



Denman Conservancy Association

NEWSLETTER

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

February 2017

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

The

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of DENMAN CONSERVANCY ASSOCIATION

7:30 pm on Monday, February 27, 2017
in the **Back Hall**

The AGM business will include:

- ❖ Reports from: Directors, Treasurer, Committees
 - ❖ Election of Directors
 - ❖ Refreshments
- (see Page 4 for further details)

Home and Garden Tour Update

DCA's renowned Home and Garden Tour will be held this year June 10th and 11th. Emily Guinane, our tour coordinator has been very busy organizing and laying the groundwork for another fabulous tour. This year's tour will feature some old favorites as well as some wonderful homes and gardens that have not yet been open for the tour. And again, there will be a plant sale, so if you are starting to dig up unneeded plants in your yard, please keep the Home and Garden tour in mind. A food court is planned for the lunch crowd, so if any vendors are interested in participating, please contact Emily.

As we all know the tour is a lot of work, not only on the part of our generous homeowners and gardeners but on the part of many, many volunteers.

Emily is still looking for helpers, so if you are willing to lend a hand either before, during or for the volunteer after party, or if you are just after more information, contact Emily at denmanisland.hgt@gmail.com, or give her a call at 1-250-539-8339.



Here's to the End of Shipwreck Season!

Erika Bland

A huge thank you to volunteers in the community for coming together to clean up the beached boat that landed on the Lindsay Dickson beach in November. I was humbled by the number of people who came at a moment's notice to help clean up the contents of that boat, which were strewn along a kilometre of shoreline. Dave Lang hauled away the chopped-up boat pieces and all the other flotsam and jetsam for us, and we were able to arrange for the tipping fees to be covered under the CVRD Community Clean-up Fund. Craig Williams recorded (and Michael Rapati produced) a neat stop-motion film showing all the volunteers scurrying around the beach as the wreck got smaller and smaller. The positive attitudes and helpful spirit of community members turned this frustrating chore into a pleasure.

Settlement Lands

Since the November Newsletter, DCA has been drafting the Management Plan for the Settlement Lands. This conservation area is 157 acres located on Central Road, which approximately bisects the property. The Islands Trust Fund Board has agreed to hold a conservation covenant on this land.

The Settlement Lands has two significant wetland areas. Homestead Marsh, on the land adjacent to the Swale Farm, is wholly within the conservation area. Part of the headwaters of Pickles Marsh is, as well. Both of these wetlands are maintained by beaver. Without the dams built and maintained by the beaver both of these wetlands would dry up. Note that this applies to the part of the wetland under the Pickles Road Bridge, where the Fire Department has a stand pipe to pump water for firefighting.

Consequently one of the priorities of the Management Plan is providing the maximum protection of the beaver population.

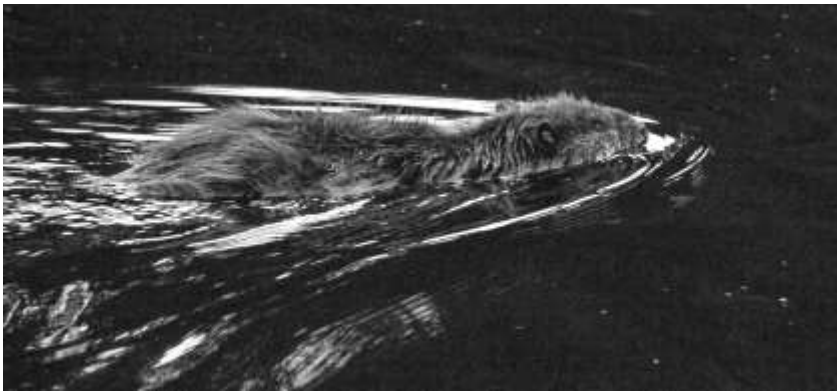


Another question to be resolved is where to locate trails for public access. Members of the DCA Board have been hiking around the proposed routes, mostly following skid roads that were used in the logging operations on the land in about 2001.

Provision for a Butterfly Garden has been included in the Plan as an adjunct to the Checkerspot Reserve area. The idea is to fence a small area, to keep out deer, and grow native plants that are attractive to all of our

various butterflies, as well as to Checkerspots. The garden will be located close to the road to make for easy public access as well as quick access for the gardeners!

A Public Open House will be held at the Old School, (9:30-12:30 on March 4th) to display information about the Settlement Lands property and the proposed Management Plan. Please take this opportunity to discuss the proposed Plan with members of the Settlement Lands



Committee.

Beaver photos by Dennis Forsyth

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

On the Land

Notes from the Land Manager: Erika Bland

Lately, I have been spending a lot of time ‘in the office’—a fine place to be while the lakes are frozen over—making plans for annual covenant monitoring, doing a bit of grant-writing, and working on all kinds of fun administrative gymnastics related to the Settlement Lands. The SL management plan is in its final stages of drafting, informed by the comprehensive Baseline Inventory completed in 2016 by Jenny Balke. Trails, invasive species management, and the stewardship of rare and threatened species are examples of the items covered in the plan. The process of registering a covenant held by Islands Trust Fund (ITF) is underway and we expect this will be completed by the summer. I haven’t been indoors *all* winter, however. Work funded by the federal Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP) is underway in the Settlement Lands Butterfly Reserve. Mostly, we are tackling huge amounts of Scotch broom—that snow, wow did that ever make the broom hard to cut! Monitoring for Taylor’s Checkerspot larvae and adult butterflies will begin in March and carry through to the end of May. HSP also provided funding for a new kiosk at the Butterfly Reserve, which is nearly finished.

But enough about me. What about you!? I’ve said it before and I’ll say it again. Volunteers really do make the world of DCA go ‘round. To be sure, I will soon be calling for filth-loving grubbers to help me lop and snip and uproot to awaken all those slowly-overgrowing, hibernating trails on DCA properties. Come spring, I will also need some eagle-eyed volunteers to help in the Butterfly Reserve, snipping & pulling small broom seedlings in areas where we’ve cut away the larger plants. Look out for posts on our Facebook Page, or contact me to get on the call/email list for volunteer ‘work bees’.

250-702-7773 | erikaaction@gmail.com

Aside from the (fun and cookie-fuelled!) grunt work, perhaps a lesser-known volunteer role with DCA is our Property Management Committees. PMCs generally consist of somewhat more unsmudged, though no-less-satisfied, participants. In some cases, there are standing committees of neighbours or “friends” of a property who make it their task to keep an eye on the DCA property nearest them, and help with everyday things like trees fallen across a trail or a sign that needs repair. There are also ad-hoc committees formed for short term projects. For example, a volunteer group has been formed to review and update the management plan for Winter Wren Wood. This committee will take a look at the original goals and action items set out for WW in

2002, and make sure that these are still aligned with the intent of the covenant and the objectives of DCA and its members. Property Management Committee meetings are few and far between, and create opportunities to get out an explore DCA properties with a purpose.

Public input will be required over the next two years for management plan updates for all of the ITF Nature Reserves on Denman. If you have a special interest in Inner Island Nature Reserve, Lindsay Dickson Nature Reserve or Morrison Marsh Nature Reserve, consider joining its Property Management Committee. Please, bring your ideas for conservation to the table in 2017 and help me get some great stuff done on your beloved DCA lands!

... and On Line

Notes from the webmaster: John Millen

The Denman Conservancy Facebook page has been maintained for about 2 years now, by Annie Corrdry with occasional help from Susan-Marie Yoshihara, Carol Hunter and John Millen. Last spring a flurry of postings of photos, videos and reports, documenting the Herring Spawning event was followed by many. Recently Dennis Forsyth’s photos of River otters in Beadnell Creek attracted over 900 views.

Our DCA web site was rebuilt in 2012 by Bronwyn Symons using WordPress. It now has a Blog with 240 posts, mainly Nature Reports, frequently including Dennis Forsyth’s great photos and wry reporting of local bird life. Newsletters such as this are posted there, as well. Our newsletter files now go back continuously to the year 2001 providing a public file of DCA history. The quickest way to find old Newsletters is via the Archive button.

In the web site proper there is information about each of the six properties DCA owns or manages, our covenants, a nature calendar and much, much more.

On Line Ticket Sales for the Home & Garden Tour will start on www.denman-conservancy.org at the beginning of March with an early-bird price.

There is also a Facebook Page for Denman Island Home and Garden Tour which will keep you up to date for this year’s event, set for the weekend June 10 & 11.



AGM Business
Monday 29 February 2017
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.

Conservancy activities

As well as the report from Directors an illustrated talk about recent activities and the state of lands owned or managed by DCA will be presented.



Taylor's Checkerspots – an Open House and a Hopeful Future

On January 21 2017, there was an open house on the Taylor's Checkerspot butterfly in the Conservancy Room of the Old School. The event was organised by Chris Junck of the Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team (GOERT) with the help of BC Parks, Environment Canada, DCA and with an additional display of native plants and information by the Miskellys of Saanich Native Plants.

This event updated the community on the status of this endangered butterfly whose only known wild breeding population in Canada is on Denman Island. The event highlighted efforts being made to secure the Taylor's Checkerspot future through habitat enhancement (e.g. in DCA's Settlement Lands) and through release of captive-bred larvae in the Denman Island Provincial Park Butterfly Reserve.

The native populations of the Taylor's Checkerspots in the Provincial Park had a successful year in 2016 and numbers of adults on Denman were probably as high as in any year since 2008. Released, captive-bred larvae from Peter Karsten's highly successful breeding operation survived very wet conditions in the Provincial Park Butterfly Reserve and adult butterflies were later

Checkerspot butterflies mating



Photos by Andrew Fyson

observed in that area. The captive breeding program has now moved to Vancouver Zoo and hopefully will help guarantee the future of Taylor's Checkerspots on Denman Island and other suitable habitats in the region. The open house provided an opportunity for members of the community to see displays of photographs and information relating to Taylor's Checkerspot conservation and interact with personnel actively working on securing the future of this beautiful, endangered butterfly.

Attendees had the opportunity to volunteer for conservation efforts in 2017 and ask questions on Taylor's Checkerspot identification and conservation. Approximately 60 people attended this very successful event.

Constitution and Bylaws

DCA's transition to the electronic version of our Constitution and Bylaws, required by the new BC Societies Act, has been completed successfully.

Please join the Settlement Lands Committee at a Public Open House (9:30-12:30 on March 4th) at the Old School, for an update on the Settlement Lands property and our ongoing work to conserve it. (see page 2 and 3 for more about the Settlement Lands)

Contributors to this Newsletter: Jenny Balke, Erika Bland, Andrew Fyson, DD Fuchs, John Millen.