

## VanDusen Book Club 2021

**Presented by: Vancouver Botanical Gardens Association**

VanDusen Book Club will meet on the fourth Thursday of **every second** month from 1pm to 2pm. Meetings will continue on Zoom until it is safe for them to be held in person.

To prepare for Book Club meetings, check out the Yosef Wosk Library & Resource Centre at VanDusen Botanical Garden Visitor Centre, your local library systems or bookstores for books, ebooks and audiobooks. You are also welcome to conduct your own research online.

We often purposefully choose general topics to allow members find material that interests them and so that there is less demand on a limited number of copies of one specific book.

### January 28, 2021 1pm (Zoom)

**Topic: *Nature Poetry***

For this meeting, we invite everyone to consider how poets, poems and verses for kids have added to your feelings about nature. If you would like (not obligatory), come with a couple read-aloud pieces (however short) that you would like to share. Anything relating to nature and growing things is welcome, including humour. The library can help with sources – check out the Library page at <https://vandusengarden.org/learn/library/> to search our catalogue and learn about opening hours and services.

If, like for many, the idea of poetry puts fear in your heart or a grimace on your face, check out the following websites for some encouragement here and here.

<https://bookriot.com/why-to-read-poetry/>

<https://www.npr.org/2020/03/30/823944128/we-need-art-right-now-heres-how-to-get-into-poetry>

### March 25, 2021 1 pm (Zoom)

**Topic: *Bees in science, in our psyche and in literature***

This month, we will explore the world and meaning of bees from a range of perspectives including science, spirituality, the personal, and the poetic.

Please read one or both of the following books:

1. **Listening to the Bees** (2018) by Mark Winston and Renée Saklikar. In this book, through the distinct but complementary lenses of science and poetry, Mark Winston and Renée Saklikar (who is married to BC's current Minister of Health Adrian Dix), reflect on the tension of being an individual living in a society, and about the devastation wrought by overly intensive management of agricultural and urban habitats.
2. **Bee time: lessons from the hive** (2014) by Mark Winston. This book presents Winston's reflections on three decades spent studying bees, and on the lessons they can teach about how humans might better interact with one another and the natural world.

Please note! Mark Winston and Renée Saklikar will be featured in the Library's April 28<sup>th</sup> Speakers Series presentation. More information coming soon.

### May 27, 2021 1 pm. (Zoom)

**Book: *Underland: A deep time journey*** by Robert McFarlane In *Underland* by Robert Macfarlane explores the Earth's underworlds as they exist in myth, literature, memory, and the land itself. Traveling through the dizzying expanse of geologic time—from prehistoric art in Norwegian sea caves, to the blue depths of the Greenland ice cap, to a deep-sunk "hiding place" where nuclear waste will be stored for 100,000 years to come—*Underland* takes us on an extraordinary journey into our relationship with darkness, burial, and what lies beneath the surface of both place and mind.

*Underland* won the Wainwright Golden Beer Book Prize, which celebrates the best books about nature, travel and the outdoors as well as several other prizes and was on the Sunday Times Bestseller list.

### July 22, 2021 1 pm (Zoom)

**Topic: *Vita Sackville-West***

When a wealthy, unconventional born writer takes up gardening, stand back! "V" Sackville-West (1892 - 1962) began as an award-winning poet admired by Yeats, and famous for "The Land" (1926) and "The Garden" (1946). Meanwhile she published 2 travel books on Persia and 16 novels, many to glowing reviews. Creating inspiring gardens while restoring Sissinghurst Castle became her life's work from 1930 on. Then, at 54, she added a weekly postwar gardening column in the ***Observer***. It ran for 25 years as a must-read, and reprints continue to maintain her place in modern garden history.

Do your own research and explore any of Vita's many writings and her colourful life.

### September 23, 2021 1 pm (Zoom)

**Topic: *Rewilding***

Rewilding is an approach to conservation that has varied definitions and is subject to considerable controversy. Two examples are retuning key animal species (often predators) to areas where they had been extirpated, and removing dams to restore rivers. Read any or all of the following books or others that interest you.

*Wilding: the return of nature to an English farm* (2018) by Isabella Tree

*Feral: rewilding the land, the sea, and human life* (2015) by George Monibot

*Eager: the surprising life of beavers and why they matter* (2019) by Ben Goldfarb

### November 25, 2021 1 pm (Zoom)

**Topic: *Personal journeys in nature***

Four contemporary 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. It would be worth reading more than just one of these true stories.

*In a sunburned country* (2000) by Bill Bryson.

*Hidden nature: a voyage of discovery* (2017) by Alys Fowler.

*Walking to Camelot: a pilgrimage through the heart of rural England* (2016) by John A. Cherrington.

*The salt path: a memoir* (2019) by Raynor Winn.