



**Annual Fall Forum**  
**Wednesday, November 1, 2023**  
**1:00-4:30 P.M.**  
**Harris Barn, 4140 Arthur Drive, Delta**

**AGENDA**

12:30 PM	Meeting venue opens
	<b><i>Meeting Begins – Welcome &amp; Introduction</i></b>
1:00 P.M.	Tasha Murray, ISCMV Executive Director Kim Houghton, Environmental Officer, City of Delta & ISCMV Director
	<b><i>Provincial Update</i></b>
1:10 P.M.	Derek Hogan, Invasive Plant Specialist – Partnerships and Projects, BC Ministry of Forests
	<b><i>Invasive European Green Crab in Boundary Bay</i></b>
1:35 P.M.	Marg Cuthbert & Phillip Milligan, Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society
	<b><i>Emerging Species in Metro Vancouver</i></b>
2:00 P.M.	Tasha Murray, ISCMV Executive Director
2:15 P.M.	Small group discussion
2:30 P.M.	Break
	<b><i>Ants in our Plants and More: invasive species Management at VanDusen Botanical Garden</i></b>
2:50 P.M.	Cynthia Sayre, Curator of Collections, VanDusen Botanical Garden
	<b><i>Rat City: How do we live alongside rats while reducing risks?</i></b>
3:15 P.M.	Dr. Kaylee Byers, Senior Scientist, Pacific Institute on Pathogens, Pandemics and Society, SFU; Deputy Regional Director, British Columbia Canadian Wildlife Health
	<b><i>Reliving Restoration: Invasive Species, Art and Relationally</i></b>
3:45 P.M.	Joshua Ralph
	<b><i>ISCMV Timeline Celebration &amp; Closing</i></b>
4:15 P.M.	Tasha Murray, Executive Director Ken Crosby, Natural Areas Coordinator, City of Surrey & ISCMV Vice Chair
4:30 P.M.	Good-bye!

## Presentations

### *Provincial Update*

Derek will provide a brief provincial update including an overview of upcoming developments with the InvasivesBC database, local invasive plant priorities from a provincial perspective, and upcoming changes to the Provincial Pest Management Plans.

Derek Hogan is an Invasive Plant Specialist with the BC Ministry of Forests' Invasive Plant Program. He received his bachelor's degree in Ecological Restoration from the BC Institute of Technology, and has been working in invasive plant management and research for seven years with both the Ministry of Forests and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. His job focuses heavily on building and strengthening partnerships with First Nations and local governments, non-profit organizations, and industries around the province.



### *Invasive European Green Crab in Boundary Bay*

The Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society (FoSBS) was alerted to the presence of the highly invasive European green crab in the Fraser Delta region in late 2019. Arriving in Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca in 1998, the European green crab has become one of the ten most unwanted invasive species in the world. Learning of its capability to erode estuarine banks, and to destroy important salt marsh and eelgrass meadow habitats, FoSBS quickly developed a trapping program to monitor this crab. FoSBS is a provincially registered, non-profit society working as environmental stewards in conservation, citizen science, education and restoration in Boundary Bay and the Fraser River Delta. FoSBS representatives will provide an introduction to the invasive green crab in Boundary Bay and current eradication efforts including work in Drayton Harbor, Washington, adjacent to Boundary Bay.

Marg Cuthbert was born on BC's coast in Garden Bay and lived early years in the wilds of the province. Twelve years of post-secondary studies and studio work focused on education, fine arts and architectural design and many moves, brought her to White Rock- Surrey where she designed and built custom homes in the area. The environmental conservation bug bit in the mid 1990's with an awareness of the development siege on Boundary Bay's watershed and rivers. Involvement with the White Rock and Surrey Naturalists Conservation Committee and the Little Campbell Watershed Society, led to initiating the Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society in 2001 to engage local residents, business and government agencies through community events, school programs, meaningful citizen science and habitat enhancement projects. Marg then got involved with BC Nature representing Friends and then nominated Education Chair in 2013, Award Chair in 2017 and Important Bird Area Caretaker (now Key Biodiversity Area Caretaker) for the Fraser delta in 2009. She hasn't stopped working for conservation except to be grandma and follow her bliss travelling to new lands to see landscapes and wild creatures, especially the birds!

Phillip Milligan is a retired educator and has been an active participant in many environmental activities and projects in the South Surrey area for over twenty years. He has been an enthusiastic member of a number of different societies, and he has taken a leadership role as president of the Semiahmoo Fish & Game Club, and the Little Campbell Watershed Society. He has volunteered for many years and is still active as a board member of the Little Campbell Watershed Society, Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society, and Surrey Environmental Partners Society. Working with the Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society he has volunteered to work on the White Rock Museum nature garden and the native plant garden at Darts Hill. Working with the Little Campbell Watershed Society he has worked on a number of important environmental issues. Over the last two years, he has been a coordinator with the Friends of Semiahmoo Bay Society in setting out crab traps at Blackie Spit in Surrey to catch and report on the number of invasive green crabs found in the bay.



### ***Ants in our Plants and More: invasive species Management at VanDusen Botanical Garden***

Cynthia Sayre, Curator of Collections, VanDusen Botanical Garden

Cynthia Sayre is Curator of Collections at VanDusen Botanical Garden and has a Master's degree in Botany from the University of British Columbia. She is grateful to live and work on the unceded territories of the k'w'ik'w'əłəm (Coquitlam), x'məθk'əyəm (Musqueam), s'kw'wú7mesh (Squamish) and səliwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. Previous roles as Collections Manager at the UBC Herbarium, botany instructor, and work with environmental stewardship groups, have informed the way Cynthia sees botanical collections as a critical tool to inspire a passion for plants and encourage action to protect the Earth's biodiversity. Cynthia enjoys annoying her kids with fun facts about plants and camping with her family in the wilderness of the Tšilhqot'in (sill-ko-teen) and Xenigwet'in (Ha-nay Gwet-eeen) Nations' territory in BC's Chilcotin Plateau.

### ***Rat City: How do we live alongside rats while reducing risks?***

Rats have lived alongside humans for centuries, carrying disease-causing bacteria and viruses—“zoonotic” pathogens—that are transmissible to people. The Vancouver Rat Project has studied urban rats in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside for a decade, revealing the presence of zoonotic bacteria such as *Leptospira interrogans*, *Bartonella* spp., and Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*. However, rat presence and pathogen prevalence can vary significantly at fine spatial scales (e.g., by city block) due to limited rat movement. In this presentation, I will share how information about urban rats, their diseases, and how they are transmitted can help to inform municipal rat management and mitigation strategies.

Dr. Kaylee Byers (she/her) uses a One Health lens to study issues at the intersection of human, animal, and environmental health. She is a Senior Scientist with the Pacific Institute on Pathogens, Pandemics and Society at

Simon Fraser University, Deputy Director of the British Columbia Node of the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative, and a 2023 Michael Smith Scholar. Kaylee received her PhD from the University of British Columbia where she studied urban rats in Vancouver, and then completed a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Risk Communication. Kaylee is an active science communicator, hosting Genome BC's podcast [Nice Genes!](#), a biweekly podcast about genomics, and co-founding the science seminar series Nerd Nite Vancouver.



### ***Reliving Restoration: Invasive Species, Art and Relationally***

Joshua Ralph

The “Invasive Art Initiative” has been an ongoing project since 2021, investigating ways to utilize so-called “invasive” flora for the purposes of creative output and community building through public workshops. The project aims to serve as a bridge between ecology and art, providing environmentally sustainable and accessible art supplies to community members throughout Southwest BC. To-date, the project has collaborated with organizations such as ISCBC, Stanley Park Ecology Society, and Still Moon Arts Society, inviting nearly 250 participants and volunteers to investigate means of transforming plants such as English Ivy, Reed Canary Grass, Black Locust, and European Mountain Ash into charcoals, inks, papers, among other useable supplies, as a vessel for creative mark-making.

Joshua is an uninvited settler-occupier on the stolen and shared lands of the Tsleil-Waututh, Squamish, and Musqueam Nations. He is a community-engaged media and eco-artist interested in changed and changing ecologies, advocating for collaboration on the intersections between art-making and varied understandings of the “natural” world. Joshua holds a BMA from Emily Carr University, with work having screened in dozens of venues internationally including Ottawa International Animation Festival, Innsbruck Nature Film Festival, and Vaasa Wildlife Festival. He currently works professionally in the animation field and can often be found in the bushes partaking in environmental restoration volunteering or logging a cool bug on iNaturalist.