Cowichan Lake Research Station

Field School Type: Facilities and Programming Available
Operated by: Ministry of Forests, Research Branch
PO Box 335, 7060 Forestry Road
Mesachie Lake, BC
V0R 2N0

Contact: Receptionist, Kathy Theobald
Phone: (250)749-6811
Fax: (250)749-6020
Email: Not available
Web Address: Not available

Facilities:
Accommodation: Bunkhouse for 50
Catering: Camp cook available
Classroom: Not available
Lab: Not available
Availability: Open all year
Cost: Cost recovery basis

School Description:
The Forest Science Research Branch of the BC Ministry of Forests operates the Cowichan Lake Research Station. It is a valuable resource for scientists studying many aspects of forest biology and ecology and is the centre for tree improvement and research into the genetics of coastal trees including Douglas-fir, yellow-cedar, western red cedar, western hemlock and Sitka spruce. The station also provides technical services for a wide variety of other research.

Program Description:
The Station has two interpretative tours around the plantation and woodlot. Tour one is of the research greenhouse, cutting and grafting areas, transplant beds and post propagation cultures, seedlings, crosses, and inbreeding plots. Tour two includes examples of second-growth and old growth forest, wildlife signs, parent trees, ecosystems, red alder, and forest growth and development. The tours are self-guided, with the possibility of staff assistance if available.

Notes:
The Cowichan lake area has a mild wet coast climate and is located in the Coast Western Hemlock zone. The forest at the station is a mixture of deciduous and evergreen coniferous trees, with many animals making their home there. This includes coast black-tailed deer, Pacific treefrogs, northwestern salamanders and several species of woodpeckers.
Cowichan Valley Demonstration Forest

Field School Type: Points of Interest

Contact:
Fax: Not available
Email: Not available
Web Address: Not available

Facilities:
Accommodation: Not available
Catering: Not available
Classroom: Not available
Lab: Not available
Availability: Open all year
Cost:

School Description:
The forest is a joint venture of the Provincial government, the municipality and the forest companies. Its objective is to display the management of the forest along the highway and around the lake as an outdoor classroom of forest management practices, and to foster respect, understanding and appreciation of the forest resource. There are a number of recreation areas, trails, and campsites in this area.

Program Description:

Notes:

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Freshwater Eco-Centre

Field School Type: Short Programs - Tours, Workshops, and Day Courses

Operated by: BC Fisheries
1080 Wharncliffe Road
Duncan, BC
V9L 2K7

Contact:
Phone: (250) 746-6722
Fax: (250) 746-6722
Email: eccentr@island.net
Web Address: http://www.islandtrout.org/

Facilities:
Accommodation: Not available
Catering: Not available
Classroom: Not available
Lab: Not available
Availability: December 1st to February 4th
Cost: Most programs are free of charge

School Description:
The BC Fisheries’ Freshwater Eco-Centre and Vancouver Island Trout Hatchery are located near downtown Duncan, BC, just 2 minutes east from Highway 1. Explore the Centre’s interactive displays and exhibits or teach your class about life underwater and the creatures that live there.

Program Description:
The Eco-centre offers aquatic related education including trout habitat, aquaculture, or freshwater ecology and customized programs and field trips for classes with an interest in trout and hatcheries

Notes:
While at the Freshwater Eco-Centre you can also explore the Cowichan River Dyke Trail. Interpretative signs and viewing platforms along the trail describe the complex ecosystem of the Cowichan River floodplain and the amazing creatures that live there.
Government House Garry Oak Ecosystem

Field School Type: Points of Interest
Operated by: Friends of Government House Gardens Society
1401 Rockland Avenue
Victoria, BC
V8S 1V9

Contact: Friends of Government House Gardens Society
Phone: (250) 356-5139
Fax: Not available
Email: ghinfo@gems6.gov.bc.ca
Web Address: http://www.lt.gov.bc.ca/gardens/default.htm

Facilities:
Accommodation: Not available
Catering: Not available
Classroom: Not available
Lab: Not available
Availability: Open all year, dawn to dusk
Cost: Free of charge

School Description:
The Government House is the official residence of the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia. It is a private residence with a 36-acre garden and grounds with 21 areas of interest including a woodlands 8.9 hectare Garry Oak Ecosystem and a BC Native Plant Garden. The gardens are sponsored by The Friends of the Government House Gardens Society who, as volunteers, maintain and improve the gardens, and ensure the continuation of the gardens into the future through their ongoing interest and support.

Program Description:

Notes:
The Friends of the Government House Society provides guided tours through the gardens.
Honeymoon Bay
Wildflower Ecological Reserve

Field School Type: Points of Interest
Cowichan Lake, BC

Contact:
Fax: Not available
Email: Not available
Web Address: Not available

Facilities:
Accommodation: Not available
Catering: Not available
Classroom: Not available
Lab: Not available
Availability: Open all year
Cost: Free of charge

School Description:
Honeymoon Bay is 6.07 hectare (15 acres) ecological reserve, and is situated 9 miles west of Cowichan Lake on South Shore Road near Gordon Bay Provincial Park. The reserve's alluvial sites in moderately open woodland with a mild, moist climate is home to the largest known concentration of pink fawn lilies (Erythronium revolutum) in BC. The reserve has a small circuit of easy walking trails which reveal an abundance of spring wildflowers such as bleeding hearts, violets and white trilliums from April through to the end of June.

Program Description:

Notes:
The Reserve is located near the Cowichan Lake Education Center.

Institute of Ocean Sciences

Field School Type:
Short Programs - Tours, Workshops, and Day Courses

Operated by: Government of Canada
9860 Saanich Road, PO Box 6000
Sidney, BC
V8L 4B2

Contact: Tour Commissioner or Facility Director, Art Walters
Phone: (250)363-6517
Fax: (250)729-8369
Email: Not available

Facilities:
Accommodation: Not available
Catering: Not available
Classroom: Not available
Lab: Not available
Availability: Open all year
Cost: Free of charge

School Description:
The Institute is one of a network of nine major scientific facilities across Canada operated by Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Interests are coastal waters of BC, the Northeast Pacific Ocean, Western Arctic and navigable waters east to the Manitoba- Saskatchewan border. Divisions include Canadian Hydrographic Service, Marine Environment and Habitat Science, Ocean Science and Productivity, and Office of the Regional Director of Science. The Center detects earthquakes, chemical, physical and biological aspects of plankton and has library of nautical maps.

Program Description:
The IOS conducts public walk through tours of the institute to view the facilities. There is also an open house every 3 years.

Notes:
Groups can also contact Ann Ronald, Sciences Community Liaison Officer 250 756 7061.
Long Beach Model Forest

Field School Type:
Short Programs - Tours, Workshops, and Day Courses

Operated by: Long Beach Model Forest Society
243 Main Street
Ucluelet, BC
V0R 3A0

Contact: Fiona Clarke
Phone: (250)726-7263
Fax: (250)726-7269
Email: info@lbmf.bc.ca
Web Address: http://www.lbmf.bc.ca/index.htm

Facilities:
Accommodation: Not available
Catering: Not available
Classroom: Not available
Lab: Not available
Availability: Open all year
Cost: Free of charge

School Description:
The Long Beach Model Forest is an area in which sustainable forest management is practised to maintain all of the values inherent in a healthy forest while safeguarding the well-being of communities, including traditional, non-industrial and industrial users. The goals of the forest include raising awareness and demonstrating the commitment of forest stakeholders, putting in practice the concepts of sustainability and integrated resource management, and demonstrating through ecosystem based forest management how the supply of forest-based ecological, social, cultural and economic benefits can be maintained.

Program Description:
Interested school groups can contact LBMF and arrange a visit to learn about the program. Field tours can be arranged depending on current LBMF activities (these change over time). In some cases groups can be included in field research depending again on current activities.

Notes:
The Long Beach Model Forest covers an extraordinary variety of ecosystems, ranging from sea floor to alpine tundra.
Malaspina University-College Woodlot

Field School Type:
Short Programs - Tours, Workshops, and Day Courses

Operated by: Malaspina University-College
900 Fifth Street,
Nanaimo, B.C.
V9R 5S5

Contact: Woodlands Manager, David A. Smith
Phone: (250)753-3245 L2322
Fax: (250)655-1573
Email: Smithd@MALA.BC.CA
Web Address: http://www.mala.bc.ca/www/discover/forestry/WOODLOT.HTM

Facilities:
Accommodation: Not available
Catering: Not available
Classroom: Not available
Lab: Not available
Availability: Open all year
Cost: Program dependant

School Description:
The Malaspina University-College Forest manages 1300 hectares of private and crown land for harvesting and silviculture practices. The forest provides students with a living lab only ten minutes away from campus, where the temperate climate allows year-round woodlot and climate labs.

The forest is a Woodlot Licence & has been managed on sustained yield, under the Forest Practices Code for about 12 yrs.

Program Description:
There are no programs formally linked to the College Forest. However, tours can be arranged for any interested groups as well as hosting.

Notes:
The woodlot is located in the coastal western hemlock zone, on the east coast of Vancouver Island, 12 kms northwest of Nanaimo, on the lower slopes of Mt. Benson. It has a range in elevation from 150m.- 450m. above sea level.
Marine Ecology Station

Field School Type:
Short Programs - Tours, Workshops, and Day Courses

Operated by: Friends of Marine Ecology Station
Port Sidney Marina, 9835 Seaport
Sidney, BC
V8L 4X3

Contact: Executive Director, Dr. Bill Austin
Phone: (250)655-1555
Fax: (250)655-1573
Email: info@mareco.org
Web Address: http://www.mareco.org

Facilities:
Accommodation: Not available but the station can help advise
Catering: Not available
Classroom: Not available
Lab: Not available
Availability: Open all year
Cost: $3.20/hr/student; $38 for 2 day program

School Description:
The Marine Ecology Station was built and opened in 1991 and is operated by the Friends of the Marine Ecology Station, a non-profit society. The Station operates educational programs year-round for school and college groups as well as for other organized groups and individuals. Through educational programs MES helps participants to explore the world for new ideas, appreciate the connectedness and synergy between life forms, and the wonder of discovery.

Program Description:
The Station offers group programs for people of all ages, covering a range of interests as well as public walk-in hours where visitors can enjoy the station at their own pace. The School Program offers students from kindergarten through college an opportunity to explore the lifestyles of living marine animals and plants under microscopes, in aquaria, and on real time video. The Summer Program provides science camps for kids ages 9 to 16, and marine eco-tours for families and individuals. The station can design programs to suit a range of interests and backgrounds. These can include programs both in the lab and in the field; from an hour up to several days in length, and either solely with the Station or as a joint program with other organization.

Notes:
The station has no on site accommodations but are willing to help organize accommodations in the area adjacent.
Montane Alternative Silvicultural System

Field School Type: Short Programs - Tours, Workshops, and Day Courses

Operated by: Canadian Forest Service
Canadian Forest Service
Victoria, BC
V8Z 1M5

Contact: Research Scientist, Al Mitchell
Phone: (250)363-0786
Fax: (250)363-0775
Email: amitchel@pfc.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca
Web Address: http://www.pfc.forestry.ca/silviculture/mass/index_e.html

Facilities:
Accommodation: Not available
Catering: Not available
Classroom: Not available
Lab: Not available
Availability: Open all year
Cost: Free of charge

School Description:
The MASS partnership is a multi-agency cooperative testing new approaches to harvesting and regeneration. The interdisciplinary forest operation, located in a primary forest near Campbell River on Vancouver Island, works to understand economic viability of harvesting and partial cutting systems. Studies include regeneration, insect biodiversity, and physical environment - meteorology, hydrology and forest science.

Program Description:
There are a number of study sites. Provide there are sufficient staff resources, tours of the research site are available upon request.

Notes:
There are 21 integrated research studies investigating many aspects of this long-term experiment. See the website for more information about the integrated studies. Another comparable study site is a thinning and fertilization study, established in 1971, near Shawnigan Lake, which studies intense stand management in a secondary forest.

Newcastle Marine Island Park

Field School Type: Points of Interest

Operated by: BC Parks
PO Box 9529, Stn. Prov Govt.
Victoria, BC
V8W 9C3

Contact:
Phone: Not available
Fax: Not available
Email: Not available
Web Address: http://wapwww.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/newcastl.htm

Facilities:
Accommodation: Not available
Catering: Not available
Classroom: Not available
Lab: Not available
Availability: Open all year
Cost: Free of charge

School Description:
Newcastle Island became a Provincial Marine Park in 1961, when the nearby city of Nanaimo granted it to the province after having acquired the island from the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1955. Newcastle Island possesses a rich natural and cultural history that makes it one of the most intriguing provincial parks in British Columbia.

Program Description:

Notes:
A park interpreter is in attendance during the summer to provide visitor information and to interpret the island's unique human and natural history. The Park offers an island shoreline dominated by steep sandstone cliffs and ledges punctuated by beaches. Caves and caverns exist along the shoreline and provide a marked contrast to the interior of the island studded with Douglas fir, arbutus, Garry oak and dogwood trees.

The 306-hectare park is accessible by foot passenger ferry from Maffo-Sutton Park in downtown Nanaimo, or by boat.
Ocean Educations Ltd.

Field School Type:
- Long Programs - Field Schools,
  Credit Courses

Operated by: Ocean Educations Ltd.
341 Price Road
Salt Spring, BC
V8K 2E9

Contact: Ian Mitchell
Ocean Educations Ltd
Phone: (250)537-8464
Fax: (250)537-8465
Email: ian@oceaned.com
Web Address: http://www.oceaned.com

Facilities:
- Accommodation: Available for maximum 24
- Catering: 3 meals a day provided with
  program costs
- Classroom: Not available
- Lab: Not available
- Availability: Open all year
- Cost: $3, 349 See notes section

School Description:
In association with the Peel District School Board,
Ocean Educations brings life to Environmental Sci-
ence through the non-invasive study of the habitats,
niches and ecosystems of the animals and plants of
the Pacific West Coast. Seals, sea-lions, star fish and
anemone will be your class mates as students are
taken to the water to investigate the rocky shore
ecosystems.

Program Description:
Ocean Educations is normally a dive program, but
occasionally offers non-diving programs, designed to
the needs of the instructor. Their 3 week program
takes place on Vancouver Island, British Columbia
at the Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific, 30
km west of Victoria. One of the study sites is the
Race Rocks Ecological Reserve, a 220 hectare area
of naturally nutrient rich waters.

Notes:
Each 3 week program session is limited in enrol-
ment to 16 students only; Program fee includes: 3
weeks accommodation at Pearson College and use
of all facilities, all meals and snacks, instruction and
credit for Grade 12 Science, SCUBA instruction and
PADI certification at Pearson College, use of
SCUBA equipment (wetsuits, tanks, regulators,
buoyancy compensator, weights), ocean dives and
boat excursions, day trips and excursions, sessions
in underwater photography and underwater scientific
methodology, and career seminar detailing the
exciting fields associated with underwater environ-
ment.
Pacific Biological Station

Field School Type:
Short Programs - Tours, Workshops, and Day Courses

Operated by: Government of Canada, Department of Fisheries and Ocean
3190 Hammond Bay Road
Nanaimo, BC
V9R 5K6

Contact: Director
Phone: (250)756-7000
Fax: Not available
Email: Not available
Web Address: http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/sci/ pbs/english/default.htm

Facilities:
Accommodation: Not available
Catering: Not available
Classroom: Not available
Lab: Not available
Availability: Open all year
Cost: Free of charge

School Description:
The Pacific Biological Station is the main facility for the Science Branch of Fisheries and Oceans Canada in the Pacific Region. Research at PBS responds to Stock Assessment, Aquaculture, Marine Environment and Habitat Science, and Ocean Science and Productivity priorities. Fisheries management through Operations Branch is also conducted here. It is anticipated that these activities will remain integral components of the Department’s ongoing business.

Program Description:
The PBS offers tours to the public, on request. They do not have a formal tour program, but are willing to have the public tour their facilities. Upon special request, it maybe possible to arrange researchers to give specific talks.

Notes: