



Free the Fern April 2023 Newsletter

Spring Has Sprung!

With Spring upon us, we are seeing the native plants in the [Douglas Fir Teaching Garden](#) literally spring to life.



In our native flowers plot, Pacific bleeding heart has resprouted in abundance.



In our native berries plot, our prickly gooseberry bushes have bright new green leaves



At the entrance to our garden, off Kinross Creek Co-op, you can see False Solomon's Seal beginning to peek out of the soil



While, in our native ferns plot, nestled amid sword fern fronds, fiddleheads wait for just the right moment to reach up to the light.

THIS MONTH'S
TOP STORIES



Invasive Pull - April 1, 2023

After a [successful pull in March](#) (pictured above), we are excited to gather again on **Saturday, April 1, 2023 from 10am-12pm**. With 25 volunteers already signed up to attend, we have had to close registration (for the first time!) The interest in helping to remove invasives as part of our [Native Food Forest](#) project has been incredible! We have had so many new, first time volunteers, of all ages joining our pulls. Thank you to everyone for helping clear so many invasive plants in preparation for our fall native planting.

This event has been made possible thanks to funding from the City of Vancouver [Neighbourhood Matching Fund](#).



Be Aware Fair - April 12, 2023

On **Wednesday, April 12, 10am-2pm** Free the Fern president, Grace Nombrado, and treasurer, Joe Boyd, will be presenting at the Be Aware Fair at Windsor Secondary in North Vancouver. This event, as part of Climate and Sustainability Action Week, seeks to raise awareness about the climate crisis and environmental issues and to inspire students, staff, and community members to take action. There will be 850+ students from across North Vancouver in attendance. Free the Fern will make a 30 min presentation/skit about how to safely remove ivy from trees. As well, we will have an information table set up with examples of invasive and native plants for the students to explore. This is our second year attending the Be Aware Fair (photo above was taken in 2022). We are greatly looking forward to it!



Bird Nesting Cage Workshops - April 15, 2023

We are excited to be partnering with eco-artist, [Joshua Ralph](#), again to run two [Bird Nesting Cage Workshops](#) on **April 15, 2023 at 10am-12pm and 1-3pm**. Joshua will be teaching how to make nesting material cages from invasive Himalayan blackberry, morning glory, reed canary grass, and animal fir. Participants will come away with a ready-to-hang cage for the Spring's incoming fledglings. Joshua will also discuss best practice for feeding birds and replenishing nesting materials. Sign up soon to reserve a spot [here](#).

This event has been made possible thanks to funding from the City of Vancouver [Neighbourhood Matching Fund](#).



Ivy Basket Weaving Workshop - April 20, 2023

For those who missed our last two [Weaving with Ivy Workshops in March](#), Free the Fern president, Grace Nombrado, will be running another workshop on Thursday, April 20, 2023. This one will be held at the Killarney Community Centre in the evening at 7pm. Come out to learn how to prepare ivy and use it to weave your own hand-made basket. This is a fun workshop where you can also meet new friends in the community. You can sign up [here](#).



Earth Fest - April 22, 2023

Free the Fern is excited to be returning for another year at [Earth Fest](#) at [Everett Crowley Park](#) on **Saturday, April 22, 2023 from 11-3pm**. We will have our friendly volunteer stewards

on hand at an info table, along with samples of native & invasive plants and a nature-themed art activity! Please come by and say hi!



Where do I buy Native Plants?

Recently, the [Invasive Species Council of Metro Vancouver](#) added a list of [native plant retailers](#) to their website. This is a great resource for local gardeners or stewardship groups looking to source native plants.

In addition, some native plant retailers or non-profits are having native plant sales for Spring.

March 31st/April 1st - 11am-3pm - [PlanBee Native Plant Nursery: Spring Opening](#) -
Langley, BC

If you are looking to buy native plants for your garden, PanBee Native Plant Nursery is opening for the season on March 31-April 1, 11am-3pm. They will then be open every Friday & Saturday from April-June.

April 12 - [Environmental Youth Alliance: Native Plant Fundraiser](#) - Vancouver, BC

Beginning on April 12, the Environmental Youth Alliance will be opening their annual Spring plant bundle fundraiser. They will have small “balcony” bundles or larger “garden” bundles of native plants for sale.



Neighbouring Nature Events

There are many other amazing groups in Metro Vancouver organizing events in April. Check out what is happening below.

Saturday, April 1 - 4-5pm - [Vancouver Urban Food Forest Foundation: The Teachings of Native Plants](#) - Riley Park Community Garden, Vancouver

Learn about native, edible, and medicinal plants on a family-friendly stroll with Metis educator, Lori Snyder. Plant-centred art activities for kids.

Saturday, April 15 - 10am-12:30pm - **Park Stewardship** - Everett Crowley Park, Vancouver

Join ECPC for monthly stewardship events to help remove invasive plants, rewild native shrubs, and to learn more about the history & ecology of the 5th largest park in Vancouver. Gloves, tools and light refreshments are provided. Email ecpcstewards@gmail.com

Sunday, April 16 - 9:30am-1pm - [Fresh Air Learning: Hands-on Play Day](#) - Lilouet Park, North Vancouver

Workshop for educators, parents, and students, alike! Explore hands-on ways to connect with gardens and forests this spring. Activities will include: salve-making, simple natural dyes, making rope with plants, weaving, and felting.

Wednesday, April 19 - 7-8:30pm - [Environmental Youth Alliance: Native Plant Garden Design Workshop](#) (online)

Guided by botanist, Kristen Miskelly, this workshop will share key considerations on caring for native plants and designing your own gardens!

Saturday, April 29, 10am - [Lynn Canyon Ecology Centre: Drought-Resistant Gardens](#)
(online)

Learn how to better drought-proof your garden so that you can grow food and flowers throughout the summer and minimise your water use.

If you know of a local event happening next month, let us know!

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