

2018 VanDusen Book Club Reading List

Are you a member? If so, come join our friendly group on the 4th Tuesday of month (except July, August and December) from 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm. in the Visitor Centre's Volunteer Lounge.

The Book Club has been meeting since 2008. Discussions focus on an eclectic variety of topics related to botany, horticulture and the natural world including gardening, gardens and gardeners, plant exploration, gardens in literature and art, ecological and environmental issues, natural history and more.

For the months when a topic (rather than a single book) has been selected, members are asked to choose from among the suggested books or to find their own if no particular suggestions have been made.

Each of our meetings are facilitated by one of our members. People are encouraged to share in this process and volunteer to take on the occasional session. For a more information, contact Marina Princz at library@vandusen.org or at 604-257-8668, or look at the Library page of the VanDusen website.

Tuesday, January 23, 2018 **Topic: Mixed bag of memoirs**

This month has a fairly wide net of possible readings, all of which can be fit into the category of 'memoires,' or personal accounts related to peoples' gardens.

Please choose among the following books, or if you find another interesting one, come and tell us about it.

Our suggested options include:

Cutting Back: My apprenticeship in the Gardens of Kyoto by Leslie Buck. (Our call number is SB458 .B83 2017; VPL has 3 copies; it is on Audible)

Growing, older: a chronicle of death, life, and vegetables by Joan Dye Gussow. (Our call number is SB455 .G87 2010; VPL has 1 copy; not on Audible)

My backyard jungle: the adventures of an urban wildlife lover who turned his yard into habitat and learned to live with it by James Barilla. (Our call number is QH541.5 .C6 B37 2013; VPL has 3 copies; not on Audible)

Paradise Lot: Two plant geeks, one-tenth of an acre and the making of an edible garden oasis in the city by Eric Toensmeier. (Our call number is SB453 .T59 2013; VPL has 2 copies; not on Audible)

Tuesday, February 27, 2018 **Book: *Sightlines: A Conversation with the Natural World*** by Kathleen Jamie. (Our copy being catalogued; VPL has 1 copy; not on Audible)

Winner of the 2014 Orion Book Award for Nonfiction and of the John Burroughs Association 2014 Medal for Distinguished Natural History Book

With her poet's eye and naturalist's affinity for wild places, Kathleen Jamie reports from the field in this enthralling collection of fourteen essays whose power derives from the stubborn attention she pays to everything around her. Jamie roams her native Scottish "byways and hills" and sails north to encounter whalebones and icebergs. Interweaving personal history with her scrutiny of landscape, Jamie dissects whatever her gaze falls upon—from vistas of cells beneath a hospital microscope, to orcas rounding a headland, to the aurora borealis lighting up the frozen sea. Written with precision, subtlety, and wry

humor, *Sightlines* urges us to “Keep looking. Keep looking, even when there’s nothing much to see.”

Tuesday, March 27, 2018 Book: *The True History of Chocolate* by Sophie D. Coe.

(Our copy being catalogued; VPL has 2 copies; not on Audible)

This delightful and best-selling tale of one of the world's favorite foods draws upon botany, archaeology, and culinary history to present a complete and accurate history of chocolate – Amazon.

Tuesday, April 24, 2018 Topic: Anything by or about Marianne North

Marianne North (1830 – 1890) was a prolific English Victorian [biologist](#) and [botanical artist](#), notable for her plant and landscape paintings, her extensive foreign travels, her writings, her plant discoveries and the creation of her gallery at the [Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew](#).

The library has several books about Marianne North:

Abundant beauty : the adventurous travels of Marianne North, botanical artist by Marianne North. QK31 .N67 A3 2010

Flower hunters by Mary Gribbin. QK26 .G75 2008 includes a chapter about Marianne North.

Marianne North : a very intrepid painter by Michelle Payne. QK98.183 .N67 P39 2011

A vision of Eden : the life and work of Marianne North by Marianne North.

QK98.183 .N6 1980 ("Published in collaboration with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew."

"Abridged version of her travel memoirs and autobiography, first published under the title *Recollections of a happy life*." – Jacket).

Tuesday, May 22, 2018 Topic: Winnie-the-Pooh

The Natural World of Winnie-the-Pooh: A Walk through the Forest that Inspired the Hundred Acre Wood by Kathryn Aalto. (Our call number is DA670 .A73 A25 2015; VPL has 2 copies, Burnaby has 2 copies; not on Audible)

Aalto’s lovely book provides two great pleasures: a visit to the actual wild spots that inform the fictional Pooh world and a chance to slip into our memories of the books themselves. Anything goes for this topic. Feel free to read this book, go through your editions of the original books (small prize for the person who brings in the oldest edition!) or research about A. A. Milne or the illustrator E. H. Shepard.

Tuesday, June 26, 2018 Topic: Flowers

Rose’s Kiss: A Natural History of Flowers by Peter Bernhardt. (Our copy being catalogued; VPL has 1 copy; not on Audible)

In *The Rose’s Kiss*, Peter Bernhardt presents a fascinating and wide-ranging look at the natural history of flowers—how they look, what they do, and their often hidden interactions with the surrounding environment and other living organisms upon which they depend for their survival. You'll discover why flowers are so colorful, how they evolved, and how insects exploit them for their nectar. This is a book for all flower lovers, from naturalists and gardeners to poets and botanists.

The Reason for Flowers: Their History, Culture, Biology And How They Change Our Lives by Stephen Buchmann. (Our call number is SB404.9 .B83 2015; VPL has 3 copies; is on Audible)

A “fascinating” (*The Wall Street Journal*), engaging, and expert account of the botany, ecology, history, culture, and meaning of flowers, written by a passionately devoted scientist, photographer, and writer, and illustrated with his stunning photographs.

July **No meeting**
August **No meeting**

Tuesday, September 25, 2018 **Book: Lab Girl**

Lab Girl by Hope Jahren. (Our call number is QH31 .J344 A3 2016; VPL has over 21 copies; is on Audible)

Lab Girl is a 2016 memoir by American geochemist, geobiologist, and professor Hope Jahren, published by Alfred A. Knopf. The memoir was well received and won the 2016 National Book Critics Circle Award.

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Topic: Anything by or about Jane Goodall

The library has two books by Jane Goodall. They include:

Hope for animals and their world : how endangered species are being rescued from the brink. 1 copy circ. QH75 .G636 2009

Seeds of hope : wisdom and wonder from the world of plants. QK46.5 .H85 G65 2014
Books by and about Jane Goodall are widely available at VPL and on Audible

Tuesday, November 27, 2018 **Anthologies about gardens and gardening**

Suggested books include:

The Sweet Breathing of Plants ed. by Linda Hogan and Brenda Peterson. (Our call number is SB455.3 .S95 2001; Not at VPL or Audible)

Since prehistory, plants -- as sources of food, medicine, clothing, beauty, and life itself -- have been the province of women. Yet no previous book has attempted to bring together the rich literature this connection has inspired. This burgeoning collection amply addresses that lack, celebrating an ancient and ongoing relationship with more than three dozen selections of nonfiction and poetry.

The Roots of my Obsession: thirty great gardeners reveal why they garden ed. by Thomas C. Cooper.

(Our call number is SB455 .R66 2012; VPL has 2 copies; not on Audible)

Collection of short essays by thirty world-famous gardeners on why they garden, whether it be for aesthetic beauty, food production, or environmental sustainability.

By Pen and by Spade: An Anthology in Garden Writing from Hortus ed. by David Wheeler. (Our call number is SB455.3 .B9 1990; Not at VPL or Audible)

Hortus revisited : a twenty-first birthday anthology ed. David Wheeler. (Our call number is SB455.3 .H6 2008; Not at VPL or Audible)

December **No meeting**