



**Denman Conservancy Association**

# NEWSLETTER

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

February 2014

**NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS**  
**the**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**of DENMAN CONSERVANCY ASSOCIATION**  
**will take place**

**7:30 pm on Monday, February 24, 2014**

**in the Back Hall**

The AGM business will include:

- ❖ The Directors' Report, Treasurer's Report, Committee Reports
- ❖ A Special Resolution to approve an amendment to the Bylaws to clarify the membership rules
- ❖ Election of Directors
- ❖ Slide show of the year's stewardship of the Conservancy's owned and managed lands.

## **New Roof for the Marcus Isbister Old School and Denman's Bats**

*by Jenny Balke & Annie Corddry, DCA Directors*

Work on the roof-repair-project for the Old School will soon begin! Most of our bats are currently away hibernating. They often go far from Denman, but hopefully will be returning with the warm weather. Meanwhile, the Conservancy and the Old School Committee will do our best to ensure that the very significant maternal colony of bats will continue to have access to the Old School's attic in the summer to birth and raise their young.

The Old School's roof covers a large attic area that for many decades of summers has provided critical maternal habitat for several important species of bats. Some of our 1000 bats may live as long as 40+ years, so they've been here awhile! They probably know Central Park, the Old School

area and their neighbours very well. They also help us out. One of our bat species, the now rare little brown bat, has been shown to consume as many as 600 mosquitoes in one hour. Thus all around the Old School area, these bats are foraging nightly for their weight in bugs, and are certainly helping both gardeners and all those enjoying the out of doors.

The Conservancy has several bat-attic projects proposed for the Old School. Our first, is flooring the attic before the bats return, to help to keep their area separate from that of the humans. If you have an interest in saving our bats, the Conservancy would welcome any donations (tax deductible) to help with this and our other bat projects. As well, we sincerely would welcome the help of any builders, interested in bats, who are willing to assist in putting plywood down over the attic floor joists. Please contact Doug Bell (335-2576), Annie Corddry (335-2762) or Jenny Balke (335-2151).

## AGM Business Monday 24 February 2014

### Membership

A current membership is required in order to vote on DCA society matters. Volunteers will be available before the meeting commencement to accept a minimum \$10 donation from those who wish to renew their membership.

### Special Resolution: membership

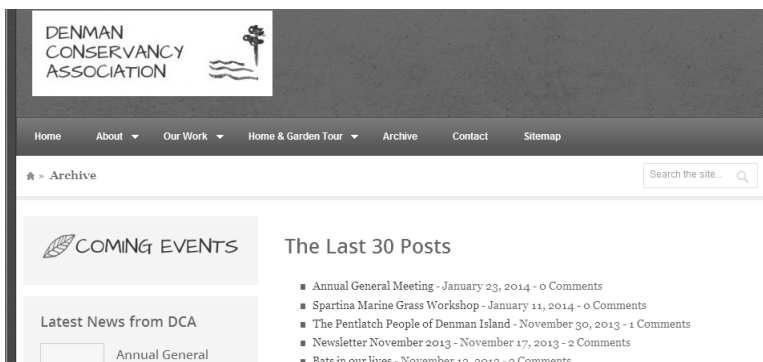
by John Millen, DCA Co-Chair

A by-law task Force has worked hard to update our membership rules. Changes to the membership rules are proposed for adoption by Special Resolution at the AGM. These changes are intended to:

- clarify meaning,
- correct grammar,
- ensure gender neutrality,
- allow the Board of Directors to set the fee for life membership (formerly set at \$2000), and
- define when members are/are not in good standing and when a person ceases to be a member.

Copies of the membership section of the by-laws with the proposed changes may be obtained by contacting a Director and will be available at the meeting. The existing bylaws are available on the Denman Conservancy web site [www.denmanconservancy.org](http://www.denmanconservancy.org). Go to the 'about' page and scroll well down to find a link under the heading: Constitution, Bylaws & Policies.

For general information about DCA check our website: [www.denmanconservancy.org](http://www.denmanconservancy.org)



## Courtesy Note to all Central Park Users

Please be aware of and be generous towards other users while on any of the pleasant routes in Central Park.

Within Central Park:

- A "Path" means this route is for *pedestrian use only*.
- A "Trail" means this route is for *multi-use*. Multi-use means for walkers, bicyclists, and equestrians, with a request that everyone please use good trail-sharing etiquette.
- If you are walking your dog please pick up after them.

Thank you!



## Taylor's Checkerspot Butterflies and the DCA - UpDate

by Andrew Fyson, DCA Land manager.

As many of you know, Denman Island is home to the only known breeding populations of the Taylor's checkerspot (*Euphydryx editha taylori*) butterfly in Canada. Populations of the butterfly have been declining in size since 2008 and very few larvae or adults were observed last year. In 2013, the DCA applied for a one year federal grant under the HSP program of the Ministry of the Environment to develop and implement conservation measures for the butterfly on DCA and other private lands. DCA was informed in the summer that it had not been awarded the grant. However, at the end of the year, we were told that some money was available and asked if could the DCA carry the program out by the end of March (yikes!)? Naturally, DCA did not turn the money down and frantic work will ensue! This will include management plans for Taylor's checkerspots on two small areas on DCA properties and another private property. In addition a manual of land management for the long-term survival of the butterfly will be compiled. The DCA work will be coordinated with work carried out by the Taylor's checkerspot Working Group and BC Parks in the new provincial park in the northern part of the island.

**Margaret Ida Pauline Sizmann**  
**October 11, 1920-October 21, 2012**

*by Susan-Marie Yoshihara, DCA Secretary*

Long time Denman resident Margaret Sizmann was writing her will. She knew that she had only a short time left to live but she had no heirs to leave her estate to.

Margaret was born Margaret Thomson in Riga, Latvia. Margaret came to Canada by ocean liner in 1953 with her husband, a Mr. Sizmann. The marriage ended and Margaret, always a fiercely independent lady, went to work as a seamstress and then found long-term employment with an engineering firm becoming a draftsman and designer of pipes for pulp mills. She lived in West Vancouver in those days.

Margaret became a resident of Denman in 1980. She was an avid gardener and participated in one of the early Home and Garden Tours. She enjoyed traveling in her camper van, on her own, usually taking a dog or two with her, and going as far south as the Baja peninsula.

Margaret had always been concerned about the welfare of animals. She had her estate divided between five charities: 2 charities focused on animal welfare, the Red Cross, the Georgia Strait Alliance, and the Denman Conservancy Association. Margaret wanted her bequest to DCA to be used for animal habitat. She told a friend before she died, "you tell them that this isn't for lawyers and accountants. This is for animal habitat!"

Margaret's is the second large bequest left to DCA. In 2005 DCA received a large sum from a generous off-island donor. That money was used for DCA's Central Park property. Margaret's generous bequest will be added to DCA's restricted fund for acquisitions.

The DCA appreciated Margaret's commitment and support for our stewardship program in the 1990's. Her recent bequest continues her legacy!

**Thank you Margaret!**

Conservancy supports Field Trip  
for Peter Karsten's  
SPARKS Project  
"Marine Life 2014"



**Community School students visit Deep Bay Field Station. January 27<sup>th</sup>**

*Adapted from information generously submitted by Peter Karsten*

The DCA provided funding for a special tour organized by Peter Karsten and given by the



education coordinator of the Field Station to students enrolled in a SPARKS - Marine Life

project. This trip is part of an eight week program with the overall goals to:

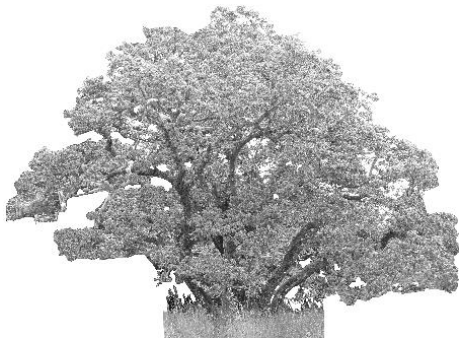
- create greater awareness and understanding of the marine life system;
- learn about the relationships of humans connected to the marine environment;
- learn about marine products and product harvesting techniques;
- look at threats to the wellbeing of the marine life system;
- take responsibility for the protection of the marine life systems;
- become a steward and advocate for the conservation of the marine life system.

Peter's "Marine Life 2014" project opened with a lecture by John Tayless about marine biodiversity, followed by the presentation at the Field Station.



Next will be a visit to a working shellfish tenure, a mini beach cleanup, class room experiments mimicking harvesting of geoducks and ending with a show and tell with an invitation to Islanders to see what the students have learned an accomplished.

**Thank you Peter!**



## Garry Oak Garden Project - Update

by Jenny Balke, DCA Co-Chair

The spring brings new growth and the DCA's Garry oak garden project will be checking to see how the mini-gardens are doing. We want to remind folks that any lawns, particularly on the shoreline, could be Garry oak meadows with open grassy space, lovely slow-growing deciduous oak trees and gorgeous spring meadow flowers to enliven the heart. By getting started and planting Garry oaks, we are learning what could work, where! Photos of these gardens and tips for Garry oak gardeners will be posted on the Conservancy's web site in May and June.



Pretty but so invasive!

## *Spartina densiflora* Invasive Marine Grass – Update

by Jenny Balke, DCA Co-Chair

On January 30<sup>th</sup> Dan Buffett, the Conservation Program Coordinator for Ducks Unlimited and Chair of the BC *Spartina* Working Group conducted a workshop on Denman about our invasive marine grass, Dense flower Cordgrass or *Spartina densiflora*. Dan reviewed how the *Spartina* species

have spread all along the western North American coastline. He also showed the ecosystem damage

that resulted as the *Spartina* replaced the existing mudflat habitat. Dan concluded with how the collaborative international *Spartina* control program has been very effectively removing this grass. So far, the Denman *Spartina* Project has removed almost 8000kg of plant material or almost half of the plants from Denman's shoreline. Plans are to remove the remainder this spring. Reports detailing the Denman and Vancouver Island *Spartina* 2013 work will be placed in the Denman Library.

## Reminders



## Volunteers & Donations welcome for the Old School-Roof Bat Project

Please contact Doug Bell (335-2576), Annie Corddry (335-2762) or Jenny Balke (335-2151)

&

Please check out our fun

# AGM!!

**7:30 pm on Monday**

**February 24, 2014**

**in the Back Hall**

Consider joining the board!

Best Wishes for Spring!

Please contact the Conservancy's Land Manager Andrew Fyson 335 9047, if you notice anything that may need attention in Central Park or any of the other DCA properties.

Thank you for being great stewards!