



# LEPS

LANGLEY ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERS SOCIETY

April 2016 Newsletter

## Greetings!

*April is Earth Month... a time to celebrate the renewal of spring, to plan our summer/fall harvest, muck about in the garden, say bye to salmon fry, plant the last of the trees and shrubs for the restoration season, and countless other fun things. April is the start of our busy season, and if this newsletter is any indication of things to come, one of our busiest seasons yet.*

*Be sure to Save the Date for the LEPS AGM on April 18th and Seedy Saturday on May 8th, and be on the lookout for the start of an excellent selection of upcoming gardening workshops.*

*If you know someone who has dedicated time and energy to the environment in Langley, the Environmental Hero Award Committee want to hear about it!*

*Nominate an Environmental Hero today.*

*The three categories include:*

- Youth*
- Individual*
- Group or Business*

*The deadline for submissions is May 13, 2016.*

## In This Issue

[LEPS AGM](#)

[We are hiring](#)

[Blackberry Busters](#)

[Planting Volunteers Needed](#)

[Grow Healthy Grow Smart Upcoming Workshops](#)

[Goodbye Salmon Fry!](#)

[Watershed Exchange](#)

[Lichen Monitoring](#)

[Save the Date](#)

[Manure for Gardeners Needed](#)

[Partner News](#)

[Faces of LEPS](#)

## Annual General Meeting

## The Faces of LEPS



This month we celebrate the Earth! The Earth needs us to take action and together we can make change.

Join in a local cleanup, or simply take a bag along with you on your next outing to a park and pick up the trash you see.

Change out your chemical cleaners to non-toxic biodegradable alternatives.

Reduce your meat consumption by 1-2 meals per week.

Support local farmers and producers to lessen your carbon footprint.

The choices are easy. Visit [www.leps.bc.ca](http://www.leps.bc.ca) for more tips.

## Quick Links

[LEPS Contacts](#)

[Related Topics](#)

[More On Us](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

For 23 years LEPS has engaged the public in a variety of initiatives that contribute to a healthy community. LEPS protects and restores the natural environment through education, cooperation and action, and fosters a balanced approach to sustainable living. We need your help to achieve the best results!



Please attend the AGM to renew your membership, network with like-minded community individuals and to exercise your vote for our Board of Directors!

***Special price, one day only! LEPS membership just \$5 at the door.***

Please join us for the 23rd Annual General Meeting on **Monday April 18 5:30 - 7:30pm** at the Murrayville Fire Hall 6 Boardroom, 22170 - 50 Avenue

Special Presentations by LEPS Staff:

**Lisa Dreves:** the Fingered Wetlands of North Langley

**Carly Stromsten:** Habitat Restoration in the West Creek and Salmon River Watersheds

**Meg Jordan:** Lichen Monitoring

Presentation at 5:30 - 6:30pm

Coffee Break 6:30 - 6:45pm

Annual General Meeting 6:45 - 7:30pm

Light refreshments and coffee/tea will be provided.

Please RSVP to Nichole, Executive Director by email [exec\\_director@leps.bc.ca](mailto:exec_director@leps.bc.ca) or call 604-532-3511.

## We are hiring!

If you are looking for a really fun place to work this summer, then look no further! LEPS is looking to hire passionate and dedicated individuals for the following positions:



[Summer Youth Crew \(4\)](#)

[Demonstration Garden Assistant \(1\)](#)

[Water Wise Outreach Team \(2\)](#)

We look forward to hearing from you!

Send all applications to Nichole, Executive Director at [exec\\_director@leps.bc.ca](mailto:exec_director@leps.bc.ca)

## Blackberry Busters Needed!



Langley has several watershed stewardship groups that work passionately to rid natural spaces of invasive weed species. Beginning this past month, the [Glen Valley Watersheds Society](#) began their goal of tackling the population of blackberry plants in the West Creek Wetlands.

These fabulous folks will be tackling the brambles: **April 5 & 19**

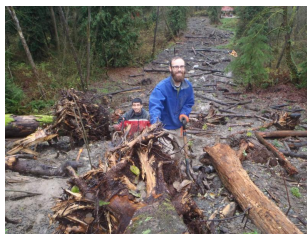
This is a great opportunity to visit this sensitive wildlife area that is not yet publicly accessible, while working with folks who are passionate about the environment.

Work gloves, tools and refreshments will be provided. Rain or shine so come prepared for the weather, sturdy shoes are required.

Meet at the gate on the south side of 72 Ave about 400m west of 264 St. Please park on the north side of 72 Ave.

## Planting Volunteers Needed

LEPS is assisting the Township of Langley with a steep slope restoration project as part of the East Langley Water Supply project. LEPS will be planting native plants at the 234 Street slope at the end of 52Ave (east of 232 Street) on **Friday April 15** and **Saturday April 16**, starting at **9:30am**.



Volunteers will need sturdy, water resistant footwear as this site is a very steep hillside, as well as clothes that can get dirty and wet, as the lower portion of the planting site is quite wet and will likely be very muddy to plant in. If its sunny, please wear a hat and sunscreen, as the slope is open and exposed. LEPS can provide tools and work gloves, but if you can, please bring your own gloves and spade for planting.

This is a big site, so we need all the help we can get! To volunteer call Carly, Restoration Coordinator at 604.546.0347 or email [conservation@leps.bc.ca](mailto:conservation@leps.bc.ca)

## GHGS Upcoming Workshops



**Grow Healthy Grow Smart** is a joint initiative between the Township of Langley and LEPS to educate residents about the benefits of reducing cosmetic pesticide use.

Throughout the spring and summer the GHGS program will once again be offering workshops, and attending various events across the Township of Langley.

**Saturday April 16 Backyard Composting:** In a landfill it can take up to 20 years for a banana peel to break down. In a backyard composter, it can take as little as a few weeks. In this workshop learn what type of composting is a good fit for your needs and how you can do your part to reduce the amount of waste in our landfills.

**Registration required** [www.cedarrim.com/store/events](http://www.cedarrim.com/store/events) or call 604-888-4491.

Contact Heather, Outreach and Education Coordinator for details by email [outreach@leps.bc.ca](mailto:outreach@leps.bc.ca) or call 604-546-0338

*Thank-you to our program partner- The Township of Langley!*

## Goodbye Salmon Fry

Many salmon fry are beginning their migration out to the big rivers and estuaries and we have several opportunities for you to lend a hand this month.



Join LEPS and the Glen Valley Watersheds Society on **April 16th at 11:00am** for their annual fish release into West Creek. Meet at 80th Ave on the creek.

**April 23** join LEPS and the Yorkson Watershed Enhancement Society as we help send thousands of young salmon on their journey to the Pacific Ocean.

Meet us in Derby Hills starting at **11:00am** at the 20500 block of 98 Ave (this event ends once all the fish have been released, we may be done by noon!).

You will love carrying the buckets of fry to the creek! Gumboots required.

Contact Lisa, Stewardship Coordinator for details by email [stewardship@leps.bc.ca](mailto:stewardship@leps.bc.ca) or call 604-546-0336.

## Watershed Exchange

Did you know Langley has over 10 stewardship groups operating in watersheds across the community? These passionate folks volunteer their time to help keep



Langley natural.

Join the stewardship community at their annual *Watershed Exchange* on **Thursday April 14th** with doors opening at **5:30pm**. Session begins at **6:00pm**.

This event will be an opportunity to share ideas, make connections, and reflect on projects. It is a pot luck, so please bring along a plate of food to share, beverages will be provided.

The exchange will be held at the Coghlan Hall 6795 256th Street, Langley.

Contact Lisa, Stewardship Coordinator at 604.546.0336 or email [stewardship@leps.bc.ca](mailto:stewardship@leps.bc.ca)

## Lichen Monitoring

What are lichen and why are we so excited about them?

Lichens can be found all around us, growing slowly in colours of grey, green, black, bright orange or yellow and even pink. They live on trees, on decaying wood, and on stone. Lichens are an important part of ecosystem health and are considered as significant bio-indicators of air quality.



Our Lichen Monitoring Booklet and Data Collection Sheets will soon be available on our website. Check them out and join in your own local lichen hunt. You too can take a likin' to lichen!

One of our current staff, Meg Jordan, has been doing Lichen presentations to senior groups, as well as with elementary school and university students; sharing all about the wonders of our local lichens.

If you are interested in booking a presentation for your group, please contact Meg at [projects@leps.bc.ca](mailto:projects@leps.bc.ca).

*Thanks to the BC Government for supporting this project through our JCP project!*

## Save the Date- Langley Demonstration Garden Opening



The Langley Demonstration Garden at the Derek Doubleday Arboretum opens in May! We are once again looking forward to a busy and exciting summer full of garden smart workshops, community events and garden fun with Eco Explorer kids summer camps.

The first Garden Smart event for summer 2016 is the **Seedy Saturday Celebration on May 7th from 1:30-4:30pm**.

Join us for fun afternoon which will include a seed swap, and a seedling swap (BYO seeds and seedlings), tips on gardening and more!

Other events include: Intro Food Preservation and Canning; Backyard Composting; Container Gardening with Kids and many more!

Later this summer, join us for Picnics in the Park and the ever popular Blackberry Bake-off!

For registration information and event dates visit: [www.leps.bc.ca/demonstration-garden/](http://www.leps.bc.ca/demonstration-garden/)

*Thank-you to our program partner- The Township of Langley!*

## Manure for Gardeners Needed!

This is the time of year for gardeners to amend their beds with composted

manure! Hobby farmers with horses, chickens, or any other source of healthy manure - check out our Manure Link website to connect to local gardeners looking for well-composted manure.



Also find advice and tips on how to effectively manage your compost by visiting [www.ManureLink.com](http://www.ManureLink.com). For gardeners requiring manure visit the ads section of the ManureLink website for details.

Contact Ava, Agriculture Program Coordinator with any questions: [agriculture@leps.bc.ca](mailto:agriculture@leps.bc.ca) or 604-546-0337.

## Partner News



With summer coming along quickly now is a great time to start planning for water restrictions.

Together, the City of Langley and City of Surrey are hosting a joint Rain Barrel Sale. 55 gallon rain barrels are available for pre-purchase, no later than **April 24th** by visiting [www.rainbarrelsales.ca/langley](http://www.rainbarrelsales.ca/langley)

Rain barrels must be collected on **Sunday May 8th**.

Each barrel will cost \$55 incl. GST and are a great way to conserve water on your property allowing you the freedom to water your garden on your terms.

For more information on this initiative visit [www.rainbarrelsales.ca/langley](http://www.rainbarrelsales.ca/langley)

*Sincerely,*

*Langley Environmental Partners Society*