

Celebrate with Us!

2011 is The Nature Trust of BC's 40th anniversary. This is a time to reflect on our accomplishments but more importantly to look to the future. We have the rare opportunity to acquire three significant properties and this can only happen with your help.



Burgoyne Bay

Salt Spring Island

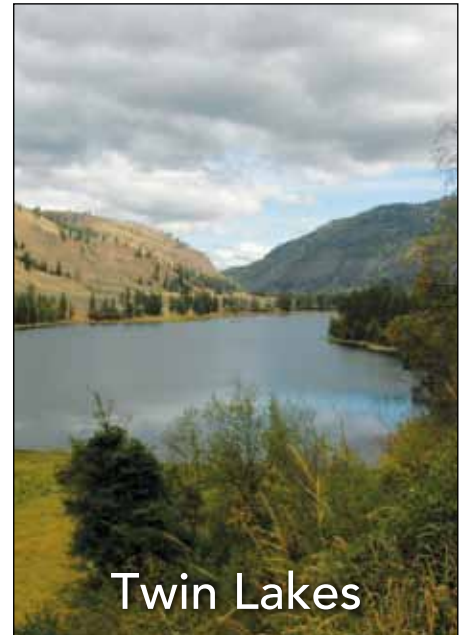
Help us to conserve 22.3 hectares (55 acres) of Garry oak and Coastal Douglas-fir at Burgoyne Bay. It is home to an abundance of birds, bats, butterflies, reptiles, amphibians and rare plants. Surrounded by Provincial Parks and an Ecological Reserve, this jewel will complete the protected areas of Burgoyne Bay.



Moorecroft Camp

Vancouver Island

Help us save 34 hectares (84 acres) of Coastal Douglas-fir near Nanoose Bay that had been a camp where generations of children learned about nature. We are working with the Regional District of Nanaimo to conserve the land for future generations to enjoy.



Twin Lakes

Okanagan Valley

We need your help to conserve 814.5 hectares (2012 acres) of grasslands and riparian habitats near Penticton. This extensive property includes many rare and endangered plants and animals and is ranked as a top property for conservation by the South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program.

Did you know?

The Nature Trust of BC is turning the Big 4-0!
Help us celebrate with a gift that keeps on giving.

For more information:

Call us: 604-924-9771 | 1-866-288-7878

Visit us: www.naturetrust.bc.ca



Forty Years after Plaza Breakfast

By Ralph Shaw, CM



Ralph Shaw fishing

Forty years ago I was invited by three friends to join them for breakfast at the Plaza restaurant in Kamloops for the purpose of suggestions on how to spend \$4,500,000 from the federal government to commemorate British Columbia's centennial. The men in question were Jack Davis, Minister of the Environment (Canada), Len Marchand, Member of Parliament (Ottawa), Dr Alastair McLean, Research Scientist, and me, Ralph Shaw, Elementary School Principal.

After breakfast we walked the streets and discussed the merits of setting aside suitable natural wild places where people could come to know nature on a friendly basis. One key factor in selecting future sites was that they would be selected on solid scientific information and need. There was also a sense of urgency in getting the projects under way because British Columbia was experiencing a period of rapid growth and industrial development. The Nature Trust of BC was founded to help set aside ecologically suitable natural places for future generations of British Columbians to enjoy, study and contemplate the complex world of nature. The organization was guided by action-oriented people like Bert Hoffmeister who became the first Chairman, supported by scientists such as Dr. Alastair McLean, Dr. Bert Brink and Dr. Ian McTaggart-Cowan. Under their leadership, The Nature Trust developed into a remarkable catalytic organization.

In the ensuing years The Nature Trust in partnership with like minded individuals and organizations has secured over 450 parcels

of land. Some are quite small as in the case of the Brooklyn Creek property secured in partnership with the Town of Comox. But do not be fooled by the size of the jewel, think rather of the quality of the gem. In conjunction with the Brooklyn Creek Park it is a place where you can experience being "in the wild". I like to think of wild places as mystic places where we can touch the earth with its entire secret, hidden, private and mysterious accumulation of the threads of life we formally call ecology. I spend much of my alone time in the wild in my fly-fishing punt.

Dr. Ian McTaggart-Cowan summed it up so succinctly when he said,
"I think if you spend part of your life alone out in the wild, you are changed forever."

Over the past 40 years The Nature Trust has secured wild places throughout our enchanting province. The challenges of the next 40 years will require the sensitive intuitiveness of our citizens to face the increasing challenges of changing climate. The continued growth in all aspects of The Nature Trust's work will be critical to our balanced use of the land, water, forests and grasslands. Congratulations to The Nature Trust on your record of achievement to date.

Through the Eyes of a Child

Patrick Oswald, Leadership Giving Manager at The Nature Trust, and his granddaughter Stephanie Ross visited the Adams River in Roderick Haig-Brown Park to observe the phenomenal salmon run this fall. Eight parcels along the river totaling 46.5 hectares (115 acres) were acquired by The Nature Trust between 1976 and 1986.



Me at the mouth of the Adams River with the salmon that have laid their eggs and then died and lost their deep red colour



The male salmon rubs against the female salmon to help her lay her eggs



The Sockeye salmon gather together to pair up. A female and male salmon will leave together to make a groove, called a "redd" in the gravel. The female will lay her eggs in the redd. The male will then fertilize and cover the eggs with the gravel. One of the salmon will stay on top of the redd until it dies in order to protect the eggs.



Grandpa at the map of Adams River. The park is named after a famous fisherman named Roderick Haig-Brown

Upcoming Events



Get Outside!

The Nature Trust of BC invites you to the 21st Brant Wildlife Festival on Vancouver Island. Celebrate the amazing migration of Brant geese as well as the 100th anniversary of BC Parks and the United Nations International Year of Forests.

From March 5 to April 19 the festival encourages adults and children to get outside and learn about nature through wildlife viewing adventures, spring break camps, learn to bird, family day at the farm, junior streamkeepers, and much more in Parksville and Qualicum Beach with special events in Nanaimo, Port Alberni and Comox. For full details, visit www.brantfestival.bc.ca

Brant symbolize our interconnectedness with nature and highlight how important nature is to our quality of life.

The Nature Trust of BC is coordinating the festival with sponsorship from BC Ministry of Environment, City of Parksville, Ducks Unlimited Canada, the Lohn Foundation and TD Friends of the Environment Foundation. We also want to thank the many volunteers and local event sponsors who contribute so much to make this festival possible.

Water for Life

This amazing event on April 7 at the Michael J. Fox Theatre in Burnaby is a major fundraiser for The Nature Trust. It features river advocate Mark Angelo providing an audiovisual journey down some of the world's most renowned rivers. Joining him are Holly Arntzen, Kevin Wright and the Dream Band and Voices of Nature with a 160-voice choir from Brentwood Park school. It will be a night of inspiration, education and hope for the future. Proceeds will benefit The Nature Trust and WaterCan which provides clean water to African communities. Tickets are available through www.ticketmaster.ca or toll free at 1-855-985-5000.

The show will also be filmed as a major Global TV special which will air on June 25th.



Wings Over the Rockies

May 2 to 8 www.wingsovertherockies.org



Meadowlark Festival

May 19 to 23 www.meadowlarkfestival.bc.ca

Optimism for the Future

Join Nature Trust Director Dr. Rob Butler at the Royal BC Museum in Victoria on May 4 for a fascinating Live @ Lunch event starting at noon. No pre-registration is required for this free event. Rob is BC Program's Scientist for Bird Studies Canada, President of the Pacific Wildlife Foundation and an Adjunct Professor of Biological Sciences at Simon Fraser University.

In his presentation entitled "Optimism for the Future" he will explain that although our world is facing some large environmental issues, there is reason for optimism. His talk illustrated with award winning photographs will show the important role British Columbia and The Nature Trust will play in the survival and recovery of many large animals. He will describe the latest research on how the effects of predators can cascade through ecosystems, why nature is good for your health and your child's development.



Earth Wind Fire 2011

Join us for fabulous food, sensational wine and fun dancing at the Delta Grand Okanagan Resort in Kelowna on June 18, 2011.

Meet our sizzling Okanagan chefs with their rising stars and members of Culinary Team BC and the Canadian Culinary Junior Team. You will sample their extraordinary talents at food stations paired with fine wines and other beverages from the Okanagan Valley.

From jazz to pop, the entertainment will rock! Local jazz singer Anna Jacyszyn will add sparkle to our opening reception, while Bobby Bruce will perform his acclaimed tribute to Neil Diamond and other pop sensations.

Enjoy a snappy live auction including The Great Wall of Wine and other great items.

Tickets are \$150 and reserved tables for 8 are \$1,200. Sponsor tables are also available: Earth table \$10,000; Wind table \$5,000; Fire table \$2,500. Tables of 10 are available upon request. Net proceeds benefit our land conservation work in the Okanagan Valley.

Helping to kick off this year's event are the following sponsors: Astral Radio, JDS Energy & Mining Inc., W. Tod Alstad Insurance & Wealth, and West-Wind Nurseries and Landscaping Ltd. If you would like to be a sponsor, please contact us. Visit www.naturetrust.bc.ca or call 1-866-288-7878.

Extraordinary Volunteers

We would like to pay tribute to past board members of The Nature Trust of BC. They devoted countless hours to guiding the organization and provided a wealth of business and scientific expertise.



Dr. Ian McTaggart-Cowan, Bert Hoffmeister and John Woodworth



Peter Speer

Past Directors

William Anglin
 Dr. Bert Brink, OC, OBC
 William "Tom" Brown, CM
 Roderick Haig-Brown
 Dr. Darryl Hebert
 Bert Hoffmeister, OC
 George Killy
 Hubert King
 Don Krogseth
 Hugh Magee
 Dr. Alastair McLean
 Dr. Ian McTaggart-Cowan, OC, OBC
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 Frances Vyse
 Edward "Ted" Wilkinson
 Kip Woodward
 John Woodworth, CM



Roderick Haig-Brown



Dr. Darryl Hebert



Bill Anglin, Bert Hoffmeister and Dr. Alastair McLean



Back row: Rod Silver, guest, Kip Woodward, Dick Richards, Hugh Magee, Ed Moul; Middle row: Dr. Geoff Scudder, George Reifel, Don Krogseth, Jim Walker; Front row: Robin Wilson, Dr. Ian McTaggart-Cowan, Dr. Bert Brink, Frances Vyse



40 Years of Land Conservation in BC

The Nature Trust of British Columbia was founded in 1971 through a gift from the Trudeau government to celebrate the 100th anniversary of BC's joining confederation. Ahead of its time, the Board was comprised of renowned scientists, conservationists and business leaders.

The population of the province at that time was 2,240,470 (less than half of what it is today). Provincial parks represented 2.8 % of the land base (a far cry from the 14.3% today). There were no other non-government organizations in the province acquiring private land for conservation.

1970s

This was the height of the environment movement with the first Earth Day celebrated in 1970 in New York. The launch of the environmental movement is widely credited to Rachel Carson's 1962 book *Silent Spring* that drew attention to the impact of chemicals on the natural environment. There was also a conservation movement growing from the drive to protect wild lands in the US that saw the Wilderness Act come into place in 1964.

The early Nature Trust science board members (Dr. Alastair McLean, Dr. Bert Brink, Roderick Haig-Brown, Dr. Ian McTaggart-Cowan) were at the forefront in the province in shaping the approach to land conservation. Expert scientific opinion was used in the earlier days of The Nature Trust to identify the priority parcels to acquire. The 1970s was still grounded in managing the land for big game and the forests for resource values.

Recognizing that approximately 94% of the province is Crown Land, much of the land conservation activities in the province 40 years ago centered on groups advocating for protecting Crown Land from development and government actions to designate areas for parks.

During the 1970s The Nature Trust acquired lands that could be grouped in three types of projects:

- Urban fringe properties, including marshes or nature sanctuaries, acquired in part for their educational values, such as Scout Island Nature Centre at Williams Lake, Cranberry Lake in Powell River and Swan Lake in Victoria.
- Estuarine, riparian and wetland properties in support of waterfowl and fish conservation; Widgeon Slough in the Lower Mainland, first Englishman River acquisition on Vancouver Island, initial property on the lower Adams River in the BC interior, first property in Columbia wetlands of the East Kootenay
- Big game properties in support of critical winter range, such as The Nature Trust's first acquisition of 122 hectares of deer winter range near Grand Forks in 1972.

At this time The Nature Trust managed lands through long term leases to local government, federal government and many with the province. Strong links to provincial fish and wildlife staff were maintained, and long term leases of Nature Trust lands to BC Parks began, with infill acquisitions including Okanagan Mountain Park and Coldfish Lake on the Spatsizi Plateau.

1980s

The 1970s and 1980s environmental and economic pressures in BC brought to focus difficult land use issues.

The Nature Trust championed initiatives that complimented the organization's land purchases. It was a catalyst and founding partner of conservation partnerships which emerged in the late 1980s: notably the Pacific Estuary Conservation Program (PECP) and member of the Pacific Coast Joint Venture (PCJV) in BC.

The Nature Trust's acquisition pattern followed the 1970s path, with reduced focus on local nature sanctuaries and education, but including significant acquisition of natural habitats including:

- estuarine lands along the coast, facilitated in part by PECP partnerships, including Kingcome Inlet, Cowichan estuary, Nanaimo estuary and additional acquisitions building on the Englishman River estuary and south arm marshes of the Fraser River delta.
- critical waterfowl habitat in the Peace River area in partnership with Ducks Unlimited Canada,
- the first acquisitions in the South Okanagan.
- wetlands at Bummers Flats and along the Columbia River, and large parcels like the west side Columbia Lake to conserve critical ungulate habitat in the East Kootenay.

1990s

By the 1990s, BC conservationists became increasingly focused on creating systems of conservation areas, in addition to protecting isolated habitat patches. The use of geographic information systems (GIS) and development of mathematical methods to prioritize conservation investments were also advanced to encourage systematic planning and maximize the long-term benefits of investments in land acquisition. To further these goals, The Nature Trust played a key role together with Ministry of Environment, the Nature Conservancy of Canada and The Nature Conservancy (US) to establish the Conservation Data Centre in 1991, with the goal of conserving biodiversity in the province by providing accurate information on species and ecological communities at risk.

When much of the public advocacy in the early 1990s was trained on major battles on the forested landscape, The Nature Trust had the foresight to focus resources and acquisition efforts in the South Okanagan. This was an area that had very high conservation values and was at great risk of losing them.

In 1990 The Nature Trust was instrumental with provincial and federal environment ministries along with other non-government organizations and foundations to prioritize management activities for the conservation of natural habitat in the South Okanagan. The resultant *Habitat Atlas for Wildlife at Risk* and the Conservation Strategy for the South Okanagan provided a strong science base for conservation and stewardship on public and private land and was the basis for the South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program (SOSCP) partnership.

The Nature Trust pursued the concept of acquiring ranch lands in the South Okanagan and the attendant Crown Land grazing tenures to establish two biodiversity ranches. The intent was to provide a sustainable use example that enabled working ranch operations while conserving much of the biodiversity values on the land.

The 1990s marked a real breakthrough in land being dedicated for conservation under the Protected Area Strategy (PAS) that was part of the Land and Resource Management Planning Process (LRMP). PAS set a target of doubling the area of parks and protected areas in BC to over 12% which it accomplished by the end of the decade.

Acquisitions by The Nature Trust in the 1990s were by design more focused in the South Okanagan:

- White Lake and Okanagan Falls Biodiversity Ranch properties
- Vaseux Lake properties including McIntyre Bluff

Acquisitions of wetlands and estuarine properties continued along the coast, and there were also additional purchases in the Peace River area and the Kootenays.

2000s

The conservation movement was maturing in BC during the 1990s with a significant increase in the number of local land trusts. Partnerships evolved in the 2000s to include more members on the established partnership programs (PCJV, PECP) while new land conservation partnerships were created (e.g. SOSCP, EKCP, CIJV, BCTPL, SCCP¹). Local government (regional districts and municipalities) are playing an increasingly bigger role in conservation of private land and are participating in a number of these partnership programs. The Nature Trust was a founding partner and played a leadership role in these initiatives.

Over the last fifteen years there has been a greater understanding that conservation lands need to be managed for the objectives that they were secured for. With the reduced capacity of the province to fulfill the conservation land management needs under the leases that they hold on Nature Trust lands, together with the increase in the number of Nature Trust acquisitions, the organization hired a provincial land manager in 2000 followed by a land manager

in the East Kootenay. These positions complimented the South Okanagan land manager and the shared land manager position on Vancouver Island. Over the last ten years ecosystem restoration projects have included invasive weed removal, thinning dry forested sites and prescribed burns, and in other areas planting trees and other indigenous vegetation.

The science members of the Board initiated a program to bring together land conservation organizations and various levels of government to form a partnership in 2005 known as Biodiversity BC. The leadership of The Nature Trust's Board members and staff over the five years of funding through the BC Trust for Public Lands attributed in great part to the success of Biodiversity BC in bringing together science experts to determine the main threats and concerns facing biodiversity in the province. The resulting 2008 report, *Taking Nature's Pulse: the Status of Biodiversity in British Columbia*, is a comprehensive, science-based assessment of the state of the province's natural environment. The 23 major findings support the conclusion that BC's biodiversity is globally significant because of its variety and integrity, but without immediate action is vulnerable to rapid deterioration, especially in light of climate change.

This science foundation, which also includes the Biodiversity Atlas of BC and a website, is intended to provide a context for the direction of activities of organizations like The Nature Trust and a source of information that provides a basis to take action to conserve biodiversity in the province.

Acquisitions in the last 10 years included:

- critical forested sites in the Coastal Douglas-fir BEC zone in the Georgia Basin (Burgoyne Bay on Salt Spring Island, Francis Point on the Sunshine Coast, Savary Island),
- additions to the Englishman River complex,
- the largest single parcel in the Nature Trust asset base—the Hoodoos in the East Kootenay
- critical Antelope brush property near McIntyre Bluff in the South Okanagan
- A number of properties and conservation covenants donated under the federal Ecological Gifts program.

Looking back over the last 40 years there have been great achievements made in BC that have resulted in 15.5% of the land base protected by governments (includes 14.3% by provincial parks) and private conservation lands.

We recognize that the efforts from non-government land conservation organizations like The Nature Trust are more important than ever, as the 4 BEC zones² of greatest concern and greatest threat of losing biodiversity values also have a proportionally higher component of private land. It is in these same 4 BEC zones that the population growth in the province will continue to gravitate to, increasing development pressure on these landscapes.

Our challenge as we move forward is to instill a land conservation ethic in the youth to carry the conservation movement well into the millennium.

¹ SOSCP – South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program
EKCP – East Kootenay Conservation Program

CIJV – Canadian Intermountain Joint Venture
BCTPL – BC Trust for Public Lands
SCCP – South Coast Conservation Program

² BEC – Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification system that has underpinned terrestrial ecosystem management and conservation planning in BC. There are 16 BEC zones in BC. The four BEC zones of conservation concern are Coastal Douglas-fir, Bunchgrass, Ponderosa Pine, Interior Douglas-fir

Happy 100th Birthday to BC Parks

In 2011 BC Parks is celebrating its 100th anniversary.

BC parks are some of the most beautiful in the world. Hiking up mountainous terrain, watching salmon make their river journey or sitting below a towering Douglas-fir, our parks provide opportunities for memorable experiences with nature and to enjoy the ecological diversity of British Columbia.

The Nature Trust of BC has played a key role in the establishment and contribution of key properties to a number of Provincial Parks.

Juan de Fuca Provincial Park south of Port Renfrew on Vancouver Island includes Botanical Beach which is one of the richest tidal areas along the west coast.



Roderick Haig-Brown Provincial Park includes a corridor along the world-famous sockeye salmon spawning grounds of the Adams River.

Marble River Provincial Park near Port Hardy on northern Vancouver Island protects fish and wildlife associated with the river and estuary.



Francis Point Provincial Park on the Sunshine Coast features the Very Dry Maritime Subzone of the Coastal Western Hemlock biogeoclimatic zone.



Cowichan River Provincial Park on southern Vancouver Island is internationally renowned for its salmon and steelhead fishery.

Squitty Bay Provincial Park on the southeast shore of Lasqueti Island between central Vancouver Island and Texada Island protects prickly pear cacti, Rocky Mountain juniper and California hedge parsley.



Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park encompasses ecosystems from three different biogeoclimatic zones: Bunchgrass, Ponderosa Pine and Interior Douglas-fir.

Lakelse Lake Wetlands Provincial Park in the Skeena River Watershed near Terrace features old-growth cedar, hemlock and Sitka spruce and spawning habitat for salmonids.



MacMillan Provincial Park on Vancouver Island near Port Alberni was almost doubled in size in 2005 with The Nature Trust as a key partner.

Kitsumkalum Lake Provincial Park provides a key location for waterfowl to overwinter as well as coho and sockeye spawning and rearing area.



Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Provincial Park is one of Canada's largest and most significant, and supports large populations of wildlife.

A Gift to Nature

Terry VanderSar loved nature from an early age. As a youngster growing up in Ontario, he raised pigeons and pheasants and as a teenager worked in the greenhouses of a flower grower. Later he loved to spend time canoeing in northern Ontario, and chose the field of biology when he pursued a Doctorate at Simon Fraser University.

Afterwards, nature became his passion. He worked with salmon enhancement programs throughout BC, and on becoming a teacher shared his love of the natural environment with students at McRoberts School in Richmond for thirteen years. During the summers he traveled from the Arctic to the Mexican border to photograph nature's treasures. His portfolio was accepted by a global gallery. Closer to home, he wrote about his observations at the Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary for several magazines and in his nature column in the *Vancouver Sun*.

When Terry became disabled, he moved to the outskirts of Hope where he spent a great deal of time by the Fraser River. After he died there on August 14, 2009, his family wanted to recognize his love of nature.

Contributing to an observation bench with his name on it at the Reifel Sanctuary seemed a "natural". There were many such benches already, but the sanctuary board agreed in recognition of Terry's frequent



Terry VanderSar birdwatching

If you would like to learn how you can leave a lasting legacy through a bequest, please contact Deb Kennedy at 604-924-9771 or e-mail debkennedy@naturetrust.bc.ca

references to Reifel in his writings.

However, the family wanted to do more. Many years ago Terry expressed his interest in acquiring a property in BC to be kept in its natural state as a conservation area. On his death the family contacted The Nature Trust of British Columbia. After some discussion, The Nature Trust provided information on Tom Berry Road properties near Hope. These properties are part of the Heart of the Fraser project. This part of the river between Mission and Hope is considered one of the most productive stretches of river in the province providing habitat for salmon, sturgeon and many types of wildlife and birds.

The ability to assist in wild salmon preservation, a long-time interest of Terry's, in the middle of the area where he spent his last days made for an easy decision. The VanderSar family was glad to make a memorial gift in Terry's name to assist in the purchase of a key Tom Berry Road property. The Nature Trust was pleased to receive the contribution, and recognized it publicly by placing a cairn on the site—a gesture appreciated by the family.

Read Island

The Nature Trust is pleased to be holding a covenant on land on Read Island near Campbell River which will become a new park. This 1.86 hectare (4.6 acre) property just inland from Surge Narrows will become part of the John Kim Nature Sanctuary.

Gifted by Eileen Sowerby and land partners, the property will be preserved as a natural park area in memory of Eileen's beloved son John McKim Millar. Ms. Sowerby is most grateful to her land partners who readily agreed to the donation.

By protecting this ecological gift, time should allow for mature forest characteristics to naturally develop in this second growth forest while providing wildlife with a protective forest canopy as well as other benefits. Strathcona Regional District will be assisted by the Surge Narrows Community Association to steward the park's growth in the spirit in which this gift was intended.



Left to right are Jim Abram of the Strathcona Regional District, Eileen Sowerby, Nature Trust CEO Doug Walker and Craig Anderson of the Strathcona Regional District



Grand Prize Winner
"Garry Oak Farmer" by Leah Ballin

Celebrating Nature

Thanks to all the amateur photographers who submitted 1,090 images to our Celebrating Nature Photo Contest. We narrowed down the entries to 12 and then asked for the public to choose a favourite in each category. After that, photographers Graham Osborne, Andrew Klaver and Vjeko Sager selected the Grand Prize Winner, Leah Ballin. Congratulations also to the category winners: Llaesa North, Len Langevin and Steve Milner.

Leah describes her winning shot: **"Garry Oak Farmer"** was photographed on the Cowichan Garry Oak Preserve in Maple Bay in the Cowichan Valley, Vancouver Island. This 22-hectare nature preserve is the largest intact deep soil/valley bottom Garry oak system in Canada and complements The Nature Trust's nearby 345-hectare Garry oak ecological reserve on Mount Maxwell beautifully. The photo depicts the largest prescribed burn of a Garry oak ecosystem since the Hul'qumi'num First Nations people last burned the lands for camas production over 100 years ago. At the time this photo was taken I was hosing the edge of the fire with water to contain its path, when I noticed the sun shining perfectly through the smoky Garry oak tree onto the "farmer" gazing out at the flames. I shouted for my partner to grab the hose. Ran and picked up the camera to snap the photo, and created this image.

The photo was taken with a Nikon D300 with a Nikkor AF-S 1:2.8G ED 14-24 mm ultra wide angle lens, shot at 14mm, set to Aperture Priority, shutter speed: 1/1600, Aperture: F/10.



"Web of Life" by Llaesa North



"Big Picture" by Len Langevin



"Power of Nature" by Steve Milner

Special thanks to our generous prize sponsors Lens & Shutter, Nikon and Booth Photographic

Coffee Cutters

The Chilliwack Field Naturalists hold scheduled monthly work parties to cut blackberries, called Coffee Cutters, at 9 am on the first Saturday of each month from October to May with a social coffee afterwards. From June to September when the days are longer, the CFN meets at 6:30 pm at the site on the first Thursday of each month. Tools and gloves are supplied. Meet at the dedication Cairn in front of the site on Camp River Road. Others interested in impromptu work parties conducted at other times should contact Lee or Denis Knopp at 604-858-5141 and have their name added to the Camp River Volunteer list.





The Nature Trust of British Columbia

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Bert Hoffmeister Scholarship Winner

Amanda Edworthy received this year's scholarship named in honour of the first Chairman of The Nature Trust of BC, Bert Hoffmeister. Amanda describes her research:

"Currently I am doing an MSc in Forest Sciences at the University of British Columbia with Dr. Kathy Martin, studying factors influencing persistence and reuse across the lifespan of tree cavities in interior British Columbia. I started as a field assistant on this project in 2007, counting birds at 5 am and searching for nests in tree holes up to 20 metres high. In addition to my enjoyment of fieldwork in the forests and grasslands of BC, the opportunity to work with a long-term dataset (16 years) in a highly diverse system of more than 40 species cavity-nesters led to my current research. In the future I plan to continue addressing theoretical and applied questions in ecology."



Amanda working in the field

HSBC Bank Canada Recognizes Crew Member

Colin Mayer was acknowledged as an outstanding crew member by HSBC Bank Canada for his work in the South Okanagan. In addition to his regular crew responsibilities restoring habitat on conservation lands, Colin coordinated and organized a biodiversity lecture at Summerland Secondary School. On his own time he put together a presentation, made the contacts and did the majority of the speaking to two local high school classes about what biodiversity is and its importance in the South Okanagan and across BC.



HSBC Bank Canada Senior Manager, Corporate Sustainability, Sabrina Spencer with Colin Mayer and Nature Trust CEO Doug Walker



Volunteer Deborah Jones and Robin Rivers of The Nature Trust enjoy the completed rain garden

Rain Garden for Nature Trust Office

Thanks to keen volunteers Deborah Jones and Ib Nielsen as well as muscle power from Nature Trust staff, a rain garden was created in a day outside our office in North Vancouver. Now rainwater will be captured by the plants and filtered rather than pouring across the bricks and sidewalk into the storm drain. And it also makes the building entrance look much more welcoming.