



Denman Conservancy Association

NEWSLETTER

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

February 2015

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of **DENMAN CONSERVANCY ASSOCIATION**

7:30 pm on Monday, February 23, 2015
in the **Back Hall**

The AGM business will include:

- ❖ The Directors' Report, Treasurer's Report, Committee Reports
- ❖ Election of Directors
- ❖ Slide show of the Conservancy's activities on its owned and managed lands.

Building Bird Nest Boxes

On Saturday February 21, from 10 am to Noon, Peter Karsten will lead a workshop on building bird nest boxes in the Conservancy Room of the Old School.

Peter is a Denman resident and a renowned wildlife expert. Former director of the Calgary Zoo, Peter is an expert in bird nest box design, maintenance, and use.

Peter now breeds the endangered Pekin Robin and its insect food to boot here on Denman, as well as successfully captive rearing Denman's endangered Checkerspot butterfly. Participants will be able to make a red cedar bird nest box under Peter's tutelage using materials and tools provided at the event. The boxes are suitable for a wide variety of cavity nesters. Make one for your parents, with your children or just for yourself. Reservations are not needed but to ensure we have enough materials on hand, consider reserving a spot by calling 250-335-1009 in advance.

North Island College DCA Bursary

Each year DCA sponsors a bursary given to a North Island College science student. The bursary is in memory of David Fraser, a founding director of DCA. This year's bursary was awarded to James Pearson who plans to become a meteorologist upon graduation.

Morrison Marsh Stewardship Group

The Denman Conservancy Association (DCA) spent many years helping to secure the habitat surrounding the southern tip of Morrison Marsh as a protected Nature Reserve. A dramatic view of this remarkable marsh is possible from McFarlane Road as it crosses between Morrison Marsh to the south and Windy Marsh to the north. Morrison is a long shallow marsh draining from the southern headwaters in Boyle Point Provincial Park. The majority of the marsh from the northern outlet at McFarlane Rd is surrounded by private property; while most of the aquatic portion is under Crown or Islands Trust conservation protection. The southern tip and inlet is in the protected Nature Reserve providing secluded breeding and foraging habitat for many species.

Morrison Marsh Nature Reserve is the property of the Islands Trust Fund (ITF) and is managed by the DCA. As stewards, neighbours and others interested in DCA owned and managed lands can play an important role in securing conservation values. The Morrison Marsh Group has recently formed and if there are others interested in joining this group or in helping with stewardship tasks in this Nature Reserve, please contact the DCA Lands Manager Andrew Fyson 335-9047 or Jenny Balke 335-2151.

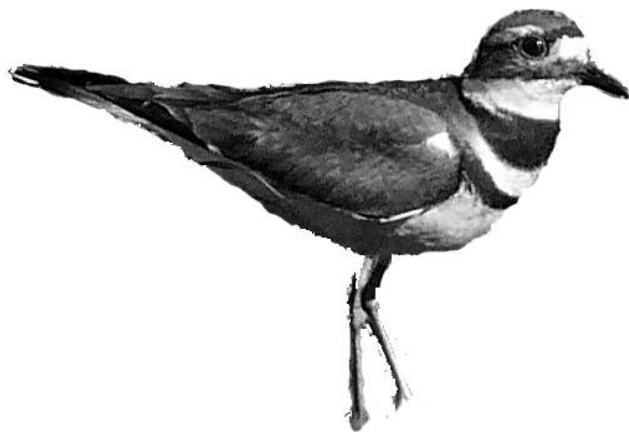
Conservancy Birds of 2015!

At least 175 bird species enjoy habitats on Denman Island and our immediate surrounding ocean. While many islanders have expressed a strong interest getting acquainted with our avian neighbours, the sheer number of species presents a somewhat daunting task. So one answer is to focus on 5 species each year ...at least that's job-security for years to come!

Bird species from a spectrum of habitats were selected... some very common, others less so. But all have intriguing interests, behaviours and voices of their own. This year we will explore the lives of the

- American robin
- Killdeer
- Marsh wren
- Surf scoter
- Yellow-rumped warbler.

Please stay tuned!

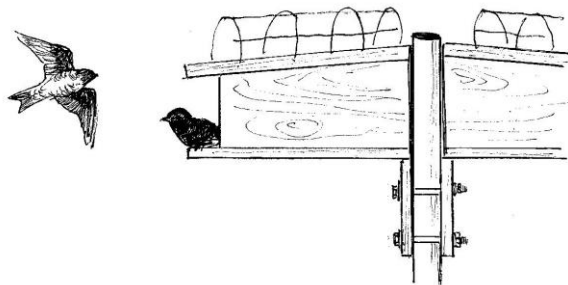


Killdeer

Purple Martin's Nestboxes

BC Ferries has put the 4 wooden pilings back alongside the new cable ferry off-lanes of Denman West terminal for the purple martin's nest boxes. The purple martin folks plan to put new houses up before the martins return in March. Peter Karsten is organizing this work.

DCA has agreed to pay for materials for the Purple Martin's nest boxes.



Yellow-rumped warbler

Membership Application Form

DENMAN CONSERVANCY ASSOCIATION

Membership is \$10 per person per calendar year. Many members combine their membership and annual donation in a lump sum. A charitable tax receipt will be issued for all donations of \$10 or more.

To ensure you receive our notices about meetings, programs etc., **please provide your email address.**

I wish to make a tax-deductible contribution of \$ _____

Name: _____ Tel: _____ e-mail _____

Mailing Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

The Denman Conservancy Association has charitable tax status.

Please make cheques payable to:

Denman Conservancy Association,

Mail to: PO Box 60, Denman Island, BC, V0R 1T0

Home and Garden Tour 2015

Since our last newsletter, our Home and Garden Tour Media Coordinator Laura Busheikin was elected to the Islands Trust Executive Committee. We congratulate Laura on her new position but unfortunately with this added workload Laura feels she cannot continue as the Media Coordinator for the Tour. We are so sad to lose Laura as she has brought years of enthusiasm and expertise to past tours, but the good news is that she is still willing to help in some capacity and this year will again organize the free draw for cyclists. Last year 108 people entered this draw which means at least that many people cycled from garden to garden. This year we hope even more people will choose this healthy, economical and environmentally friendly way to visit the unique homes and gardens of Denman Island. Another piece of good news is that we are pleased to announce that Katarina Meglic will be taking on the Media Coordinator role. Katarina has been a garden tour volunteer in the past and was the Marketing Coordinator for the Denman Studio Tour in 2014. We are delighted to welcome Katarina to the Home and Garden Tour Team.

More good news from Autumn: Phyllis Brewer has agreed to open her exquisite garden for the tour; Mike and Selinda White once again will welcome the tour crowds to their lovely home and garden and Michael and Kathy Rapati will host the volunteer after party. Already the 2015 tour is sounding like a great one! Again there will be a plant sale so if you are starting to dig up unneeded plants in your garden keep the Home and Garden tour in mind. For more information or to volunteer in any capacity for the tour, you can reach Autumn by e-mail at aaawhite@telus.net.

Denman Cross Island Trail

Last fall the Comox Valley Regional District's contractor constructed the new Cross-Island Trail along Denman Road from the top of the Big Hill to the Swan Road junction. The section of the trail across from the Old School was allowed to encroach into DCA's Central Park in order to leave room for continuation of the end-on parking in that area.

During construction the Regional District hired Jenny Balke, Professional Biologist, to ensure that the work caused minimal environmental damage.

Opposite the Old School the winding trail encroaches on Central Park at a number of places along 260 meters of the frontage. A legal survey and Statutory Right of Way agreement are being prepared and will be registered on the Central Park title.

Conservancy's Mission

In the fall of 2014 our DCA Board met to strategize for the future. Based on the purposes of the society, and with the assistance of a facilitator, we developed a vision statement for the DCA and agreed on a mission statement that describes how we intend to achieve this vision.

To support these two statements we also prepared a 5-year strategic plan, which provides a framework of planned activities that should enable us to maintain focus on our mission and vision. This strategic plan consists of seven broad objectives, each of which contains one or more specific goals, or activities, that we hope to achieve before December 31st of 2020.

Here are the seven objectives:

- (1) To preserve, protect and enhance the quality of the human and natural environment of the Denman Island area*
- (2) To conduct research programs with local citizens and qualified persons on important issues in the fields of conservation and (or) development*
- (3) To facilitate public education and community participation in resource stewardship and land use practises*
- (4) To promote compatibility between land use and land characteristics, giving full and serious consideration to the biologic and aesthetic values of the land*
- (5) To promote the establishment of wilderness and other natural habitat preserves and encourage the retention of land parcels for open space preservation, sustainable agriculture and silviculture for the benefit of this and future generations*
- (6) To raise money, acquire funds and other assistance, and to own, acquire, and take by purchase, donations, devise or otherwise, land or personal property; and expend, sell, exchange, lease, let, improve or develop same for the purposes of the society*
- (7) To do everything incidental and necessary to promote and attain the foregoing purpose and periodically to reassess these purposes*

If you are interested to learn more about this work, the vision and mission statements can be found on our website at <http://www.denman-conservancy.org/about/>. We plan to review the details of our strategic plan at the upcoming AGM on February 23rd.

Contributors to this Newsletter: Jenny Balke, Annie Corddry, Stirling Fraser, DD Fuchs, Andrew Fyson, Jackie Hipwell, Peter Karsten, John Millen.

AGM Business
Monday 23 February 2015
7.30 pm Back Hall

Membership

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



Above & Beyond Tree Service fallers at work in the Settlement Lands

Settlement Lands Butterfly Reserve
Vegetation Removal

The Settlement Lands is a 157 acre block on Central Road, south of Chickadee Lake obtained by the DCA in 2005. This land was clear cut around 1999 and was where Jennifer Balke made the first well documented observations of Taylor's Checkerspots (as larvae) in 2005. Breeding occurred there in subsequent years and was observed until 2009 but not since. In Canada, this butterfly is only known to breed on Denman Island.

In 2014, an area of around 3 ha or 7 acres east of Central Road was set aside as a reserve for future recolonization by Taylor's Checkerspots. This area includes two small wetlands where breeding has occurred in the past and also large open areas, rapidly filling in with young conifers. The butterflies require sunny areas for nectaring and the larvae need sunny wetlands with their food plant, the Marsh Speedwell.

In January 2015, with funding from a federal government Habitat Stewardship Program grant through BC Environment, a contractor carried out the clearance of young trees and broom in much of the butterfly reserve. So Taylor's Checkerspots, you are welcome back. We hope to see you soon.

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How Are We Doing in Central Park?

Input from Central Park users has been appreciated by and helpful to the Central Park management committee since we first started in 2007. With this short questionnaire we hope to contact those whose ideas have been unheard to date. Maybe it will encourage you to go out to the park before responding. All observations or suggestions you have are welcome. (Return to: Free Post at Abraxas Books, under "Q" for "Questionnaire for Central Park".

(Or pass along to any Central Park Committee member– Denise MacKean, Sonya Edelston, Andrew Fyson or Annie Corddry.) Thank you for helping us!

Circle answers or write in:

1. How often do you visit Central Park? daily weekly monthly once in awhile
2. Do you bring a dog horse bike visitor?
3. Is trail maintenance adequate? yes no suggestions:
4. Do you find the trail maps useful? yes no suggestions:
5. Do you find the entry kiosk information helpful? yes no suggestions:
6. Do you like multiple-use of some trails? yes no suggestions:
7. Are you interested in volunteering in Central Park? yes no Contact info: