



Denman Conservancy Association

NEWSLETTER

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

May 2008

Central Park

The DCA Central Park Committee and other volunteer helpers have been busy all winter planning and constructing a trail network which will encourage people to use this park. Mainly we are able to use routes that are well established from the old logging days.

Our major thrust was to improve the connector trail from the Old School to Pickles Road via Crown Land and the Inner Island Nature Reserve. This trail is now functional, signed and well used.

The main entrance to Central Park now boasts a large new sign. A small trail designed for off-road walking parallels Denman Road from the main entrance to the graveyard corner.

Trail signage is not final but should help guide walkers and we have maps with descriptive text at the sign opposite the Old School.

We plan an emergency vehicle entrance off North Central Road but otherwise no motorized vehicles are allowed in the Park.

A loop trail with a boardwalk over a wetland is in the planning stage for next Fall. We have received a Mountain Equipment Co-op grant to help with these trail improvements.

We are still paying off an interest-free mortgage on the property and fundraising continues towards this goal. Our second of five annual payments was made on April 1.

Come out, bring your friends and visitors and enjoy a walk in the park.

No Garden Tour?

It's true! There will be no Denman Island Home and Garden Tour in 2008. This event has been going non-stop for 17 years. DCA has decided to take 2008 off to refresh the popular tour. We plan that the renewed Home and Garden Tour will be back in 2009.

Contributors to this Newsletter: Jenny Balke, Laura Busheikin, Carol Freeman, Patrick Fawkes, Andrew Fyson, LeeAndra Jacobs, Denise MacKean, John Millen, Patti Willis, Susan-Marie Yoshihara.

Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly

The endangered Taylor's Checkerspot butterfly (In Canada known only from Denman Island at present) is expected to be flying from early May to early June. The butterfly's wings are about one and a half inches across and have an attractive black, orange and cream chequered pattern. They nectar on wild strawberries, hairy cat's ear flowers and daisies.



In April, the small dark caterpillars are most easily seen sunning or feeding (on Plantain or Speedwell) on trails in open meadow or shrubby areas associated with shallow wetlands. They may be found anywhere in such habitats. Note the row of 8 orange spots along the caterpillar's back!



Photos by Andrew Fyson

Observers have been out looking for the larvae, which have been found on a number of sites including in Central Park, the Settlement Lands and in the Railway Grade Marsh covenant area.

DCA's Annual General Meeting

Directors were re-elected at the AGM held on 3rd March. The current list of Directors and Officers is:

Sheila Carnegie
Annie Corddry
David Critchley
Patrick Fawkes
Carol Freeman
Dave Freeman, Treasurer
LeeAndra Jacobs
Denise MacKean, Secretary
John Millen, Co-Chair
J Thornton, Co-Chair
Susan-Marie Yoshihara

At the AGM retiring director John Tayless was thanked for his valuable service to the Conservancy cause.

John has been a great friend to Denman Island and to the Conservancy. John joined the Conservancy Board in 2007 to fill a vacancy. Of course, this was not the first time for John to enter the fray and serve on the Board as he had been a director from 1998 to 2002.

John's a pretty modest guy. How many of us knew that he has a PhD. in Marine Biology, was the curator of the Honolulu Aquarium, that he was the Vice President and Dean of North Island College for many years and acting president for two years?

When the Emperor of Japan visited the aquarium in Hawaii, John gave him a guided tour. The Emperor is a marine biologist and very interested in a type of fish called a gobi. John prepared a specimen of this fish for the emperor to take home with him.

John has lived all over the world: 3 years in Borneo, 4 years in Southeast Asia, 6 years on Pacific Islands and 3 years in the Caribbean. We Denman Islanders are fortunate because after living in all these fascinating and beautiful places, John discovered Denman Island and chose to live here.

John is responsible for creating the wonderful series of walks and talks that Patrick continues for the Conservancy. His annual herring talk is always a big hit and John is scheduled to lead a low-tide beach walk again this year. This time while on the Board John started the Natural History Committee.

Board member Carol Freeman shared a story that demonstrated John's special leadership skills. In 2002 John led an intrepid group of kayakers on an

excursion out into Lambert Channel to observe the sea lions sitting and barking on Norris Rocks as they waited for the herring run.

There were about 8 boats. All was going well until a motorboat spooked the sea lions. They slipped into the water in groups of about 15 to 30 and began swimming and circling the kayakers. John quickly got the kayakers to raft up and paddle slowly but resolutely around the top of the reef and then head to Heron Rocks and to shore. His calm and decisive leadership and problem solving kept the group safe.

Doug Olstead Award 2008

Francis Duchesne was the 2008 Doug Olstead Award recipient. Francis is in Grade 10 at Vanier. He is interested in outdoor activities such as biking and skiing. Watch for him at Recycle or helping out at other community events. Good Luck Francis in your future endeavours.

To other Denman teens: keep track of your volunteer activities and write to tell us about it. Address your letter to Denman Conservancy, Box 60, Denman Island, and you too may be the recipient of the Doug Olstead Award for community service in 2009.

Lindsay-Dickson Nature Reserve

The Islands Trust Fund (ITF) has owned the Lindsay-Dickson Nature Reserve (LDNR) since 2001. DCA serves as its Manager, and soon as its Covenant Holder. Over the past year, DCA and ITF have been working together to register a conservation covenant on the property's title to bind any future owners to protect Lindsay-Dickson's special features in perpetuity. Jenny Balke updated the environmental baseline study that serves as an appendix to the covenant document.

As some of LDNR is in the Agricultural Land Reserve, the placement of the covenant requires the approval of the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) who conducted a site inspection of the property in mid-March. Work on the covenant is on-going.

DCA has just been awarded a grant of \$5000 through the Invasive Alien Species Partnership Program of Environment Canada for outreach and education about invasive species using the shore line area of the Lindsay-Dickson N.R. as its principal demonstration site.

Morrison Marsh Nature Reserve

DCA has recently taken on the role of manager of this Reserve for the owner, Islands Trust Fund. We have started putting up signs and those who have seen the puzzling references to "Private Property" will be relieved to know we have arranged to get replacement signs that do not have this wording. There are fine walking trails through the Reserve connecting to Boyle Point Park and the adjacent block of Crown Land.

The next planned development is to create a proper entrance to the Reserve at the end of Greenhill Road. A sign and a new cleared trail will be installed. Presently the access crosses two private properties and the trail will have to be rerouted for several hundred meters to stay within the Reserve boundary. Those interested in helping with this work should contact a director to volunteer their services, or watch for advertised work parties.

Baillie Grant assists Young Denman Birders

The introductory bird study offered by DCA has been taken up enthusiastically. Denman youth will team up with experienced local birders and examine Denman bird life. The James L. Baillie Memorial Fund for Bird Research and Preservation is providing funds for binoculars, bird guides and field notebooks for the young participants. This program will involve at least five field visits beginning in May and there will be a presentation of projects to the public in mid-September.

Stop Press !

The Editor was wishfully thinking we would have space to include a map of that newly opened trail that takes us from Central Park, through the Crown land to Inner Island Nature Reserve coming out on Pickles Road about 100 metres north of the bridge across Pickles Marsh.

No such luck! But we are working on printing 'brochures' with trail maps for various locations on Denman. There should be some out by summer.

We can, however, report in this space the success of DCA's application for a grant from Environment Canada's Species at Risk program for work on the preservation of habitat for the Taylor's Checkerspot butterfly! Well done Jenny.

The Money is Out There

That is my basic belief about fundraising: the money is out there; the challenge – and the fun – is in figuring out how to get it.

At the beginning of 2008 I signed a contract with DCA to research funding possibilities and write grant proposals, thus setting myself up for a fun challenge. At first I wasn't so sure where the "challenge" part it was supposed to come from. After all, DCA has a proven track record of astonishingly successful fundraising. Wouldn't I just be following in the well-worn footsteps of the past?

Over the past four months I've learned that DCA is an organization in transition. Due in part to the success of past fundraising, DCA has grown tremendously, and its funding needs have changed. With nine properties equalling 772 acres under its care, land management has become a priority, rather than land acquisition.

As the organization grows, so do needs for an expanded office and regular staff. Also, DCA's ongoing educational work continues, from newsletters such as this to the Walks and Talks program. As well, ideas for new projects are percolating all the time. As a result, funding needs and fundraising tactics must be realigned. So, although I am very much relying on past work, I am also part of change, with all its challenges and excitements.

One sign of a healthy non-profit organization is diversity of funding sources; DCA achieves that through combining institutional fundraising with the work done by its extremely effective fundraising committee, its active membership and its many community volunteers.

Thus far, I'm happy to report on the success of our application to Mountain Equipment Co-op for \$5338 to finance trail development in Central Park. This will fund the creation of a couple of new looped trails, including 100 feet of boardwalk over Central Swale as well as a path leading to a lookout bench with a view looking over the northern extension of the Graveyard Marsh towards the Beaufort Range. I look forward to future successes.

Laura Busheikin

Saturday Farmers Market at the Old School
Begins May 17th (Long Weekend)
Visit the DCA Booth for
Memberships, Tee Shirts, Cards, Trail maps

Denman Conservancy Association

**Request for Expressions of Interest for
Biological Services**

DCA wishes to contract out biological surveys related to its management of land and covenants over 9 properties on Denman Island. Interested parties should provide information supporting their qualifications and experience by 10 May 2008 to:

Secretary, DCA
PO Box 60
Denman Island B.C. V0R 1T0

For further information contact:
John Millen - 2868 or
Patti Willis - 0351

Forthcoming Walks and Talks

Organized by *Patrick Fawkes*

- May 10: **Birdsong Outing**, Jenny Balke, Patrick Fawkes
- May 17: **Settlement Lands Walk**, Andrew Fyson, Patrick & others
- May 24: **Tree Island**, Andrew Fyson, Jenny Balk & others
- May 31: **Central Park to Pickles Walk**, Andrew Fyson, Annie Corddy
- June 7 : **Medicinal Plant Outing**, Sheelagh Mackenzie
- July 5 : **Low Tide Walk**, John Tayless

Also planned are walks through Lindsey Dickson Nature Reserve and the Railway Marsh covenant area and a forest walk with Hamish Kimmins. Watch for announcements in the Grapevine!

A Blog for all Seasons

We have created a Blog dedicated to Nature observations on the Island. You can find the Blog at denmanconservancy.blogspot.com or use the link from the web site: www.denmanis.bc.ca/conserv. DCA members are invited to contribute to this Blog. Members please e-mail or phone John Millen or Jenny Balke to be registered and receive instructions on how to make your own 'Posts'.

Caring for the Conservancy Legacy

“In Perpetuity”

“Isn’t that a long time?”

“Yes! A very long time, it means forever.”

The hard work by Denman Conservancy volunteers over the past 18 years has resulted in the protection of natural ecosystems on nine Denman properties by covenants and/or ownership. DCA functions as a Land Trust with responsibility for perpetual management of these wonderful places.

Recently the DCA Board has been focussing on establishing good management practices for all these properties. This work provides interesting jobs for Denman residents and increases the proportion of our funds that must be spent on operations rather than on land acquisition.

To contribute a stable source of funds for DCA we established an Endowment Fund last year with The Vancouver Foundation. A good portion of our endowment Fund came from the bequest we received in 2006 from the Boxall estate. We invite our members and supporters to add to this fund over time, to ensure the continued success of DCA in managing our Denman Island special places in perpetuity.

One way to make such a gift is a charitable bequest, a gift that is made through your Will. You can choose to leave DCA a predetermined sum of money or a percentage of your estate. A bequest is a way to support DCA while achieving significant tax savings for your estate.

You can also make direct contributions to the Endowment Fund at any time. A charitable receipt will be issued.

Land and Covenant Manager

Andrew Fyson has agreed to serve DCA as part time manager for our properties and liaison with owners of our covenanted land.

Andrew studied botany at Oxford and earned a PhD at the University of Dundee. After years of experience in research and teaching in Canada, Germany, and the U.K, he moved to Denman Island in 2005 to start something very different: “To grow my own food, immerse myself in a rich and fascinating environment, and to find a new path for examining nature through art.”

Saturday, June 14

SPRING SWING FLING

Saturday, June 14

Exotic Drinks, Popas – from 6 pm

Swing Dance Lessons with Lily Harnet, and DJ Ken Osmanich
Fundraiser for DCA, at the Hall