2020 VanDusen Book Club Reading List

For more information and to join our mailing list, contact Marina Princz at library@vandusen.org or at 604-257-8668.

**Tuesday, January 28**

**Topic:** Moss

Mosses have been compared to snowflakes; viewing any of them close up opens a unique new world. None of the 22,000 species have flowers, fruits, seeds, roots or vascular systems, yet each contributes to a different ecology wherever plants grow.


*Moss Gardening : including lichens, liverworts, and other miniatures* by George Schenk. Portland, Or. : Timber Press, c1997. Call # SB434.7 .S3 1997 (VPL has 0 copies)

**Tuesday, February 25**

**Book:** *The Overstory : A Novel* by Richard Powers

Winner of the 2019 Pulitzer Prize for fiction, this has been called “wondrous”, “exhilarating”, and “the best novel ever about trees”! Follow 9 strangers who are brought together in striking ways to ....

Well, read on.

Call # PS3566 .O92 O94 2018 VanDusen has 1 copy (Also, VPL has 30 copies)

**Tuesday, March 24**

**Book:** *Mama’s Last Hug: Animal Emotions and All They Tell Us About Ourselves* by Frans De Waal. New York, W. W. Norton & Company, 2019. Call # QL785.27 .W33 2019 VanDusen has 1 copy (Also, VPL has 10 copies + 1 audiobook)

From 40 years of research, the author has written 2 recent best-sellers. Following *Are We Smart Enough To Know How Smart Animals Are?*, De Waal now lays out evidence for a greater range of “human” emotions in animals than previously thought. An intriguing and moving book.
Welcome spring by meeting 3 very different people with the same idea - to follow the days and seasons around an entire year in their particular time and place. Two are English women from different centuries, and the third author may surprise you.

*Nature Diary of a Quiet Pedestrian* by Philip Croft. Madeira Park, B.C.: Harbour Pub., c1986. 1 copy circ. Call # QH106.2 .B7 C76 1986. (Also, VPL has 2 copies)


---

Insects make up half of earth’s animal kingdom. There’s a reason: they’re literally responsible for maintaining life on the planet. From Nobel prizes (6, so far, due just to discoveries based on fruit flies) to a newly identified beetle whose larva can digest plastic, enjoy a mind-expanding trip into a world we hardly know.

---

For the last get-together before our summer break, we invite everyone to think about how poets, poems and verses for kids add to our feelings about nature. Please come with one read-aloud piece (however short) that you’d like to share. Anything relating to nature and growing things is welcome, including humour. The library can help with sources.

---

- **July** No meeting
- **August** No meeting
Tuesday, September 22       Topic: Anything by or about Alexander von Humboldt

Nicknamed “Alexander the Great,” this tireless, self-financed naturalist, geologist, climatologist and explorer literally rewrote European scientific knowledge of Latin America while in his 30s (1799-1804). At age 60 he added Russia, Siberia and Central Asia. Von Humboldt stayed active until turning 90, just in time for Darwin’s *Origin of Species*.


*Alexander von Humboldt and the Botanical Exploration of the Americas* by H. Walter Lack. Munich : Prestel, c2018. Call # Q143 .H9 L3313 2018 (Also, VPL has 0 copies)

Tuesday, October 27       Topic: Personal Journeys in Nature

Four modern-day writers share their responses to new landscapes from Bryson’s often hilarious encounters with Australia to Fowler kayaking the canals around Birmingham while slowly realizing she’s becoming a different person. Worth reading more than just one of these true stories.

*In a Sunburned Country* by Bill Bryson. Doubleday Canada, 2000. (VPL has 6 copies + 1 audiobook)


*Walking to Camelot: A Pilgrimage Through the Heart of Rural England* by John A. Cherrington. Call #: DA632 .C54 2016 (Also, VPL has 13 copies)


Tuesday, November 24, 2019       Book: *Atlas of a Lost World: Travels in Ice Age America* by Craig Childs. Pantheon, 2018. Call # E77.9 .C55 2018 (Also, VPL has 4 copies + 1 audiobook)

What was life like for the first humans to settle in North America? That’s 20,000 years ago, when other “residents” included megafauna: giant bears and bison, sloths as high as a house, mammoths and sabre-toothed tigers. A vividly written reconstruction of what current archaeology has to tell us, and why some of the gaps are so intriguing.

December:       No meeting