



## Denman Conservancy Association

# NEWSLETTER

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

October 2014

### A DCA Management Plan for the Settlement Lands

DCA's Settlement Lands property is located on either side of Central Road. It includes all of the clear-cut between the forests south of Chickadee Lake and north of Inner Island Nature Reserve. It is 160 acres of land with a broad diversity of habitats including cliffs, forests and wetlands. This land was obtained by DCA in 2006 from the settlement of the legal case against 4064 Investments Ltd. Though it was logged in 1999-2000, it hosts both rare and locally uncommon species. A portion of the site adjacent to Pickles Beaver Pond remains relatively undisturbed and this riparian area retains ecologically valuable old growth trees. The two large wetlands, Pickles Beaver Pond and the swale are components of the headwaters of Denman's largest salmon stream, Beadnell Creek. The northeast corner of the property is lowland adjacent to the Swale Farm. Here an orchard of old apples trees and sections of split rail fence remain from the original homestead.

This property provides a key link in a continuous chain of protected areas extending from Central Park on Denman Road to the north end of the new Denman Provincial Park.

A DCA Committee has started work on a Management Plan for this property. A community consultation process will be held next year, before the Plan is adopted.

#### **Bird Photography: Dennis Forsyth**

10am – 12 noon Conservancy Room, Old School  
Saturday November 15.....See over for more details.

### Home and Garden Tour Preview

DCA is delighted to announce that Autumn White is returning as tour coordinator for the 2015 Home and Garden Tour and that Laura Busheikin will once again be the media coordinator. Autumn was busy this past June viewing many of Denman's lovely and unique gardens when they were in full bloom and she has already confirmed six properties for next summer's tour. New to the tour next year will be Selwyn and Pat Jones' Corilan Vineyards and the homes of Debbie and Frank Frketich and Anne and Rick Paisley.

Autumn has four other properties that are "maybes" so she is still open to all suggestions. If you have an interesting home and/or garden and a willingness to be part of one of BC's top horticultural events, please give Autumn a call. Autumn can be reached at 335-2148. The dates for the 2015 tour are June 13 and 14.



*Selfie: Andrew Fyson – Land Manager*

### The Land Manager- What does he really do?

You have probably seen me beating around in the bush, lugging around my really heavy camera bag. I am probably monitoring one of the many properties owned or managed by the DCA. Having been employed in this task for 8 years, I am getting to know the lands a little. Every trip is an adventure, even when it should be routine monitoring to observe the effects of a storm or check the boundary of a Conservation Covenant. Being a biologist and keen photographer, I love to go out in the field, rain or shine, fog or wind. Every year, I slow down a little and walk into more trees and holes, but I am learning all the time what to look for, who to call. There is nothing better for mind and body than a walk in Winter Wren Wood (owned by DCA) along Railway Marsh (DCA covenant) through Lindsay Dickson forest (ITF owned, DCA managed) or along the foot of Komas Bluff (DCA Covenant). If you see something interesting, a strange beast, a fallen tree, a flood or something that shouldn't be there, then give me a call (250-335-9047).

P.S. I also write reports and attend many meetings etc.....Andrew.

## DCA Walks & Talks

Denman Island's first annual Mushroom Festival got the 2014 – 15 Conservancy Walks and Talks season off to a roaring start on the weekend of October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Upwards of 90 people packed the Back Hall for renowned mycologist Andrew MacKinnon's lecture on Friday evening. The following day a crowd of island mushroom enthusiasts followed Andy on a mushroom walk at the Inner Island Nature Reserve on Pickles Road. The Conservancy is hoping to make the 2015 Mushroom Festival an even bigger event, complete with mushroom cookery, and we are planning to corral Andrew for what we hope will be an annual visit.



Andy MacKinnon

**On November 15<sup>th</sup>**, 10 am – 12 noon Conservancy Room, Old School, Island photographer Dennis Forsyth will present a slide show and workshop on bird photography. This is a must for both birders and nature photographers alike. Following his slideshow Dennis will discuss techniques for making better images of birds (and other wildlife) and answer questions about equipment, techniques and basic camera functions.

December has the annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count. The largest Citizen Science effort in the world, the count has been running since 1900. Participation in the count is a winter tradition all over North America. Denman's part in this event is co-ordinated by island biologist Mike Morrell. Although this is a "working count", it is a wonderful opportunity for beginner birders to join experienced observers in learning more about winter birds. The count will happen during the Christmas season - date and locations TBA. For more information, or to join up, contact Mike at [mmorrell@uniserve.com](mailto:mmorrell@uniserve.com) or 335-0964.

In January Mike Morrell will give a slide show and lead a field trip on winter waterbirds. The slide show will cover birds commonly seen on our surrounding seas. He will also present some of the results of 15 years of monthly

waterbird counts in the Fillongly/Cable Beach area. The field trip will give participants the chance to see and identify the birds at first hand. Watch for the announcement of full details.

Staying with the bird theme, in February Islander Peter Karsten will show us the ins and outs of building bird nest boxes. We often hear that habitat loss is one of the causes of declines in bird species. One way to remedy this is to build houses for birds that normally nest in holes or other safe, sheltered places. The loss of Old-growth forest with its ancient trees and snags has been particularly hard on cavity nesting birds. Come out and enhance our nesting bird population by building your bird neighbours a safe place to nest.

We are also planning for Walks and Talks on the following topics: Enhancing Pollinators in your own Backyard (butterflies and bees); The Wonders of the Herring Run; Wild Medicinal Herbs on Denman Island; Bird Talk - Who said What; and Bats in the Belfry. Dates and locations TBA.

## The Cross Island Trail

The Cross Island Trail section across from the Old School moves in and out of the Conservancy's Central Park property. This design was to save the parking area next to the road, as well as to conserve the large trees on the remainder of the highway's road allowance. The Conservancy has agreed to an easement for this to occur. Board members participated in reviewing the trail route and arranged monitoring of this portion of the trail's construction. Prior to construction, many native plants including sword ferns, rattlesnake plantain orchids, twinflower and vanilla leaf were salvaged from the trail's surface.

Winding in and around the large trees with its edge of retained-mosses and flowering plants, this scenic area contributes a hint of the feeling and beauty of forest walks. As the route heads east down the hill, the trail emerges to the road edge and then crosses the Graveyard Marsh wetland. In this portion, the construction included the addition of large rocks and a geotextile mesh to protect the wetland from the sand and gravel of the trail. In addition, the marsh's culvert has new protection and keeps the water flowing. Then the trail heads up the hill alongside the new Denman Island cemetery and on down to Swan Road.

### **Contributors to this Newsletter:**

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