



Denman Conservancy Association

# NEWSLETTER

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

February 2018

## NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

The

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of DENMAN CONSERVANCY ASSOCIATION

7:30 pm on Monday, February 26, 2018  
in the **Back Hall**

The AGM business will include:

- ❖ Reports from: Co-chair, Treasurer & Lands Manager
- ❖ A Special Resolution to approve an amendment to the Bylaws to update the maximum dollar amount for direct contracts (see Page 4 for further details)
- ❖ Election of Directors
- ❖ Dr. E.C. Pielou appreciation
- ❖ Thematic presentation of No Bloom on Broom in the Settlement Lands Initiative
- ❖ Volunteer of the Year presentation

*Refreshments following the meeting*

## Denman Island Birdathon

by Ken Madsen

This spring the Denman Conservancy Association will hold its 1<sup>st</sup> "Denman Island Birdathon." What is a Birdathon you ask? It's simple. Participants will ask their friends and acquaintances for sponsorships based on how many birds they identify. The Birdathon will take place during the 24 hour period beginning at 4 pm on May 26<sup>th</sup>.

You don't need to be whiz at bird identification to take part in the Birdathon. This will be a fun event for all birders from beginners to experts. Some keeners might decide to scour Denman Island's rich and varied habitats to identify as many birds as they can. Others might take a short walk or simply keep track of the birds that fly by their windows.

Stay tuned for presentations and bird identification workshops in the weeks preceding the Birdathon. There will also be a wind-up event to celebrate everyone's efforts. The money raised during the Birdathon will help the DCA with its conservation work on Denman Island which includes protecting important bird habitat.



# On the Land

By Erika Bland, DCA Land Manager

## Wet Winter Walkies

Well, everyone, it's February. As I write this (on world wetlands day) there is an inch-thick stream of water streaming off the roof, and the radio meteorologist is announcing the coming week's forecast: You guessed it! Rain. Seeing as you can't prune those apple trees in this weather, how about a nature walk? There is lots to see in DCA protected lands in the winter months.

However, some trails are better-suited than others for sloshing through in your wellies. Below I have outlined a few options for some nice, winter walking. If you like, share your photos by posting on DCA's Facebook Page, or Tweeting them @DCconservancy.

### Wet Trail Rating System:

- ☹ = least wet, a good choice for very-rainy-day walks
- ☹☹ = mostly ok, with a few wet areas
- ☹☹☹ = wear your wellies
- ☹☹☹☹ = trails may be impassable due to flooding

**Central Park** ☹☹ Many of the trails through Central Park (accessed from Denman Rd. across from the Old School) are a good choice for winter walking. The convenient (and, well, central) location means that this conservation area gets significant foot traffic year-round. Many of the trails are situated along old logging roads or railway grades, so they tend to shed water quite well. Graveyard marsh path, and occasionally long log path are exceptions: the former is almost guaranteed to be flooded in winter (hence the sign advising so), and the latter can get inundated after a storm; even despite crafty ditching work that DCA director John Millen has routinely undertaken, it can be a soggy patch at times. Borrow a trail map from the main information Kiosk. A Big Thanks to Denise MacKean and the CP committee for ongoing upkeep of wayfinding signage, maps, and other tasks. Plans are also in the works to install a few rustic resting benches at key places along the trails.

**Winter Wren Wood** ☹ This small-but-mighty protected area is a real treasure. Tucked in at the edge of Chickadee Lake, and accessed from Lake Rd., it is accessible year-round (though we discourage vehicle access in the summer to reduce fire risk). There is a trail beginning at the main entrance kiosk, leading to a beautiful boardwalk over a marshy area in the northwest corner of the property before looping around to cross Lake Road and enter the south side, where there are some beautiful old trees to admire (or hug, if you like) before you pop back out at the entrance. The whole loop, at a leisurely pace, takes about a half an hour. You can also take your time along the way and identify local flora on the little plant ID signs created with the help of

kids at the community school in 2012, or watch ducks land on the marsh from a beautiful carved bench.

**Morrison Marsh Nature Reserve (& Boyle Point Park)** ☹☹☹☹ Accessed from a trail at the south end of Greenhill Rd, a winter walk through this property is possible, but trails can be quite flooded in a few areas. DCA is working with the owner (Islands Trust Fund) and local volunteers, to resolve these trail issues, and we hope that by next winter this won't be an issue anymore. If you've got good boots, though, do venture in. You can make a good, quite long (~2 hour) loop by starting at the trail from the main kiosk. Head along the trail and after about 10-15 minutes of walking, keep right at the fork (you will see the trail to the left go steeply downhill). Keep following the trail to a lovely marsh (the trail skirts the edge of it) before entering Boyle Point Park and continuing along a high ridge trail looking down over Baynes Sound. Keep following the trail in BPP and if you make sure to keep left at junctions, eventually you will come back to a sign at the top of a high cliff which marks your re-entry into Morrison Marsh Nature Reserve. Keep following this trail, which will bring you through a rocky meadow before heading down a gradual hill and then around the south end of Morrison Marsh before climbing back up another big hill to the place where you first kept right at the fork. Take a right to follow that 10-15 minute trail back to the end of Greenhill Rd. Note that until you're familiar with this loop, it can be a bit confusing, so you may want to give yourself some extra time for possible back-tracking. New map signs have been recently installed in Boyle Point Park, however, which is a big help. The map is also available online as a PDF, and you should find it if you search for "boyle point park map" in your search engine.

**Morning Beach** ☹☹☹ Accessed through a CVRD regional park at the end of The Point Road, a short and well-marked trail leads to a big staircase down to the northeast tip of the Denman coastline. Morning Beach offers a lovely, often windy, walk either north or south along the shore. Make sure to check the tides before you go, as this walk is best when tides are lower. DCA holds a conservation covenant along the Komias Bluff for about 3.5km, beginning just south of the staircase, to protect this precious and unique ecosystem (Learn more on our website!) Walking on the steep, sandy bluffs is strictly prohibited, and can be extremely dangerous due to large slumps, sand-slides, and uprooted trees. Walking the shoreline at a low tide, however, offers beautiful views of Lambert Channel across to the Sunshine Coast and the Coast Mountains.

**AGM Business**  
**Monday 26 February 2018**  
**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.

**Special Resolution**

*by Jackie Hipwell, DCA Co-Chair*

It has come to the attention of your Board that the maximum expenditure for an item, package or project that it may approve independently has remained unchanged since the formation of our society in 1991 – more than 25 years ago. To facilitate business without requiring Special Resolutions and, potentially, Special Meetings of the general membership, it is proposed that the limit be increased. The Bylaw sections that relate to this proposed change fall under Part 4 – Proceedings at General Meetings, Section 2.

Copies of this section of the bylaws, including 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 website at:

<http://www.denman-conservancy.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/2016Bylaws.pdf>

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

**Conservancy Room - Old School**

*by Stirling Fraser*

The DCA has embarked on a long planned set of improvements to our room in the Old School. After numerous meetings and canvassing many possible flooring and paint options, DCA member de Neen Baldwin generously donated her design talents to the group and a final decision was made in December. In addition to new windows that are being installed this Spring courtesy of the landlord, the DCA has budgeted the funds to repaint and repair the drop ceiling, paint the walls, restore and repaint the original heritage blackboards and install new flooring. The painting is now underway after all the walls were washed and the holes made by generations of students filled and sanded. It already looks better, but Spring 2018 will see an entirely new look to the DCA's home and will include, we hope, permanent static displays showcasing our work and the island's ecosystems.

**Denman's Gone Batty**

*By Jenny Balke*



*Bat at the Old School by Dennis Forsyth*

On Denman, over 30 new maternal bat houses will await the spring return of the bat-Mums. Many thanks to all the Denman bat house builders. Special thanks to David Scruton for recently hosting a pleasant and productive evening of bat-house-kit-assembly. Bat-house-materials-chief, Stirling Fraser and his team will be preparing more bat house kits for those on the waiting list... we haven't forgotten! In April, DCA will provide a planning session for discovering, counting and identifying bats in these new houses.

The Denman Hornby Bat Project is part of BC's Community Bat Program. More details about the project are on the DCA web site. Most important for the Bat world at this time is to send off any dead bats for White Nose Disease (WND) testing and also to swab the wings of any cooperative live bats, also for WND testing. So please call 335-2151 if you have an available bat, dead or alive.

**No Bloom On Broom Campaign!**

This spring, DCA volunteers are invited to help tackle the broom-issue around the Settlement Lands' woodland meadows. The aim is to strive for no broom blooms and therefore no additional broom seeds in 2018.

Volunteers may take on their own small areas and at their leisure clear them of any of the small broom plants. The areas are marked awaiting their "No Bloom on Broom" champion. Assistance with any larger re-growth of broom plants will be available. Call Erika for more details. All Settlement Lands users are invited to carry secateurs and cut off any broom bloom.

P.O. Box 60 Denman Island BC V0R 1T0

[www.denmanconservancy.org](http://www.denmanconservancy.org)

DCA Activities are governed by our Board of Directors  
Generally, meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month  
7:30 p.m. Old School Centre, 5901 Denman Rd. (DCA Room)  
General Inquiries & Membership: [info@denmanconservancy.org](mailto:info@denmanconservancy.org)  
Land Manager: Erika Bland [@DConservancy](https://www.facebook.com/DConservancy)  
[dcalandmanager@gmail.com](mailto:dcalandmanager@gmail.com)



Get in touch with us!

