

## *The Knockan Hill Park Newsletter*



### **2011 Saanich Environmental Award**

The Friends of Knockan Hill Park have won the *Volunteer Organization* category in Saanich's 2011 Environmental Awards for our achievements in protection, stewardship and restoration of Knockan Hill Park. To everyone who has come out over the years to pull broom or other invasive species and to help in many other ways, thanks for your help as this award reflects the years of community support and involvement.

---

### **Stranton Lodge**

The Victoria Master Gardener Association offers a highly acclaimed Master Gardeners course through the Pacific Horticultural Society's Glendale Gardens. The course is taught by a Master Gardener, supplemented by local experts. Master Gardeners advocate a multifaceted approach to gardening problems and emphasizes the promotion of plant health, the use of an environmentally responsible approach, and the employment of integrated pest management (IPM).

The good news for Knockan Hill is that the Arts and Crafts gardens at Stranton Lodge have been selected to be used as one of the sites for class projects. This is a tremendous opportunity for the gardens to continue to be restored, and even improved. It is hoped that this is just the beginning of a truly win/win situation!

---

### **Invasive Species Pull**

Please come out to the next Broom Pull on **Sunday June 26<sup>th</sup>**, from **2:00 to 4:00 p.m.** Dress for the weather but wear long sleeves, and bring gloves and clippers. We'll be meeting at the top of the hill.

---

## Canada Day Picnic

In celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Friends of Knockan Hill Park, there will be a Canada Day Picnic at the top of the hill. The picnic is on Friday July 1<sup>st</sup>, from 12:00 Noon – 2:00 p.m. Please bring your own food and refreshments and we'll supply the Canada Day cake. Come on out and meet the neighbours!

---

## Coopers Hawks

The Knowledge Network's "Into the Wild" recently featured a documentary about researcher Bob Rosenfield and Victoria's own Andy Stewart, and the methods they use to track and study Coopers Hawks. If you missed it, watch the program guide and catch it in the summer repeats.

---

## Garry oak ecosystems

Garry oak ecosystems are the most diverse terrestrial ecosystems in British Columbia, containing several species ranked "at risk" to loss or serious depletion. In B.C., Garry oak ecosystems occur only on southeastern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands, plus two isolated groves east of Vancouver. The term "Camas meadows" describes the open areas, particularly appropriate in spring and summer when they are lush with bright wildflowers: blue camas, white Easter lily, and yellow western buttercup. Within Garry oak ecosystems, the combined effect of vegetation and dry climate produces special soils with organically enriched upper layers. The open oak woodlands are home to a diverse bird community, both in summer and winter. Mammals from deer to mice are abundant. Sunny rock outcrops are a favoured basking place for garter snakes and alligator lizards, and a great variety of insects and spiders appreciate and depend on the Garry oak ecosystem's warm climate.

---

## Website

If you haven't checked out our website yet, why not take a few moments the next time you are on the computer. <http://www.knockanhillpark.ca/>

---

### FRIENDS OF KNOCKAN HILL PARK SOCIETY

**2011 Membership Form                      Individual Fee - \$5.00    Family Fee - \$10.00**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Tel.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **Postal Code** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

Pease Print Clearly

Please mail this completed form, with fee, to: Jean Screech, Membership/Treasurer, FKHPS, 1256 Burnside Road West, Victoria, BC, V8Z 1N8