



Denman Conservancy Association

NEWSLETTER

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

May 2015

DCA's Fabulous

Home and Garden Tour

June 13 & 14

12 Places to visit

Tickets \$20 for the whole weekend

Hours 9.30 am to 5 pm Saturday and Sunday

This year's Home and Garden Tour is a wonderful mix of architecturally stunning homes, gardens by the sea, fairy-tale cottages brimming with perennials, traditional farmsteads with all kinds of animals, artists' lairs surrounded by masses of colourful blooms, permaculture projects that combine style with sustainability and locally made organic chocolate and wine.

Tickets are available at Abraxas, Denman General Store, The Denman Craft Shop, The Hornby Gas Bar and on line at denmanconservancy.org.

Here are the 12 lovely properties on the 2105 Denman Island Home and Garden Tour

1. Denman Island Community School

Continuously expanding with tremendous volunteer involvement from the community, this garden nurtures growth of all kinds – not just botanical. During the school year, our vegetable beds are an important contributor to the hot lunch program. In the summer, these same beds planted with summer crops supplement our fresh food supply at the Food Bank. The garden also features student artwork and several student building projects. DCA's Plant Sale is also at this site.

2. Rick and Ann Paisley

For lifetime lovers of all things ocean and garden, this home was beautifully designed to focus on the views of

Baynes Sound out the front, and the whimsical garden out back. The beautiful West Coast timber home brings the beach indoors with all sorts of interesting treasures from years of kayaking trips. The full and wild looking country garden is especially impressive as it is unfenced, on a slope, sits on rock and clay and is only two years old.

3. Phyllis Brewer

When Phyllis moved to her property in 1975, it was a hayfield with 100 year old apple trees. A large portion was reforested and the area surrounding her family home was to become one of the Island's most admired gardens. It specializes in roses, clematis and rhododendrons. At one point there were over 300 roses adorning the grounds. While you are visiting, as an added bonus, don't miss Gabi and Klaus Biebach's baby emus next door on one of Denman's oldest farms.

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Coming Events

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4. Oyster Beach Farm - Liz and John Johnston

This rustic, Virginia Creeper covered farmhouse is filled with nautical antiques ranging from telescopes to whale bones, reflecting Liz and John's lifetime by the sea. Sheltered behind the house you will find a charming veggie garden which specializes in winter crops. In front a pond and terrace pavement curves down a stone staircase with rock gardens on either side and spills out onto a rolling lawn to the beach and boat house.

5. Ruby Slipper Ranch - Tracy Horovatin and Shayne Barker

This straw-bale home is a combination of natural, recycled, and conventional building with lots of unique features. The Permaculture Food Forest Gardens are outstanding; not only beautiful, but they could provide enough food for the couple and their farm hands to eat a 0-mile diet year round. On display will also be Tim's caravan, built as a small scale affordable housing option.

6. Frank and Debbie Frketch

This home was designed to fan out like a seashell and take advantage of the views to the north and south. The decor is exquisite, highlighting art pieces from years abroad in Southeast Asia, as well as many from local artists. The west facing aspect makes it a wonderful location for gardening. The couple's passion lies in the veggie garden, but they have also created a calming shade garden on the approach to the house.

7. Maresia - Selinda and Mike White

Here you will see a variety of vegetable and herb gardens, an orchard with everything from apple trees, to quince and mulberry, prolific perennial beds, as well as a large fish pond with a deck shaded by cherry trees. The beautiful, timber-framed, light-filled house is perched on a ridge overlooking Baynes Sound, and is full of interesting antique pieces and a diverse art collection.

8. Suzie Payne and Stephen Miller

The landscaping at this hill side property is most impressive. It has a huge variety of perennials, trees and shrubs and many different outdoor nooks and crannies. The home is located at the top of the hill giving it a lovely view of the gardens, and the ocean and mountains beyond. The living area of the home has a wonderful tall arched wall of windows framed in local timber.

9. Corlan Vineyard - Pat and Selwyn Jones

This property was a wilderness eight years ago when Pat and Selwyn bought it with true pioneering spirit. Now it is Denman's only certified organic farm and vineyard.

Although the grapes take the starring role, this couple also produce an abundance of food and sell their seedlings at the local farmers' market. They have heritage Clun Forest Sheep completing the picture.

10. Denise and Boyd MacKean

The cozy woodland cabin is alluring with its full wall of windows facing the sun dappled forest with the sea beyond. The garden is enchanting with little pathways meandering under flower-strewn arbors, between flower

and veggie beds, berry bushes, espaliered fruit trees, and a tranquil pond. Impressive, as there is no spot in the garden that gets more than two hours of sun a day.

11. Kathleen and Michael Rapati

Curves and warm wood tones create Kathleen and Michael's sanctuary. They tried to break all the aesthetic design rules they could think of. It was designed and built by the couple as a functional sculpture. Many sculptures also make themselves at home in the garden with gates and fencing made of recycled metal. Make sure to pop by the barn to visit the horses.

12. Denman Island Chocolate - Daniel Terry

You would never guess this gorgeous building is a factory. The best kind of factory: a successful, local business producing organic, fair trade chocolate. The 3000 square foot living roof, newly planted, is a feature attraction. The contractor responsible for this living roof will be on hand to answer your questions. The natural values of the cliff dropping away in front are secured by a Conservation Covenant held by Denman Conservancy.

Birds of Australia

What is black, purple, lime green, gold, and iridescent blue? The astounding Gouldian Finch, a small bird native to northwestern Australia, and endangered in its native habitat.

Australia is where bird song began. There is a strong body of genetic and fossil evidence that the majority of the world's birds have Australian ancestors. The bird song we are hearing every morning on Denman may have originated down under. Australia has remarkable native birds and the Gouldian Finch is a spectacular example. Australia also has a large and dedicated group of bird breeders dedicated to preserving Australian birds by breeding them in captivity (this is aviculture) and on

Thursday June 11 at 7:30 in the Back Hall we have two Aussie aviculture experts giving a short talk and stunning video presentation on the birds of Northwestern Australia, and especially the Gouldian Finch. A joint presentation of the DCA and Peter Karsten, whose bird breeding fame is internationally recognized. Peter tells us that these are quite remarkable video works and a must for birders. Come out on June 11 and meet a man with over 300 birds in his backyard. Many of them finches. That is a lot of finches. And our last question is what do you call a group of finches? A charm.

Celebrate World Oceans Day Family Picnic At Filliongley Beach Park

Sunday, June 7th from 11 am - 2 pm

Bring your picnic blanket, lunch, family and friends.....but not your dog.

More information: Judy Armstrong - [250-335-0433](tel:250-335-0433)

Sponsored by ADIMS -- Supported by DCA

Meet Erika Bland

DCA's newly hired Land Manager



I moved from London, Ontario to Vancouver in 2005 and started my bachelor's degree at UBC in geography the following year. During my undergrad years I volunteered with the Camosun Bog Restoration Society, edited and wrote for the Geography undergraduate journal, *Trail Six*, and enjoyed a great many shows put on by musician friends in the Vancouver independent music scene. After graduating, and a total of 8 years in the city, I decided to leave Vancouver in search of a more agrarian lifestyle, seeking a community in which I could grow food and learn about permaculture. I spent some time travelling and volunteering in Guatemala and Costa Rica, and then did a 6-month farm apprenticeship at Rooddown Organic Farm in Pemberton, BC. Deciding to explore farming opportunities in the growing Comox Valley region, I did some research about the area and was intrigued to find the Denman Island Farm Plan. I decided to check out the island on a weekend off and serendipitously found an ad for an 'off-grid forest cottage' for rent. Upon moving there in the fall of 2012, I fell in love with the atmosphere and the wonderful people here, and decided I'd found my habitat.

A year later, I began a Masters program at UVic in Environmental Studies, and am currently writing up my thesis after doing qualitative research throughout the summer and fall of 2014. My project, a case study of Denman Island, explores some of the ways that food provisioning and ecological conservation practices and landscapes are interconnected (as well as how they are sometimes separated from one another in important ways) in our island "foodshed". I hope to publish a report about my project in early 2016 for the Denman community.

Editor's Note: **Andrew Fyson**, our much-valued Land Manager, has told DCA he wishes to retire. He will be able to do so once Erika has completed her orientation and training – expected to be by August. Andrew has been working as Land Manager for DCA since 2007.



DCA Property Updates

The **Central Park** management committee is currently working on the 5-year review of the Management Plan. We are always happy to hear from anybody with feedback, a willingness to help out with Central Park care, or a desire to join our small management committee. (Contact: Annie at 335-2762 or Denise at 335-1608).

A big thank-you to Tim, Yoshi, David, Noel, John, Boyd and Denise for coming out for the work bee on Friday May 22! Swale Trail is now much less overgrown, thanks to the hard work of our volunteers. It's a good time to visit Central Park!

DCA's **Settlement Lands** are 157 acres of recovering forest located along Central Road between Pickles and Lake Road. As well as uplands and steep rocky slopes the property has significant wetlands that are part of the Beadnell Creek headwaters and remnants of Old Growth forest alongside the Pickles Marsh. It links Central Park and Inner Island Nature Reserve with the Provincial Park that extends to the west and around Chickadee Lake.

A DCA committee is working on a Management Plan for the Settlement Lands. It is expected that a draft Plan will be presented to the Community for discussion at a public meeting in September.

~ PLANT DONATIONS NEEDED ~

Please drop off at the school garden
Friday, June 12th, anytime before 2pm
(inside the fence, beside the cedar shed).

For more info, or if you need donations
picked up, please contact **Erika Bland**:
[250-702-7773](tel:250-702-7773) erikaaction@gmail.com

Thank you for your support!

DCA 2016 Silver Jubilee Photo Calendar Contest

The Denman Conservancy Photo Contest is being held as part of the 2016 Denman Conservancy Silver Jubilee Celebrations. Contest photos will be used in a gallery display where the public will be asked to vote on the winning selections to be published in the Silver Jubilee Calendar. Calendars will be available to purchase in November 2015.

Contest timeline

Start Now - gather pictures

August 1st - Sept 15 - Submit Photos (email
carolincomox@gmail.com)

Sept 16 - Oct 1 - photos are shortlisted

Oct 9 - 10 - photos on exhibit/public vote

Oct 11 -Winners are announced

Contest Rules and Picture guidelines are on the DCA website: www.denmanconservancy.org



Who's singing? A one hour Denman Conservancy bird walk in Central Park, meeting at the entrance off Denman Rd on **Saturday May 30th, 8:30 am.**

DCA Directors for 2015:

Jenny Balke, Co-Chair

Annie Corddry

DD Fuchs

John Millen

Patti Willis, Co-Chair

Susan-Marie Yoshihara, Secretary

Doug Bell

Stirling Fraser

Jackie Hipwell

Ron Shepherd, Treasurer



Garry Oak Gardens

Check out the DCA web site for the gorgeous Garry oak plants from John Millen's mini-meadow, monitored as they flowered in April and May of this year. Other mini-meadows around the island are doing well and just finishing their main blooming season. Delightful field chickweed *Cerastium arvense* remains in flower and is a wonderful ground cover. Beautiful blue harvest brodiaea *Brodiaea coronaria* and gentle nodding onion *Allium cernuum* are among those still to come.



Field chickweed

Contributors to this Newsletter:

Jenny Balke, Erika Bland, Annie Corddry, Stirling Fraser, DD Fuchs, Carol Hunter, John Millen, Autumn White.

Denman Island Home and Garden Tour 2015 Cyclist Draw

Once again we are offering free entry into a draw for all cyclists on the Home and Garden Tour as a way of supporting human-powered, emissions-free and health-enhancing transportation. On the last Tour we had 108 people enter the draw and we hope to exceed that number this year, turning Denman Island into cycletopia for the weekend. Draw prizes include: two passes for the Kingfisher Resort Spa; a gift card from Mountain Equipment Coop; Denman Island Chocolate; a night's stay at the Riding Fool Hostel, Cumberland; a ceramic tea-bowl from Gordon Hutchens.

If you are cycling around the Tour register for the Draw at the desk on the Community Hall steps.