



# Our Backyard

A NEWSLETTER ON THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT IN SAANICH

Volume 13  
Issue 1  
Spring 2013



## In This Issue:

Planting a Salmon Garden with Glanford Geckos MAPS Project at Madrona Farm **Going Wild: Exploring our Rainforests** Swan Lake Native Plant Sale Western Bluebird Re-introduction Update **Pulling Together** SNIDCE (Tod Inlet) Restoration Days Spring Cleaning & Septic Systems **Mount Douglas Park Soundscape** Events 2013 Saanich Environmental Awards



# Planting a Salmon Garden with Glanford Middle School

By Peter Dunsmore-Papagiannis  
Habitat Acquisition Trust [www.hat.bc.ca](http://www.hat.bc.ca)

Last February, the "Glanford Geckos," a group of passionate Glanford Middle School students, contacted Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) about restoring a shallow drainage swale that ran on their school property. The inquiry was music to our ears. Our Landcare Coordinator Todd Carnahan worked with the school to come up with a proper site plan that would transform a grassy swale into a salmon garden to protect the fish in Colquitz Creek. First, we mulched half of the area in 2012, and again in February 2013, and set the Geckos on planting the swale, which they have almost completed!

Once the shrubs are established, potentially contaminated runoff from the school site will be filtered and released slowly into Panama Flats. The Flats are seasonal wetlands of Colquitz Creek, a rare urban salmon bearing stream. HAT started by doing classroom education and taught the students all about the value of planting streamsidings. A total of 350 students put more than 280 plants in the ground over the two years. Students learned firsthand about Oregon Grape, Hardhack, Coastal Strawberry and Sword Fern. Not only did the students get to learn about the importance of native shrubs in their ecosystem but they actually were able to plant them to create a closer connection to nature. It is important to restore vegetation in swales like this one because our salmon rely on clean, fresh water. Our waterways don't just start and stop where you see them, they seep underground and reach a myriad of water systems and provide life for thousands of creatures. If we can teach people to imagine swales and drainage systems as fish protection features, then thousands of small actions like this garden can make a big difference for our streams. We feel good knowing that we have helped the Glanford Geckos better understand and engage with their surroundings.

# MAPS Project at Madrona Farm

By Jo Motek, Rocky Point Bird Observatory (RPBO)

Beginning in June, Rocky Point Bird Observatory (RPBO) will be busy at Saanich's Madrona Farm gathering data for MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship). Besides being a wonderful place to grow organic vegetables, the farm has proven to be a rich habitat for nesting birds.

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

Madrona Farm, in the Blenkinsop Valley adjacent to Mount Douglas Park, was identified in 2011 as a possible site for MAPS, with it's thick hedgerows, fertile fields, and ponds. During the first year of study, 358 birds representing 30 species were captured, banded and released by trained researchers. Rufous and Anna's Hummingbirds were well represented as were multiple species of sparrow, finch, kinglet, thrush, and warbler.

MAPS is a cooperative effort among public and private agencies in the US, Canada and Mexico. RPBO has been conducting MAPS research since 2003 and has another site, running concurrently at Witty's Lagoon. The station operates once every 10 days for six hours beginning at dawn from June through mid August. If you are interested in finding out more about RPBO, please visit our website at [www.rpbo.org](http://www.rpbo.org).



# Going Wild: Exploring our Rainforests

By Meg Banavage, Sierra Club BC



SIERRA  
CLUB  
BC

Did you know that our province is lucky to boast one quarter of the planet's remaining intact coastal temperate rainforest? This wonderfully wet ecosystem is where we find Red Huckleberries, Chanterelles, Licorice Ferns, Salal - and that's just a tiny handful of the biodiversity in our backyard!

Sierra Club BC's Education Program helps students in grades 4-7 explore the wild products of BC's rainforests with our classroom workshop, *Going Wild!* Students gain knowledge of wild products, traditional First Nations values, ecosystem dynamics, stewardship, human-nature relationships, economy, and entrepreneurship. There is still availability for schools during April and May 2013 to sign up for this fun program!

Where did *Going Wild!* come from? Over the past years, Sierra Club BC has been working in partnership with Coastal First Nations Great Bear Initiative to develop an activity guide for educators that focuses on non-timber forest products. The *Going Wild! Teaching about Wild Products from BC's Coastal Rainforest* guidebook was completed in 2009, and Sierra Club has since developed in-class programs based on the Guidebook that we have been delivering in classrooms throughout the Central and North Coast, Haida Gwaii, Clayoquot Sound, and the Greater Victoria Area.

*Going Wild!* is also tailored to help teachers meet the prescribed learning outcomes of BC's Ministry of Education, and some schools and parent advisory committees are able to donate towards offsetting the costs of our program. Interested teachers and school administrators can visit our website to fill out a program request form. They can also email us with further questions.

*"Learning about nature was so fun I just can't wait for next time"*  
~grade 5 participant feedback after our *Going Wild!* program.

Read about the program: [www.sierraclub.bc.ca/education/school-programs](http://www.sierraclub.bc.ca/education/school-programs)

Download the free electronic guidebook here: [www.sierraclub.bc.ca/going-wild](http://www.sierraclub.bc.ca/going-wild)

Contact our Education Program: [education@sierraclub.bc.ca](mailto:education@sierraclub.bc.ca); 250.386.5255



# It's the Swan Lake Native Plant Sale!

By June Pretzer, Site Manager  
Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary

[www.swanlake.bc.ca](http://www.swanlake.bc.ca)

We're ready with thousands of plants from Salmonberry to Sundew and gardening experts to inspire you.

So much to do! Face-painting at the Kids Clubhouse, short talks with local experts, gift shop, displays, and don't forget Swan Lake Refreshments with Level Ground coffee and delicious home baked goodies.

We're focused on insects with examples of lovely bugs that help your garden and nature. We'll answer your deer questions with our Deer Myths display.

You could take a self guided walk through the Native Plant Garden – there are plenty of labels so you can learn the plants, or wander down to the Lake... and of course there's a wide variety of nursery-grown wild species especially suited to Southern Vancouver Island to get your garden growing.

We want people to know how beautiful these plants are and to understand they can play a big part as naturalists, citizen scientists, and conservationists, just by growing native plants in their own backyard.

Native plants are perfect for those hard to plant places. Even small patios can have container gardens; a pot full of stonecrop needs little water and flowers all summer long. And collectors will want new species such as *Cryptogramma acrostichoides* and some special bug-munching insectivores.

Barry Janyk joins us as our new Executive Director and invites you to drop by our display table to say hello. The Sanctuary has lots to offer including events and rental facilities. You could have your next meeting right here! Just ask Barry!

To get a flavour of what the Native Plant Sale has to offer, check our website. We're so much more than just a plant sale!

841 Ralph Street, corner of Swan Lake Road and Ralph Street.



Saturday & Sunday

April 20 & 21

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

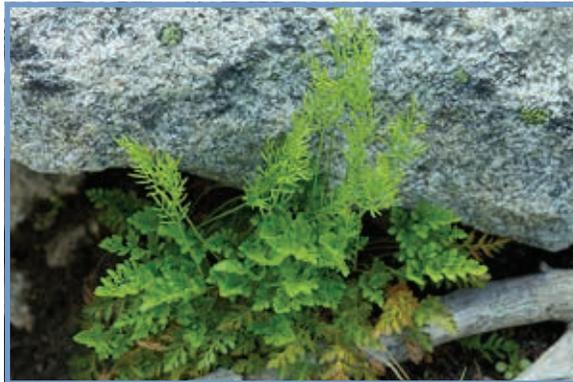
841 Ralph Street

Over 6000 Plants  
& Hundreds of  
Species Available



Pre Orders Over \$300 Available  
Prepaid Only Call 250. 727. 0653

Please bring boxes or flats for your plants  
Carpool and check our website for parking locations:  
[www.swanlake.bc.ca](http://www.swanlake.bc.ca)



# Western Bluebird Re-introduction Update

By Carolyn Masson,  
Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team

Once a common species within Garry Oak ecosystems on Vancouver Island and the southern Gulf Islands, Western Bluebirds (*Sialia mexicana*) are now locally extinct (extirpated). Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team (GOERT) and partners successfully launched a five-year *Bring Back the Bluebirds* project last year, with one family of translocated bluebirds successfully raising four chicks, the first ones known to have hatched on Vancouver Island since 1995! On March 19th this year, the first pair of Western Bluebirds for 2013 was translocated from Washington and placed in a temporary aviary in the Cowichan Valley. We hope to translocate 10 pairs altogether this spring, some of them with nestlings. We thank all our partners, funders, and volunteers for their help with this project. Here are ways you can help:

## Make your yard safe for native birds

Providing nestboxes and other habitat elements is helpful only if you are not creating a “wildlife sink”, or death trap. Cats, Eastern Grey Squirrels, European Starlings, English House Sparrows, and other introduced animals can kill or out-compete the wildlife you are trying to attract. If your goal is to create a sanctuary for native wildlife, please take measures to prevent predation by non-native animals.

The bluebird nestboxes we use are designed to keep out starlings (the entrance holes are too small for them), but we are unable to exclude House Sparrows because they’re smaller than bluebirds, so we are careful to place nestboxes in areas free of House Sparrows, which can out-compete or kill bluebirds. If you live in an urban area, you most likely have House Sparrows; in that case, it’s best to put up houses with entrance holes that are too small for them. Visit Wild Birds Unlimited for appropriate houses for native swallows, chickadees, and other cavity nesters, or for plans to build your own, visit:

[www.naturescapebc.ca/naturescape/Provincial\\_Guide\\_2003.pdf](http://www.naturescapebc.ca/naturescape/Provincial_Guide_2003.pdf) (pages 19-22)

[www.saanich.ca/living/environment/pdf/ob/obspring10\\_web\\_withevents.pdf](http://www.saanich.ca/living/environment/pdf/ob/obspring10_web_withevents.pdf) (page 8)

## Garden with native plants

“To feed the birds, first feed the bugs”. The foundation of a healthy ecosystem is the native plants, which provide habitat for insects and other animals. Incorporating some native plants into your landscaping can help re-stitch the fabric of our local endangered ecosystems. Most birds feed their young with insects, so if you have a thriving insect population in your garden, you are providing a crucial food source for birds. See our *Garry Oak Gardener’s Handbook* for inspiration, plant lists, and garden designs. Also see p. 3 for native plant sale information.

## Watch for bluebirds in Saanich and other South Island areas

Please help us watch for Western Bluebirds and contact us immediately if you think you see them: [bluebird@goert.ca](mailto:bluebird@goert.ca); 250-383-3427. Look for their coloured leg bands and make note of the colours you see. Learn more at [www.goert.ca/bluebird](http://www.goert.ca/bluebird) or follow our progress on facebook: [www.facebook.com/garryoakeco](http://www.facebook.com/garryoakeco). If you are interested in supporting this program, please visit: <http://www.goert.ca/support/donate.php>.



Photos by Bill Pennell and GOERT



# Pulling Together - Growing, growing, green!

an assortment of the latest news from our program

By Jenny Eastman, Coordinator of Volunteers  
jenny.eastman@saanich.ca

What's the secret? Why are so many Saanich residents engaged in ecological restoration volunteering in their parks?

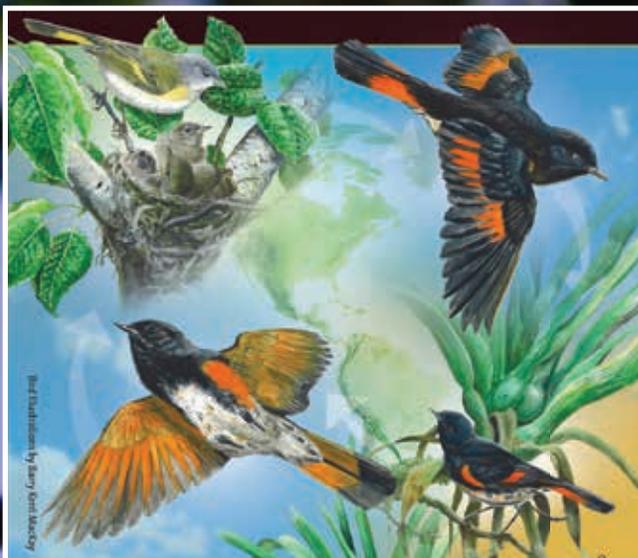
Ronaldo retired and decided to stay fit by doing some invasive plant species removal in his neighbourhood park. Four years later, he's there three days a week, working up a sweat and feeling healthy, while tipping the balance in favour of the native Coastal Douglas-fir ecosystem. Danielle wrote a report for her UVic biology class and now brings her youth group colleagues out to volunteer every month. "I just came to love this spot so much. I couldn't let it disappear under a sea of invasive species", she says.

Across Saanich, hundreds of diverse volunteers are engaged in ecological restoration of their parks as part of Saanich's *Pulling Together* Volunteer Program. In 2008, volunteers gave more than 600 hours to care for park ecosystems. In 2012, the figure had grown to more than 6000 hours! In terms of hours given by volunteers, the program is growing by approximately 12 – 17% each year. Some volunteers come out each week and others drop in, or come from local schools, churches, sports clubs, youth programs, and corporate groups.

Why do they do it? Here's what they say:

- I like to stay fit in nature.
- I love the camaraderie of my team when we meet to work each week.
- I want to do something "hands-on" to care for this park I've lived beside my whole life. I can't imagine not having it here.
- I need volunteer hours for school and I'd rather be outside to do them.
- I like the training opportunities we get as *Pulling Together* volunteers.
- Why not? We all need to help care for our parks.

If you'd like to join our team of park-loving volunteers of all abilities, please visit our website to learn more:  
<http://www.saanich.ca/living/natural/opportunities.html>



## International Migratory Bird Day: Winged Migration

Saturday May 11, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park (Filter Beds)

Celebrate the return of our feathered friends! May 11 is International Migratory Bird Day. Join CRD Regional Parks, Rocky Point Bird Observatory and the Victoria Natural History Society to learn more about the journey that birds take from their summer and winter homes. This free drop-in event offers engaging activities for birders of all ages, expertise and abilities. Participate in guided walks, mist-netting demonstrations, hummingbird and passerine banding demonstrations, children's activities and presentations. Meet at the Filter Beds parking lot off Beaver Lake Road. BC Transit #70 or #72

# SNIDÇEŁ (Tod Inlet) Restoration Days Spring 2013

by Judith Lyn Arney, SeaChange Marine Conservation Society

[www.seachangesociety.com](http://www.seachangesociety.com)

SNIDÇEŁ, meaning "Place of the Blue Grouse," is a culturally and ecologically rich place. Occupation dates back thousands of years when it was an important village site for the WSANEC people. SNIDÇEŁ has long been known as a sacred area and place of abundance. Unfortunately the legacy of a cement company, operating at SNIDÇEŁ from 1904-1913, left SNIDÇEŁ seriously degraded environmentally. SeaChange Marine Conservation has been doing marine restoration at SNIDÇEŁ since 1998, and terrestrial restoration since 2006.

The lower terrestrial restoration sites, near the docks of the inlet, will one day reflect a mosaic of open ecosystems, Garry Oak meadows and early successional stage forest. The area near our beloved "Snoopy Tree" represents the ecotone of mixed deciduous and coniferous forest leading into openings in the canopy of a more mature forest and riparian areas of our upper sites. We have planted many of our sites with Red-flowering Currant; this species crosses well into a range of ecosystems and supports pollinators, creating a 'hummingbird corridor' that links the sites together and provides a physical pathway for pollinating wildlife!

Our sites are all at different stages in their restoration. The lower sites require the most intensive soil remediation and invasive plant clearing effort, since they have a very high concentration of cement in its substrate, being immediately adjacent to the large quarry which is now Butchart Garden's "Sunken Garden". In the mixed and mature forest stands of SNIDÇEŁ upslope of the inlet itself, we see more native plants establishing in our restoration sites, both naturally and through our plantings over the years.

These restoration sites are all part of an ongoing effort by SeaChange staff to revitalize SNIDÇEŁ as a place that can once again be habitat for Blue Grouse and a vital source of traditional foods and medicines. Editor's Note: Blue Grouse has recently been split into two species. Our Pacific Coastal form is now called Sooty Grouse (*Dendragapus fuliginosus*).

## SeaChange Marine Conservation Society

[www.seachangesociety.com](http://www.seachangesociety.com) 250-652-1662

Restoration Volunteer Days at SNIDÇEŁ (Tod Inlet)

April 9, April 20, May 11, May 25 10am-1pm

SeaChange Marine Conservation Society coordinates terrestrial restoration in Tod Inlet, Gowlland-Tod Provincial Park, also known as SNIDÇEŁ (pronounced 'sneed-kwith') in the Saanich language. Please see our website for directions to the inlet. SeaChange will provide gloves and tools, as well as tea and light refreshments at the break. Please bring your own water and dress for the weather. We welcome anyone to join us and help restore this beautiful place!



# SPRING CLEANING & SEPTIC SYSTEMS

## HOW DO I SPRING CLEAN WITHOUT HARMING MY SEPTIC SYSTEM?

By Gail Pike, Environmental Sustainability, Capital Regional District

Some cleaning products can be harmful to your septic system. Septic systems are biological systems for the treatment of wastewater; the tank contains beneficial bacteria from the human body that slowly but surely digests some, but not all of the sludge. These bacteria are sensitive and can easily be upset by chemical products. The soil in the drainfield contains microorganisms which are also sensitive to harmful chemicals and these chemicals can pass through the soil polluting the surrounding groundwater. The best approach to keeping a septic system healthy, and protect the surrounding environment, is to take care what goes down the drain, and not neglect regular pumping and inspection of your septic system.

### The best cleaning products happen to also be the most affordable:

- Baking soda for tubs, toilets and sinks
- Vinegar for windows and mirrors
- Borax as a bleach alternative
- Lemon to make it all smell nice

The most environmentally harmful cleaning products are the ones with warning symbols or complex chemical names on the containers.

### Stay away from cleaners like these:

- Granular drain cleaner. One tablespoon will kill all of the beneficial bacteria in your septic tank. Catch hair, food bits and other solids before they go down the drain by using sink screens. If you have a problem drain, it may be a sign of a clogged septic pipe and an inspection is recommended.
- Powdered laundry soap. It has filler in it that can clog septic pipes and soil. Liquid laundry soap is much easier on septic systems.
- Products ending with the suffix 'sol'. These contain solvents which are very harmful.

## Clean Green Cookbook

The *Clean Green Cookbook* has recipes for greener oven cleaner, laundry soap, drain cleaners, household disinfectant and much more.  
[www.sustainableu.ca/courses/clean-green-101.aspx](http://www.sustainableu.ca/courses/clean-green-101.aspx)

Remember: If the ingredients on the label seem toxic in any way, it probably should not go down the drain whether you are on septic or sewer.

Visit our website at [www.crd.bc.ca/wastewater/septic](http://www.crd.bc.ca/wastewater/septic) for more information on septic systems, free Septic Savvy workshops and the CRD bylaw or contact the CRD Hotline at 250-360-3030 or [hotline@crd.bc.ca](mailto:hotline@crd.bc.ca)



# Mount Douglas Park Soundscape

When was the last time you heard only nature - no traffic or other city noises? Increasing urbanization comes complete with noise from traffic, leaf blowers, lawn mowers, high-pitched backup warning signals, and on and on. At the same time, places of solitude, places where one can hear nature, places of natural quiet are steadily disappearing. In these natural areas, noise pollution can also have a detrimental impact on wildlife. The doubling of background noise can reduce the area where an animal might hear predators to a quarter of the original area; likewise the detection area for animals or birds that use hearing to find prey or mates may also be reduced by 75%. The result is not only a higher risk of predation, but an overall reduction of usable habitat for the park's inhabitants.

The Friends of Mount Douglas Park have appreciated the natural quiet deep within Mount Douglas Park; these sounds of nature and natural quiet are an important resource to be valued and preserved. There are many natural quiet locations throughout the Park and we have begun a park sound mapping project to document this soundscape.

Organizations elsewhere also recognize quiet as a valuable resource; there is an excellent movement in Olympic National Park to preserve "one square inch of silence" where "noise free intervals" are measured as the time when there are no human generated sounds, including airplanes ([www.onesquareinch.org](http://www.onesquareinch.org)). The US National Park service considers natural quiet sufficiently important that they have a Natural Sounds and Night Skies Division, recognizing that visitors come to parks to hear natural sounds and to escape traffic and city noises; the division monitors tour flights over parks and also takes action on sounds generated outside the parks that adversely affect the natural soundscape. Mount Douglas Park deserves similar protection (though we have no expectations regarding low flying noisy aircraft...yet!).

Where is your favorite "natural quiet" area in Mount Douglas Park?

By Darrell Wick, President Friends of Mount Douglas Park Society  
[www.mountdouglaspark.ca](http://www.mountdouglaspark.ca)

## Wild ARC Open House

[www.wildarc.com](http://www.wildarc.com) 250-478-9453

Sat/Sun, April 6-7, 12 pm - 4 pm

1020 Malloch Road in Metchosin

Don't miss this rare opportunity to see what it takes to care for almost 2,500 injured and orphaned wild animals from our community. There is no cost to participate in the tour but you must register here: [www.wildarc.com](http://www.wildarc.com) Be sure to register soon as this event fills up quickly!

# Upcoming Events

## Saanich Recreation Free Programs

[www.saanich.ca/resident/recreation](http://www.saanich.ca/resident/recreation) 250-475-5408

### Sunday Hikes (FREE Drop-In)

**Sundays, 1 pm - 3:30 pm**

These FREE guided hikes are open to adults of all ages. Please wear sturdy and supportive footwear and carry adequate drinking water. Sorry, dogs are not permitted.

Apr 21 - Interurban Rail Trail to Viaduct Flats

Meet at Red Barn Market, 5550 West Saanich Rd.

May 26 - Mt. Doug Lower Trails - at washrooms main parking lot

Jun 23 - Swan Lake to Bow Park - behind Saanich Hall

### Gentle Walk & Talk (FREE Drop-In)

**Thursdays, 9:30 am - 11 am**

Enjoy beautiful scenery, a friendly chat, and gentle exercise as we take walks through Saanich parks. Suitable for all walking abilities, but wear suitable footwear. Sorry, dogs not permitted.

Apr 11 - Colquitz Park to Galloping Goose

Meet at Colquitz Creek Park sign near Silver City Theatre

Apr 18 - Calvert Park to Logan - Viaduct, off Interurban

Apr 25 - Cedar Hill Rec Centre to Peacock Hill - in main lobby

May 2 - Cadboro Gyro Park to Queen Alexandra

Meet at Cadboro Gyro, end of Sinclair Rd, beside washrooms

May 9 - Mt. Tolmie to Finnerty Gardens - top parking lot

May 16 - Arbutus Cove to Hollydene - end of Arbutus Cove Lane

May 23 - Layritz - Copley - Quick's Bottom

Meet at Layritz Park parking lot, off Glyn, off Wilkinson Rd.

May 30 - McMinn - Kentwood - Outterbridge

Meet at McMinn Park, off Maple Grove, beside tennis courts

Jun 6 - Prospect Lake to Centennial Trail - at Whitehead Park

### Preschoolers In The Park (FREE Drop-In)

**Fridays, 10 am - 11:30 am**

Enjoy our adventure playgrounds, organized circle time, and partake in a nature/urban walk. Bring a stroller or child carrier. Parent participation required. If raining, program is cancelled a half-hour before program start. \*Not all parks have washrooms\*

Apr 12 - Horner Park - Kisber Ave, off Cedar Hill X Rd

Apr 19 - Rainbow Park - 3976 Rainbow St., off McKenzie Ave

Apr 26 - Cadboro Gyro Park - End of Sinclair Street

May 3 - Lochside Park - 5391 Lochside Drive

May 10 - Copley Park West - on Vanalman Ave at Parkridge

May 17 - Rutledge Park - Inverness & Cloverdale

May 24 - Brydon Park - Mapleton Pl, off Mann Ave.

May 31 - Browning Park - 3300 Browning St., off McRae St

Jun 7 - Marigold Park - On Iris Rd., off Grange Rd.

## Violet-green & Barn Swallow nesting

<http://members.shaw.ca/swallows/>

Free Barn Swallow ledges, mounting and guidance. Contact Malcolm at 250 812-6461 or [swallows@shaw.ca](mailto:swallows@shaw.ca).

## Victoria Natural History Society

Visit [www.naturevictoria.ca](http://www.naturevictoria.ca) for more programs

### Natural History Night (every 2nd Tuesday)

**Non-renewable Resources and Us**

Tuesday, April 9, 7:30 pm UVic Fraser Building, Room 159

### Botany Night (every 3rd Tuesday)

**Botanica poetica - Botany in Poetry**

Tuesday, April 16, 7:30 pm Swan Lake Nature Centre

### Birder's Night (every 4th Wednesday)

**The Birds of India**

Wednesday, April 24, 7:30 pm UVic Fraser Building, Room 159

### Marine Night (last Monday of the month)

**A Changing Coast: an Arctic Perspective**

Monday, April 29, 7:30 pm UVic Fraser Building, Room 159

## CRD Parks & Environmental Services

Visit [www.crd.bc.ca](http://www.crd.bc.ca) for more programs 250-478-3344

CRD Regional Parks Nature Outings and Events for March to June 2013 is now out. Our naturalists lead guided walks, hikes, and drop-in events for all ages and abilities. Most are free, all are fun!

### Grow a Native Plant Garden (Course)

**Saturday, April 6, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**Thursday, April 18, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm**

Swan Lake Nature House (3873 Swan Lake Road)

Participate in a FREE workshop on gardening with drought-resistant native plants. Instruction on native plant identification, their benefits and how to use them will be covered, plus a tour of a native plant garden. Pre-register by calling 250.479.0211.

### Efficient Irrigation Workshops (Course)

Wed. April 10th 7-9pm

Irrigation Controller

Saturday April 13th 2-5pm

All Efficient Irrigation

Saturday April 27th 2-5pm

Irrigation Maintenance

Saturday May 11th 2-5pm

Micro/Drip Irrigation

A properly installed & maintained irrigation system will conserve water! Irrigation experts will explain system components and discuss scheduling & maintenance tips. Please call the CRD at 250.474.9684 to pre-register or visit [www.crd.bc.ca/workshops](http://www.crd.bc.ca/workshops)

## Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary

[www.swanlake.bc.ca](http://www.swanlake.bc.ca) 250-479-0211

### Guided Bird Walks (Drop-In)

**Every Wednesday and Sunday, 9:00 am**

Bring binoculars and meet in the parking lot for this informative walk around the lake. Suitable for ages 12+.

### Volunteer Restoration Team (Drop-In)

**Every Thursday and Saturday, 10 am - 1 pm**

Volunteer to help remove invasive plants from Christmas Hill! Email for more info and where to meet: [restoration@swanlake.bc.ca](mailto:restoration@swanlake.bc.ca)

### Wildflower Weekend (Drop-in Event)

**Sunday April 28, 12 pm - 3 pm**

Celebrate the wonderful world of wildflowers with guided tours of our native plant garden, hikes to Christmas Hill, crafts for the kids and our wildflower, musical revue. Admission by donation.

### Bee Day (Drop-in Event)

**Sunday, May 26, 12 pm - 3 pm**

A honey of a program fit for the royalty of the insect world. What's the buzz about bees - are they really good dancers? Bee songs, crafts and some bee spit to taste. Bee there or bee square. Admission by donation.



# 2013 Saanich Environmental Awards

*Recognizing people and organizations  
that make a positive contribution to the natural  
environment in Saanich since 2000.*

## Award Categories

**INDIVIDUAL**

**VOLUNTEER**

**ORGANIZATION**

**BUSINESS**

**YOUTH GROUP / SCHOOL**

**BIODIVERSITY  
CONSERVATION**

*To recognize local conservation efforts  
towards a species, habitat or ecosystem.*

**LONG-TERM  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
ACHIEVEMENT**

*To recognize a lifetime of local  
environmental effort by an individual.*

**SUSTAINABILITY**

*To recognize a local contribution towards  
sustainability, integrating environmental,  
social and economic values.*



To make a  
nomination  
please visit:

[www.saanich.ca/enviroawards](http://www.saanich.ca/enviroawards)



## About

Saanich Environmental Awards are an initiative of the Saanich Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC). Nominations are received by the EAC and evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Significance of the project
- Duration/magnitude of effort
- Degree of innovation
- Longterm sustainability of the project
- Past efforts



## Past Recipients

Past award winners have participated in such projects as invasive species removal, environmental education, native plant propagation, waste reduction and conservation of private property. Business awards have been given for innovative green services, sustainable development and energy efficient facilities.



## Eligibility

The awards are not limited to Saanich residents, but the effect of the nominee's work must be in our municipality. If the nominee is employed in an environmental field, the nomination should indicate how their work exceeds their job requirements. Members of the EAC, Saanich staff and Saanich Council are not eligible to receive awards.



## Deadline for nominations is

**Friday, April 19, 2013 at 4pm**





# Local Food & Country Market

Sat May 18, 9-1pm Free Entry

Prospect Lake Community Hall

5358 Sparton Rd. [www.pldca.ca](http://www.pldca.ca)

50+ tables featuring local produce, plants, herbs, greens, preserves, baked goods, eggs, crafts, pet food, flowers, hot brunch at Jack's Kitchen & more

MUSIC by **Out Stealing Mules**

By Prospect Lake Community Association  
Thank you to our local Sponsors



For information or to book a FREE table call Fred Haynes: 250-708-0702

## Jane Austen Tea Party in a Country Garden

June 22 & 23, 1 - 4pm [www.pldca.ca](http://www.pldca.ca)

Starling Lane Winery, 5271 Old West Saanich Road  
Vignettes by Kim Hicks, door prizes, tea leaf reading, live music & silent auction. Period costume & hats highly encouraged.

\$20 adults \$12 for 5-12 Free for under 5

Front Cover: Western Bluebird nestling being banded in 2012. Photo by Bill Pennell.

Back Cover: The historic Cowichan Valley Western Bluebird nest! Five eggs (four hatched). See page 4 for more information on this reintroduction project. Photo by Julia Daly.

## Join the *Our Backyard* mailing list!

Be kept up to date on local community stewardship projects and environmental issues. Subscriptions to this quarterly newsletter are free and available in electronic or paper version. To subscribe, please send your contact information to the editor or visit the following website [www.ourbackyard.saanich.ca](http://www.ourbackyard.saanich.ca)

Editor: Darren Copley | Phone: 250-475-5579 | Email: [Darren.Copley@saanich.ca](mailto:Darren.Copley@saanich.ca)

