



Free the Fern May 2023 Newsletter

An Action Packed April!

April turned out to be Free the Fern's busiest months ever, as our volunteers and directors participated in five environmental events.



On April 1, 2023, A record 25 volunteers attended our monthly [Invasive Pull](#) on the Red Alder Trail. 8 of the volunteers were under the age of 18! Together we managed to clear 2,640 L of invasive ivy and Himalayan blackberry (the equivalent of 8 city green bins)! Amazing! This is in the area that will be our future [Native Food Forest](#) planting site.



On April 12, 2023, Free the Fern President, Grace, and Treasurer, Joe, attended the [Be Aware Fair](#) at Windsor Secondary in North Vancouver. This event, part of Climate Action Week, was an opportunity for students to come together from across North Vancouver to learn about the environment from local non-profits. Free the Fern had an info table set-up in the gym and also did a live presentation on how to use ivy for weaving.



On April 15, 2023, Free the Fern was honoured to partner with eco-artist [Joshua Ralph](#), to run a [Bird Nesting Cage workshop](#). Made out of invasive Himalayan blackberry and morning glory, these nesting cages were stuffed with nesting material (such as animal fur and dried grass). Participants could then take home the nesting cages to hang in their garden for the local birds to collect nesting material from.



On April 20, 2023, Free the Fern President, Grace, led a Weaving with Ivy workshop at Killarney Community Centre. Grace was happy to be able to share her knowledge with participants from the general public, along with representatives from the [Invasive Species Council of BC](#) and [Stanley Park Ecology Society](#). She hopes that participants may pass on the skill of weaving with ivy to others.



On April 22, 2023, Free the Fern was excited to participate at [Earth Fest](#) in Everett Crowley Park. We had 8 volunteers on hand helping at our table: teaching about native plants, demonstrating weaving with ivy, recruiting volunteers, and making a pressed flower suncatcher craft.

Thank you to all our amazing volunteers who made this past month such a success!

These events were made possible thanks to generous financial support from: [City of Vancouver \(Neighbourhood Matching Fund\)](#), [Tree Canada](#), and [Neighbourhood Small Grants](#).

THIS MONTH'S
TOP STORIES



Invasive Pull - May 6, 2023

We are excited to gather for an [Invasive Pull](#) on **Saturday, May 6, 2023** from **10am-12pm**. 14 volunteers are already signed up to attend. If you are also interested in helping with removing invasive ivy and blackberry along the Red Alder Trail in South Vancouver, please sign up [here](#). Gloves, tools, and refreshments will be provided for volunteers.

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



Native Plant Walk - May 13, 2023

On **Saturday, May 13, 10am-2pm**, we are honoured to have educator from the Squamish nation, Matthew Williams, leading us on a [Native Plant Walk](#) along the Red Alder Trail. We will be meeting at the Douglas Fir Teaching Garden and then walking the trail. Matthew will be sharing teachings and stories about native plants. Limited spaces remain, so please reserve a spot in this free walk [here](#). For those who are unable to attend the walk, we are having this walk professionally recorded, so a video will be available after via Youtube.

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



Free the Fern at the VPL - May 26, 2023

On **Friday, May 26, 1pm-4pm**, Free the Fern will have an info table set up inside the Vancouver Public Library, Champlain Heights Branch (7110 Kerr St). We will have samples of native & invasive plants (along with baskets made of ivy), brochures, and stickers. Please come by and say hello!



Bird Nesting Cage Workshop Video

During our recent [Bird Nesting Cage Workshop](#), led by Joshua Ralph, we were excited to have filmmaker, Daniel Akinshola, on hand to capture the event. Following the workshop, Daniel edited the footage and uploaded the video to our [youtube account](#). Check it out if you too would like to learn how to transform invasive plants into a bird nesting cage.

Funding for filming this video was provided from the City of Vancouver [Neighbourhood Matching Fund](#).



Neighbouring Nature Events

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

Saturday, May 6 - 10am-2pm - [Stanley Park Ecology Society: Cedar Weaving with Jessica Silvey](#) - Stanley Park Pavilion

Join [Jessica Silvey](#), Coast Salish weaver and fibre artist, to spend a day weaving a cedar bark basket while learning the importance of the cedar tree to Coast Salish people.

Saturday, May 6 - 2-4pm - [Vancouver Urban Food Forest Foundation: Pop Bottle Vertical Gardening](#) - Riley Park Community Garden, Vancouver

MP Bilodeau will take you through the steps to create your own vertical garden. You will take home a couple of pop bottle planters of your own. All equipment is provided.

Saturday, May 13 - 10am-12:30pm - [Everett Crowley Park Committee: 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

Tuesday, May 20 - 10am - [Lynn Canyon Ecology Centre: Ecological Garden Design \(online\)](#)

How can you add perennials into the mix and take inspiration from forest gardens? Learn more about the garden ecosystem and use these understandings to help work with your existing garden to help it thrive.

Sunday, May 28 - 9:45am - [Lower Mainland Green Team: Beach Day! Clean-up invasive Blackberry & Litter](#) - West Beach, White Rock

We will be removing invasive Himalayan blackberry and picking up litter at West Beach in White Rock! We will be both restoring local habitat while also having fun and connecting with each other in nature.

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

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)



www.freethefern.ca
[@free the fern](#)

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please [unsubscribe here](#).