.vandusengarden.org/register)
- Decide your program type, date, and time
- Book on our easy and secure registration system, Amilia.
- Create an account and input your booking information
- We require a \$60 deposit within 14 days of booking. Your deposit will be put towards your final field trip cost.
- You will receive an email confirmation and field trip pre-visit package following your booking.
- **Cancellations:** Minimum **30 days written notice** before your trip date or the full \$60 deposit is retained.
- All cancellations are subject to a \$15 administration fee.

### How to register for a self-guided program:

Confirm program availability at 604-257-8423 or email [ngray@vandusen.org](mailto:ngray@vandusen.org)

### We can process field trip fees in several ways:

- Mail us a cheque (addressed to the Vancouver Botanical Gardens Association)
- Log into your Amilia account to pay via credit card
- Call 604-257-8423 to process payment over the phone
- Bring payment on the day of your visit

---

## TRANSPORTATION BURSARIES

The following organizations offer field trip bursaries in an effort to bring your students to VanDusen Botanical Garden!

### **Vancouver Botanical Gardens Association:**

**Nature Express** – Underserved schools may be eligible to receive up to \$300 towards the cost of their bus transportation. Call 604-257-8423.



**Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation: Go Grants** – This grant may cover transportation, project materials, and/or program fees.

More info at <https://hctfeducation.ca/go-grants>

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

*Subsidized by the Vancouver Master Gardeners.*

**Price per Workshop:** VanDusen Member: \$31.50 / Non-member: \$35

Register at [vandusengarden.org/register](http://vandusengarden.org/register) or call 604.718.5898

*Registration also open to others in the school community (such as support workers and parents), who are active in their school gardens or classrooms.*

## School Garden Ecology Workshop (K-12)

Fri. Sept 22, 2017 or Feb 23, 2018, 10 am - 3 pm | Instructor: Lea Elliott

This workshop is designed for teachers who are enthusiastic about gardening, ecology, and cultivating a healthy and ecologically-friendly garden ecosystem at their school. With a focus on how to foster beneficial relationships between soil, plants and animals, the workshop will cover attracting insects and birds to help pollinate crops and eat pesky pests, the importance of crop rotation, how to inexpensively build healthy soil, and which crops are best suited to the West Coast climate and school year.

## Inspire Environmental Awareness in Your Students (K-7)

Fri. Oct 20, 10 am - 3 pm | Instructor: Lea Elliott

Help to inspire and empower the next generation of environmental leaders. The sustainability of the planet requires a citizenry solidly grounded in awareness and appreciation of nature, with the enthusiasm and knowledge to act for a positive future. This workshop integrates the new BC curriculum Social Responsibility Core Competency while examining common values that connect sustainability leaders. With ideas found within the curriculum such as valuing diversity and relationships, understanding cycles, and appreciating our interconnection with nature, we will explore fun ways to develop student awareness of the natural environment with plenty of activities in the classroom and outside in the Garden. **Free Garden tours available following your workshop! 3:15 - 4:15 pm**

## Drawing Nature for Teachers

Fri. Oct 20, 10 am - 3 pm | Instructor: Katharine Dickinson

Using nature and the beautiful Garden, teachers will develop drawing and observational skills, to apply them to their science or art instruction. Learn fun exercises that teach the essentials on how to draw accurate representations of plants; exploring line, shape, proportion, scale and volume, using straightforward and quick sketching techniques. Participants will identify how focused, nature-based discovery addresses new BC curricular and core competencies for K-7, and have time to discuss their individual school/classroom needs with VanDusen education staff. As weather allows, the class will use the living ecosystem of VanDusen as much as possible. **Free Garden tours available following your workshop! 3:15 - 4:15 pm**

# ADULT EDUCATION



## DID YOU KNOW?

K-12 teachers may be eligible for **free** botany, ecology and gardening classes thanks to the financial support of the Vancouver Master Gardeners. Visit [vandusengarden.org/learn/adult-education](http://vandusengarden.org/learn/adult-education) to explore our current courses.

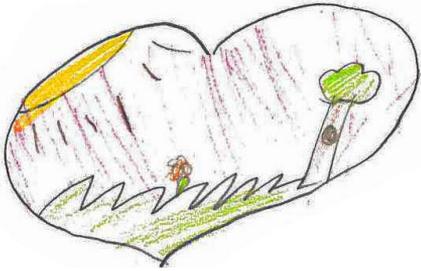
Relevant courses from September 2017 - February 2018 include:

- Conifers of North America
- Tree Walk
- Permaculture: An Introduction
- How to Grow an Edible Garden this Winter
- Introduction to Bird Watching
- Indoor Vertical Gardens
- Permaculture: Food Forests
- Introduction to the World of Mushrooms
- Soil Lab for Gardeners
- Enjoy Microgreens and Sprouts all Winter
- Easy-to-Grow Native Plants
- Veggies: What to Grow and When to Sow
- Spiral Herb Gardens: Easy Efficient and Beautiful!

To register, call 604.718.5898 (Tues-Fri, 10 am - 4 pm). We just need you to provide your school information and bring your teacher ID to class. Please note, Botanical Art, Plants & People and Health & Wellness classes are excluded.

Spread the word! Let your colleagues know about this fantastic free learning opportunity.

# GET INVOLVED! VOLUNTEERING & MEMBERSHIP



“I loved working with all the children and leaders at VanDusen Botanical Garden; there were many great opportunities to strengthen my leadership skills and build one to one relationships with the kids.”

– Madison, Gr. 11, camp volunteer

## Volunteer Opportunities

A wide range of volunteer opportunities are available with the Vancouver Botanical Gardens Association, both at VanDusen Botanical Garden and Bloedel Conservatory. Volunteers are pivotal to our work and enhancing visitors’ learning and engagement experience; contributing to our mandate to connect people to plants and help them understand their role in Earth’s ecosystems. Educators may enjoy contributing their expertise as program hosts, school program leaders, or guides. Secondary and post-secondary students may be interested in volunteering as summer camp assistants, and with a variety of special events. Learn more at [vandusengarden.org/get-involved/volunteer](http://vandusengarden.org/get-involved/volunteer)

## Great reasons to become a Member!

Membership includes unlimited general admission to VanDusen Botanical Garden and Bloedel Conservatory throughout the year during regular open hours. Members receive discounted admission during special events and promotions (including, but not limited to, Festival of Lights, Easter Egg Hunt, Halloween Glow in the Garden, Sakura Days), discounted prices on education programs and children’s camps, and great savings at garden centres etc. New additional benefits include savings at Vancouver’s Must See Attractions!

Check out [www.vandusengarden.org](http://www.vandusengarden.org) for information on categories and all benefits, or call the Membership Office at 604-257-8675.



Vancouver  
Botanical  
Gardens  
Association

