



Denman Conservancy Association

NEWSLETTER

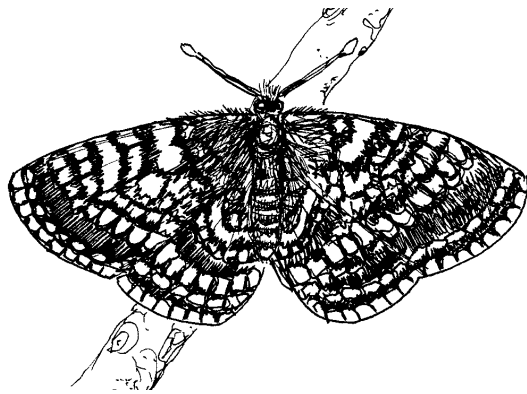
P.O. Box 60, Denman Island, B.C. V0R 1T0

April 2009

Andrew Fyson, Land Manager

Andrew's contract as DCA Land Manager has been renewed for another year. Inspired by his father's love of nature, Andrew studied botany at Oxford and earned a PhD at the University of Dundee. After years of experience in biological research and teaching in Canada, Germany, and the U.K, he moved to Denman Island in 2005 to start something very different. His first love is nature and understanding how organisms live together and with their environment (ecology). Through the DCA, Andrew has been able to help protect our precious island ecosystems and also to spread enthusiasm for nature by outreach activities.

Recently Andrew asked John Isbister to use his backhoe to block vehicle access to an old logging road on the Settlement Lands. John generously donated his (and his machine's) time for this vital service. Thank you John.



Taylor's Checkerspot

by Peter Karsten

DCA's Rare Meadow Species Stewardship Program

The owners of eleven properties on Denman Island totalling over 1000 acres have signed pledges to steward our rare meadow species.

Checkerspots will be flying again from early May to mid-June. The earliest sighting in 2008 was 8 May.

Please report your sightings to:

Jenny Balke 250 335 2151 or

Andrew Fyson 250 335 9047

Our Classic Home & Garden Tour May 9 & 10

The excitement is palpable. Requests for tickets came before they were even printed and have been selling at a good pace. The home/garden owners are pouring heart, soul and sweat into preparations for over 1,000 visitors. Hats off to Jimmy Tait, Mikell and Toby Callahan, Jean Cockburn and Jack Mounce, Judy and Gale Stephen, Yoshi and Susan-Marie Yoshihara, Andrew Fyson and Robert Newton, Daniel Terry, Linda and John Mather, Veronica Timmons, John Tallerino and Marc Randall.

The first stop on the Tour is our Community Hall where Denman Seniors and Museum Society are transforming the Back Hall into an **English-style pub, licensed!** They'll feature a ploughman's lunch with vegan option and beer--something for everyone from 11 am to 3 pm. Denman Island Emergency Services will be behind the dessert table with luscious sweets, coffee and tea. Dessert donations may be dropped off at the Hall either morning.

In further readiness for the big weekend a **workbee** will be held at John Tallerino and Marc Randall's, 4920-B Lacon Road, **Saturday, May 2 at 10:30 a.m.** The guys need help moving some piles, strong bodies and wheelbarrows welcome.

The other date to note is Wednesday, May 6 when **Jimmy Tait** requests all kind souls who potted up plants for the sale to deliver those plants to her home. If you are unable to deliver Deryn Buchan (phone is 335-0754) has graciously offered to pick up your plant donations. It would be most helpful if you tag your plants with their name, Latin or otherwise. Jimmy also requests donations of black plastic trays that could carry several plants. Many thanks for your generosity.

Tickets are available at: Abraxas Books, Denman Craft Shop and Denman General Store, still for the remarkable price of \$15.00. We've been advised that other Tours' tickets go for between \$20 and \$30. Whether you are part of the 150+ volunteer team or attending the Tour, Mothers Day weekend promises to be a fabulous time of community activity.

Directors for 2009

Stacey Armstrong - Secretary
Annie Corddry
David Critchley
John Dillon
Patrick Fawkes
Carol Freeman
David Freeman - Treasurer
DD Fuchs
Denise MacKean
John Millen – Co-chair
J Thornton – Co-chair
Susan-Marie Yoshihara

Walks and Talks

The next nature walk in our series will be **Birdsongs** with **Jenny Balke** and **Patrick Fawkes** on **May 9**, from 9 to 11am; meet at the Denman Old School.

On **May 16**, **Hamish Kimmins** will lead a walk entitled Teenage Forests to show us what is happening in the forest and how it will mature.

There will be a **Medicinal Plant** walk with **Sheelagh Mackenzie**, and a **Low Tide** walk with **John Tayless in June**.

We will also have guided walks in the Settlement Lands, Lindsay Dickson, Morrison Marsh, and Central Park. Please watch the Grapevine for dates of these events.

Cemetery Extension?

The DCA Board has agreed to open discussions about providing Central Park land at the corner of Denman and North Central Road for an extension of the existing cemetery that is just across the road. Louise Bell has investigated the steps needed to achieve the required rezoning and certification for cemetery purposes. The Board is very interested in the possibility of 'Green Burials'.

Looking at the length of Louise's list of "steps needed" we are all just hoping to still be alive to see the end of the process!

Conservancy at the Saturday Market

Opening Day is May 16th. Come to say hello, update your membership or buy a T-shirt for your summer wardrobe.

See you there Saturday May 16th.

DCA info at: www.denmanconservancy.org.
Or DCA Blog:
<http://denmanconservancy.blogspot.com>

More than Usual at the AGM

The AGM was held on Monday 23 March. A special treat for members was the photo presentation by Jenny Balke and Andrew Fyson. Andrew's close-up photos of the Checkerspot butterfly laying eggs were breathtaking.

As well as the usual reports and elections, DCA had two discussion topics on the Agenda.

First was the question of applying for renewal of the Direct Access Grant that DCA has received from the BC Gaming Commission. The debate was on the moral peril of accepting money raised by such dubious means. Some felt that funds raised from gambling should not be accepted as the result was to encourage the government in its promotion of gambling. Others believed that the DCA could put the funds to good use and it was little different from any other government money. A close vote gave a small majority in support of applying for renewal of the grant.

The second discussion arose from the completion of the Agreement to settle the Legal Case reported in our February Newsletter. Some members have felt that the Board has not been sufficiently supportive of the endeavours by Northlands to establish large areas of conservation land on their property at the North end of the Island. The Board has now agreed to hold discussions with Northlands representatives once the details of their latest proposal for rezoning of their land have been made public. A substantial majority of the members at the AGM supported the Board's position.

Horse Trail

As mentioned in our February Newsletter DCA wanted to have the trail from Pickles Road to Central Park open to horses. The problem was that the trail crossed Inner Island Nature Reserve where horses are not permitted, by the policy of the owner, Island Trust Fund.

The enthusiastic members of the newly formed Island Equines horse club turned out on a very rainy Saturday recently to clear the new trail, that mostly follows a section of old Logging Railway grade.



Northwest Salamander

by Peter Karsten

Contributors to this Newsletter: Carol, Jenny, John, Patrick, LeeAndra, Andrew.