

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.

Gathering Moss : A Natural and Cultural History of Mosses by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Corvallis, OR : Oregon State University Press, c2003. Call # QK537 .K56 2003 (Also, VPL has 2 copies)

The magical world of moss gardening by Annie Martin. Portland, Oregon : Timber Press, 2015. Call # SB433.55 .M37 2015 (Also, VPL has 2 copies)

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.

Tuesday, April 28

Topic: Nature diaries

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)

The Country Diary of an Edwardian lady by Edith Holden. London: M. Joseph, c1977. Call # QH138 .W37 H64 1977. 1 copy circ. (Also, VPL has 1 copy)

Janet Marsh's Nature Diary by Janet Marsh. London: B. Mitchell, 1984. Call # QH138 .H35 M37 1984. 1 copy circ. (Also, VPL has 1 copy)

Tuesday, May 26

Book: *Buzz, Sting, Bite: Why We Need Insects* by Sverdrup-Thygeson, Anne. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2019. Call # QL463 .S82 2019 1 copy (circ.) (Also, VPL has 3 copies + 1 audiobook)

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.

Tuesday, June 23

Topic: Nature poetry and me, from childhood on

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**
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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.

The Invention of Nature : Alexander von Humboldt's New World by Andrea Wulf. New York : Alfred A. Knopf, 2015. Call # Q143 .H9 W85 2015 (Also, VPL has 12 copies)

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)

Hidden Nature: A Voyage of Discovery by Alys Fowler. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 2017 (VPL has 4 copies)

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

The Salt Path: A Memoir by Raynor Winn. Penguin Books, 2019. Call #: HV4545 .A4 W56 2018 (VPL has 0 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**