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On the cover

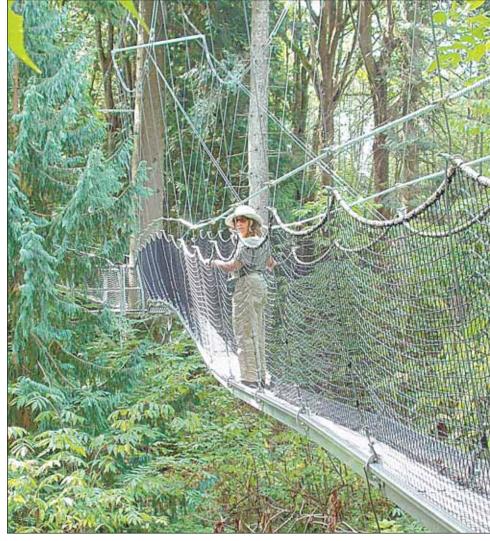
Floral designer Clara Putlitz filled a brown crock that belonged to Mary Hull's grandmother with sunflowers, fall mums and red fuchsias to accent a garden book in Hull's kitchen for last weekend's AAUW Kitchen Tour. We picked the pretty fall arrangement for our cover. See story on page 4.

At right, columnist Rachel Winters tentatively traverses the Canopy Walk almost 18 feet above the ground at the University of British Columbia's Botanical Garden to get a close-up view

Below, Winters' grandchildren, 4-year-old Makenna Winters and 9-year-old Liam Winters, join Liam's friend, Mohab Mundadi, as they charge across the canopy.

of mosses, lichens and insects that live in the tree tops.





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landscaping. This would be a great two-family set-up. District 7 schools. #52905945 **\$295,000**

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Aerial adventure

Enjoy BC's canopy walkway

ikes! I love being out in nature, and trees are my best friends. But traversing a narrow steel walkway with holes so big I can look down and realize I'm nearly 18 feet off the ground challenges my botanical fortitude.

When hiking with

The Constant Gardener

Rachel Winters

friends across a creek on a log, I'm the one who falls into the water. I blame my lack of balance on parents, who wouldn't let me take ballet when I was 10. They wanted me to play the violin.

This fall, I put my squeamishness to the test on the Greenheart Canopy Walkway, a new addition at the University of British Columbia Botanical

Garden

It's Vancouver's newest eco-adventure for all ages and abilities — part of a global

trend of responsible nature tourism that promotes and protects nature, leaving a minimum footprint on the environment.

I have to admit it was pretty amazing being up in the tree tops. I'm sure it's quite safe. There's sturdy netting along the sides and a handrail all the way.

The walkway spans 1,010 feet and rises to 17.5 feet in the forest canopy. Eight platforms surround huge old red cedars with nine suspended steel bridges connecting them. Visitors get a close-up view of the mosses, lichens, birds and insects that live in the tree tops. A motorized wheelchair makes the walkway accessible to people with disabilities.

The aerial trail system is built with sustainable construction technology.

Walkways are attached to trees by a patented "tree hugger" system of interlaced steel cables that expand as trees grow.

To "kid-test" it, my son Jonah and I took my 9-year-old grandson Liam, his best friend Mohab Mundadi, and grand-

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

daughter McKenna, aged 4. The kids were unanimous in their approval and did the canopy walk twice. McKenna wanted to go a third time.

Some guided tours have an educational focus. Ethnobotany — how Canada's first nations people used their native plants, particularly majestic red cedars (Thuja occidentalis), for poles, canoes, baskets, hats and clothing is a focus. Guides point out lichens and mosses in the tree canopy, as well as critters that live there.

The day we visited, a group of music students from UBC performed opera arias on one of the canopy platforms for the audience below.

The 75-acre Botanical Garden is a horticultural preserve that benefits from Vancouver's moderate coastal climate. Plant collections from around the world focus on Asian species of trees and shrubs including maples and rhododendrons.

The kids really enjoyed the Food Garden, a living demonstration of more than 100 varieties of trained fruit trees and unusual vegetable varieties. After harvest, they are donated to local charities. But, how can you keep kids from munching on a few blueberries?

The Physic Garden, based on a 16th century Dutch engraving, is enclosed in a yew hedge. Twelve concentric beds encircle a sundial and showcase traditional medicinal plants from medieval Europe.

Ponds, alpine gardens, rock gardens and British Columbia's native plants also have their spots.

You can easily spend the whole day at the UBC Botanical Garden. Open year around, it's at 6804 S.W. Marine Drive in Vancouver. Cost for the Canopy Walk is \$20 for adults, \$16 for seniors, \$14 for youth ages 13 to 17, \$6 for children ages 5 to 12. The family rate is \$36. These rates include admission to the garden.

If you are heading to Vancouver this fall, or for the Winter Olympics in February, plan to take in this new eco-attraction.

I wonder what the canopy walk is like in a hearty winter storm, with lots of wind and driving rain. Double yikes!! **HG**

— Rachel Winters is a Rogue Community College horticulture instructor who owns Siskiyou Gardens, a small Grants Pass nursery specializing in bonsai, unusual trees and shrubs. She can be reached at 476-6243 or at rachel@siskiyougardens.com.

Explore exotic plants with Hinkley

Explorer's Garden

SHRUBS AND VINES

uthor Daniel Hinkley is lauded as the Indiana Jones of plant hunters. The paperback release of his book, "The Explorer's Garden: Rare and Unusual Perennials," gives plant enthusiasts a chance to absorb the beauty of plants from as far away as Nepal without leaving the comfort of their armchairs.

"Hinkley is in the old breed of plant-

hunter," according to a Milwaukee Journal Sentinel review of the book. "One who hoofs about the globe with little more than a trowel and a trusty leather carryall to hold his botanic treasures."

Hinkley, founder of Heronswood Nursery in Kingston, Wash., has left no stone unturned in his worldwide search for rare plants that people can grow in their own backyards.

In the "Explorer's Garden," he presents the most outstanding shrubs and vines from his plant-collecting expeditions everywhere from Chile and Costa Rica to South Africa, China, India and Europe.

The book features little-known exotics such as the sapphire-berried dichroas and

vermilion-flowered Desfontainea spinosa (Chilean holly). It also includes more familiar plants, such as witch hazels, hydrangeas and sassafras.

The book has received the American Horticultural Society Book Award and was the New York Times Editor's Choice for Best Book About Gardening.

Illustrated with photos taken by Hinkley

and Lynne Harrison, the paperback edition includes a new preface by the author and an updated list of sources for plant material.

Hinkley grew up in Michigan, where he studied horticulture before moving to Washington for college. He writes for several horticultural publications and is in high demand as a public

speaker.

Home decorating and garden maven Martha Stewart praised the book, saying, "Dan writes beautifully on the subjects he has mastered so throughly."

The book costs \$24.95 and is available online at www.timberpress.com. **HG**

Stacy D. Stumbo





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