

land

the magazine of the Land Trust Alliance of BC



In this issue:

Leaving a Legacy
Scouts Island Nature Centre
Land Trust Award Winners
Ecological Gifts
Galiano Restorative Learning Centre
Mt. Tuam - Salt Spring Island
Flathead River Valley



Land Trust Alliance
BRITISH COLUMBIA

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contact: Natasha van Bentum
tel: 1.250.477.3474 (PT)
email: vanbentum@gmail.com
web: givegreencanada.ca
twitter: @GiveGreenCanada

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Paul McNair, Executive Director

Fiona MacLeod, Administrator

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LAND Magazine is a semi-annual publication of the Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia that supports:

Vision: British Columbia: A global model of communities living in harmony with their natural and cultural heritage.

Mission: The Land Trust Alliance “fosters the land trust community, which protects and stewards British Columbia’s natural and cultural heritage”.

LAND Magazine not only educates and encourages with provoking, original stories and articles, but also highlights the work of LTABC and our member groups.

Writing for LAND Magazine: Geographically speaking, LAND Magazine profiles happenings in BC. The best way to learn what constitutes a story publishable by LAND Magazine is to read current issues. Please query through email before submitting. Your query should portray the essence of your story and show why our readers would be interested. Indicate what photos and/or illustrations will accompany the story. Please send queries to info@landtrustalliance.bc.ca, with a concise subject line indicating you are querying an idea to LAND Magazine. Include your email, telephone or other contact information with each query.

**We acknowledge the funding of
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BC Land Trusts Strive to Achieve Highest Standards

Canada has more than 80,000 registered charities. Add to that an additional 81,000 nonprofits and the number is staggering. In British Columbia alone there are 20,270 charities and nonprofits.

With all of these organizations doing good community work, why should you consider supporting land trusts. Our members, spread across British Columbia, do not raise funds in hopes of finding a cure, to make a difference in one person's life or to undertake a one-time event. Land trusts are visionary. They strategically plan what resources are vital to our province and conserve them.

This is a daunting task. However, during the past 4 decades, and primarily the past 15 years hundreds of thousands of hectares have been protected in BC. These are ecologically significant lands owned privately. You will likely not see land trusts protesting or pursuing political agenda but rather you will see them proactively determining what is important for the future of BC's natural, cultural and historic preservation.

But it goes beyond just conserving land. Land trusts have a program known as Standards & Practices. The program is outlined in this issue of LAND. The Standards and Practices provide 92 distinct practices under 12 broad-based Standards. Few charities and nonprofits administer such a fundamental review of the best practices, procedures, guidelines and policies. The Land Trust Alliance of BC provides a self-guided web-based program for its land trust members. Land Trust Boards, staff and volunteers can use the program to assess their effectiveness, efficiency and good governance.

This program sets land trusts apart as they continually strive to achieve excellence. From conserving historic properties, to protecting wildlife species, forests and wetlands, land trusts are remarkable environmental organizations that also strive to be the best managed organizations.

Our member directory, also in this issue, will let you know where the closest land trust to you is located. You can also find them on our website at www.ltabc.ca. Please consider supporting your local land trust by volunteering, making a financial contribution or donating property. It is a sound investment in the future of BC.

Paul McNair
Executive Director
Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia
paul@ltabc.ca
www.ltabc.ca



With Thanks!

Bill Wagner has served on the Board of the Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia for eight years. His service has been exemplary as he has served as Board Chair and participated in numerous projects including the development of the BC Standards & Practices program and most recently in the creation of an extensive LTABC Human Resource policy. Bill has brought his years of professional expertise, personal interest and commitment to conservation to our organization. As his term ends on our Board we thank him and wish him well!

Land Trust Award Recipients For 2012

Outstanding Program

(non-land)

Habitat Acquisition Trust
Conservation Connection

Outstanding Donor

Trevor Goward
The Land Conservancy

Friend of Land Trusts

The Real Estate Foundation
of British Columbia



Kelly Lerigny, Chair of the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia is shown accepting the Friend of Land Trusts award presented by the Land Trust Alliance of BC. At right is LTABC Executive Director Paul McNair.

In May the Land Trust Alliance recognized three outstanding contributions to land trusts in BC. Below are the inspiring words of one of the award recipients, Trevor Goward the 2012 Outstanding Donor.

So much remains to be done toward the creation of a wildlife corridor for southern Wells Gray Park that it's easy to lose sight to what has already been accomplished. I have to say it's refreshing to reflect a bit on our achievements to date.

Speaking of opportunities, I want to take this opportunity to say a few words: first, why I'm taking this step; and second where I think having taken this step will take me – or take *us* rather, since obviously it's not only me who's making a major commitment here, so is TLC.

If I understand correctly my decision to donate my home is, in my particular circumstance, a little unusual. Two reasons here. First because I'm coming to this in my 50s, that is, presumably with plenty of time to revel in my decision – or possibly, who knows, to regret it. And second because by none of the usual standards can I be regarded as well heeled. True, I have no debts; but giving my home and property away will leave me with little more than clothing enough to fill a clothes closet, the books to line my book shelves, and a small saving – not really very much – in the bank. In short I guess you could say that I'm taking a bit of a risk here. So it really is a fair question to ask why I'm doing what I'm doing.

Of course we all have our reasons for the decisions we make. I suppose my own decision – the one I'm going on about – has its basis in my life-long love affair with wild places and especially the plants and animals that inhabit them. As a naturalist – a person who seeks and sometimes finds answers to questions invisible to most other people – I've become intimately familiar with a great many of those species. As a lichenologist – a person who thinks about lichens – I've been lucky enough to discover a number of them. And as a taxonomist – a person who classifies and names things – I've frequently been in the not unpleasant position – an honour really – of giving those species scientific names.

Three of the names I've come up over the years with stand out in my mind. I suppose they're my favorites: *Lobaria silvae-veteris*, *Sphaerophorus venerabilis*, *Hypogymnia canadensis*. Taken together I like to think that these names form a kind of poem, a Haiku. Rendered into English, this Haiku might read:

Oldgrowth forest
venerable thing.
Canada.

Of course I am saddened, as I suppose many of you

are, to reflect that my little lichenological poem is no longer so relevant to our country as it once was. Somehow in my life time we Canadians seem to have lost the knack for veneration; for if not, then it would be hard to account for the great industrial-scale transformation that has overtaken so many of our wild places, especially in the west. Do I perhaps exaggerate? At next opportunity, why not sit down in front of your computer screen, bring up Google Earth, and take a short overflight across southern British Columbia. What you'll see, I submit, is our collective mindset made manifest.

This brings me to the question of why I've decided to give my home and land away. The answer, quite frankly, is that the more I've environmentally – and socially – ungenerous my country has seemed to me to become, the more I'm persuaded that the only morally defensible response is to pull in the opposite direction. Hard. So rather than take, I increasingly prefer to give. Rather than waste, I prefer to tread lightly. Rather than “invest” – which when you think about it is really to place in one's bank account value that had formerly belonged to somebody else or else the land itself – I very much prefer to make my way by the sweat of my own brow. In short, in the face of rampant unsustainability, I am now trying to teach myself to live sustainably. Giving away what I don't really need if it in some way abets the creation of safe crossing for Wells Gray's wildlife is fully consistent with this mindset.

So where am I headed? I can sum it up in four words: hope for the future. Working with TLC allows me, as they themselves say, to “be the change I want to see in the world”. In years ahead I hope to see Edgewood become a kind of teaching ground for young naturalists – the people who in future will have more to tell us more about the workings of the natural world than most scientists ever will. In particular I want to help reintroduce a vision of the living world as emergent: the collective “magic” of organisms interacting in complex ways. Actually I have been engaged in this kind of activity for more than a decade, though I feel the time has come to upgrade my efforts to higher public profile.

My mantra can be summarized as follows: generosity of spirit, a will to take less from the world, a desire to give something back and, most of all, a wish to celebrate place. In my case the place I wish to celebrate is my own beloved Clearwater Valley, my home, my life. But of course that's only a for instance. Every place is somebody's home.

Trevor Goward

Galiano Restorative Learning Centre – restoring nature and restoring people

By Helen Hall

The Galiano Conservancy Association is starting to realise a long held dream. In 2000, the Conservancy came up with the innovative and exciting idea of developing the Galiano Restorative Learning Centre. They have been working towards its development ever since, and in February 2012 took an important step forward, with the purchase of a spectacular waterfront property that will become its future home.

The property includes over two kilometres of undeveloped waterfront, endangered old growth Douglas-fir, arbutus, Garry oak and associated species at risk. It also incorporates a working farm, two streams and a cove perfect for launching canoes and kayaks. The land not only provides a stunning natural setting for the centre, but also has huge potential for developing a wide range of educational activities.

The centre is a bold and far-sighted project. Its development has been inspired by the organisation's existing highly regarded education program. As Ken Millard, Director of the Conservancy explains, "We have been delivering education activities for over a decade now, and it is seeing the benefits that these activities can bring to participants, particularly disadvantaged youth, that has inspired the dream of developing the learning centre." For some time the Conservancy has been working with youth from urban areas (Galiano is conveniently situated midway between Vancouver and Victoria) to engage them in ecological restoration work. They get their hands dirty, but importantly the activities also build teamwork, self confidence and leadership skills.

Ken adds: 'Our programs allow youth to experience and learn about ecological damage hands-on. By participating in group personal reflection, they build courage to help them understand damage they find elsewhere in their lives. In other words they are not only helping us to restore ecosystems, but in doing so are restoring themselves and their communities,



which is why we have called it the restorative learning centre.'

The proposed new centre will allow the Conservancy to significantly expand its existing education program, giving young people and others the chance to take part in multiday educational activities. The centre will also aim to run tailor-made programs for a wide variety of community groups, to serve as a research facility for students, and to provide restorative retreats for adults.

This exciting project is a unique move for a local land trust, but then the Galiano Conservancy has always sought to try new things – its ecosystem restoration work has been nationally acclaimed.

The Galiano Conservancy now hopes to lead the way through the creation of the learning centre and the development of its pioneering education program. In doing so it will join a global movement that is increasingly recognising the restorative benefits of nature to people. There is a need here to remind people of what the writer Richard Louv calls vitamin N – the nature cure – the value of nature itself for

our wellbeing. Or as Rachel Carson once said "Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts."

Although the planned construction of the centre is some years off (as the Conservancy works to get the funding in place), the organisation is now starting the exciting process of developing detailed plans for the centre, the land and the programs it is going to deliver. It will be seeking to work in partnership with educational organisations, funding partners, conservation bodies, local people and others to ensure the project can realise its full potential. If you are interested in finding out more about this exciting project, or want to get involved please contact Ken Millard, for information: conservancy@galianoconservancy.ca or phone 250 539-2424

Helen Hall, a British Ecologist, is on a six-month sabbatical from her job in England. She is currently volunteering with the Galiano Conservancy Association.

Biologists discover rare spider near Columbia Lake

By Lesley Marian Neilson



As much as it seems that we humans have left no stone unturned in our explorations of this planet, it turns out Mother Nature is still harbouring a few secrets.

A trio of scientists from the Royal BC Museum has discovered a rare spider near Columbia Lake in the East Kootenay – the first recorded finding of this species in Canada.

“It’s a very small and poorly known member of the cobweb spider family,” said Dr. Robb Bennett “As far as I can tell, only four or so specimens are known to science, including the one we found.”

It’s hard to imagine how these biologists even spotted the wee creature. Measuring only 1.5 millimetres in length, you’d need a keen eye to find this spider.

“I was wearing a headband magnifier like the kind a dentist uses,” said Bennett, “but the others just use their naked eye. You tune in to the search image – the pattern and texture you expect to see when you turn over a rock or pull apart a rotting log. Anything out of the

ordinary, especially if it’s moving, will jump out at you.”

The biologists carefully combed through leaves, fallen logs and other natural debris littering the ground in search of bugs, particularly tiny spiders. Most of the specimens gathered that day were relatively uninteresting, but among the collection was a small, drab spider that sparked considerable interest despite its ho-hum appearance.

Identified as *Dipoena provalis*, the spider is known from only three other locations in North America – two near Salt Lake City, Utah, and one near La Grande, Oregon.

Dr. Bennett and his colleagues Claudia and Darren Copley found the spider on Marion Creek Benchlands, a newly-established conservation area owned by the Nature Conservancy of Canada. Perched on the hills above Columbia Lake, near the town of Fairmont Hot Springs, the property encompasses grasslands, open forests and wetlands, and is used by elk, deer and bear, among other, much smaller, wildlife.

“We knew Marion Creek Benchlands was an important wildlife corridor for large animals that cross the valley, as well as endangered species such as badger and Lewis’s woodpecker,” said Hillary Page, a Stewardship Coordinator with the Nature Conservancy of Canada. “But when we went in and did our biological survey we discovered so much more.”

Other rare species found on the property include two provincially at-risk plants and a nationally-threatened fish species.

“This really affirms the importance of conservation science,” said Page. “When we take a closer look at the land we protect we always find something else that is interesting and biologically important.”

The spider is now enshrined in the Royal BC Museum’s collection.

The Nature Conservancy of Canada is currently working to protect another property across Columbia Lake from Marion Creek Benchlands. For more information or to find out how to help, visit www.natureconservancy.ca.

The Ecological Gifts Program:

Over 143 Ecological Gifts Donated in BC

While only 5% of the Province of BC is privately-owned land, this land provides vital environmental benefits such as habitat for threatened or endangered species, a carbon sink for reducing green house gasses, and wildlife corridors for animals. Conservation of private land can be challenging, as owners are often reluctant to make changes or place restrictions on their land that would reduce the value or utility of the property. The Ecological Gifts Program (EGP) reduces the financial barriers by providing tax incentives for corporations or individuals who donate ecologically sensitive land to eligible recipients, such as land trusts.

Canada's Ecological Gifts Program provides a way for Canadians with ecologically sensitive land to protect nature and leave a legacy for future generations. Made possible by the terms of the Income Tax Act of Canada it offers significant tax benefits to landowners who donate land or a partial interest in land to a qualified recipient. Recipients ensure that the land's biodiversity and environmental heritage are conserved in perpetuity. To date, 143 ecological gifts valued at over \$238 million have been donated across BC, protecting over 164,000 acres of wildlife habitat.

The program is designed to accommodate a variety of donor needs. Fee simple donations are the most common kind of donation. Landowners can donate all or a subdivided part of their property and receive income tax benefits based upon the fair market value of the land. If the donor receives an advantage (such as financial compensation) in return for the donation, the split-receipting provision can be used to calculate the eligible amount of the gift. The donor can use a "life estate" to retain the right to live on the land for their life, while donating ownership of the land. Owners can also



Robert Lovett photo

retain ownership of the underlying land, but restrict how the land can be used, by donating a conservation covenant. Covenants can place restrictions on subdivisions, logging, or various other activities and in return the owner can receive tax benefits based upon the reduction in property value. To learn more about these options, visit Environment Canada's website on the Ecological Gifts Program (see below).

Land trusts are critical for the success of this program. The majority of Ecological Gift donations are made to land trusts, although federal, provincial, municipal and regional governments are also eligible recipients. Land trusts make the connection with donors, and help them negotiate the valuation and certification processes. Land trusts also have the biological expertise to ensure the ecological integrity of the gift is conserved in perpetuity. In BC, there are 24 land trusts eligible to receive donations.

There is a diversity of resources for both donors and recipients that can be found on Environment Canada's website (www.ec.gc.ca/pde-egp), including:

- The Ecological Gifts Program Handbook
- Donations and Income Tax Scenarios
- Disposition or Change of Use of Ecological Gifts
- Ecological Gifts Program Brochure
- Engaging an Appraiser to Appraise an Ecological Gift
- Retaining the Right to Use Land Donated as an Ecological Gift

If you have any questions please contact the Ecological Gifts Program regional coordinator, David Cunningham, at (604) 940-4687, or david.cunnington@ec.gc.ca.

BC Alliance first to develop Standards & Practices in Canada

B.C. Land Trust Alliance backs standards and practices for land trusts in the province.

For more than two years these land trust, staff and volunteers collected hundreds of samples policies, procedures, guidelines and templates for operating practices and compiled an online database and self-guiding tool for member land trusts, the only one of its kind in Canada, that allows land trust members to review each of the 12 Standards:

- Standard 1: Mission
- Standard 2: Compliance with Laws
- Standard 3: Board Accountability
- Standard 4: Conflicts of Interest
- Standard 5: Philanthropy and Fundraising
- Standard 6: Financial and Asset Management
- Standard 7: Volunteers, Staff and Consultants
- Standard 8: Evaluating and Selecting Conservation Projects
- Standard 9: Ensuring Sound Transactions
- Standard 12: Land Stewardship

Ninety-two practices are identified under the Standards that will allow land trusts to chart their progress through the program.

Kathleen Sheppard of The Land Conservancy was instrumental in bringing the Standards & Practices program to Canada and British Columbia.

Sheppard says “Land trusts in BC can take pride in having been the first jurisdiction in Canada to develop the Standards and Practices.”

“We are all aware of the impact individual land trusts have on the land trust community as whole,” she notes, “By working towards a com-

mon set of standards and practices, each land trust builds their individual professionalism and develops skills in support of all land trusts.”

The Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia (LTABC) believed an online program housing the standards and practices could further not only the goals and objectives of a provincial organization but could also be developed into a useful tool that land trusts across the province could refer to on an ongoing basis.

With funding from a variety of sources including The Real Estate Foundation of BC, The Vancouver Foundation, Environment Canada’s Canadian Wildlife Service, and The Bullitt Foundation, LTABC sought the input of several land trusts including Habitat Acquisition Trust, The Land Conservancy of BC, Cowichan Land Trust, Fraser Valley Conservancy and the Central Okanagan Land Trust. As a result, an extensive self-guiding tool was assembled which allows a land trust to identify areas their organization has completed and others that may require work developing guidelines and policies.

Recently, a group of six land trusts undertook a pilot study that reviewed every standard and practice in the program. They were able to determine which had been met within their organization and identify areas that were high, medium and low priorities for their individual land trust.

Executive Director of the Land Trust Alliance of BC, Paul McNair says that the self-guided program allows flexibility for each member to determine what areas they may need to focus on.

“Some members do not have acquisition

programs and therefore may not immediately require policies to guide that area,” he says, “however all land trusts would need financial policies and stewardship guidelines and the BC program allows groups to decide which areas will benefit them most as they grow and develop.”

Mike Pearson, Board Secretary, Fraser Valley Conservancy says that reviewing the Standards and Practices has been a very useful exercise for the Board.

“It has helped us identify policy gaps, to prioritize policy development, and to more fully understand our roles and responsibilities as a Board,” says Pearson noting “the web based tool at the LTABC has proved to be a good means of tracking our progress and a great source of example policies from other groups.”

McNair says that the recent project with six land trusts identified areas such as governance which are high priorities for almost all land trusts.

He notes that as groups move from being volunteer-based to staffed, and as they acquire lands, governance and financial management can become crucial.

The project also identified more operational matters, such as records management and a constitution’s dissolution clause, that can take on a new significance in the long-run.

LTABC’s Standards and Practices and the assessment tool are available to member land trusts online. The tool allows various users within a specific land trust to work simultaneously on developing their organization’s policies, guidelines and procedures.

Collaborative Approach to Ecosystem Management Spearheaded by Salt Spring Island Conservancy on Mt. Tuam



A progressive collaboration has led to the creation of the Mt. Tuam Special Management Area Resource Team on Salt Spring Island. This team is a group of landowners and stakeholders that are working together in a collaborative effort to manage and protect the unique ecological values on Mt. Tuam through the creation of a Special Management Area (SMA).

Mt. Tuam is an ecologically significant and unique site found on the southwest corner of Salt Spring Island. It contains fragile meadows, Garry Oak ecosystems, maturing Douglas-fir forests and Western Red Cedar bottomlands. Since 2004, funding from the Government of Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program has allowed SSIC biologists and consultants to identify and map species at risk on Mt. Tuam. A wide diversity of species are found on Mt. Tuam that are federally or provincially recognized as species at risk, including: Band-tailed Pigeon, Common Nighthawk, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Western Bluebird, Peregrine Falcon, Sooty Grouse, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Coastal Scouler's Catchfly, Scalepod, Small-flowered Godetia, White Meconella, Yellow Montane Violet, Zerene Fritillary, Pacific Sideband,

Properius Duskywing, Sharp-tailed Snake, Threaded Vertigo, and Red-legged Frog.

Mt. Tuam is also under stress from a number of threats. It has been affected by historic activities such as logging and fire, as well as current threats such as fire suppression, grazing of sheep, invasive species, and ecologically inappropriate recreational uses. Managing these various threats can be a challenge across property boundaries with landowners of multiple jurisdictions, as a wide range of landowners own property on Mt. Tuam including federal, provincial, regional and private landowners. Species at risk do not observe property lines, nor do the threats that are affecting them.

To address these issues, a cooperative approach between various landowners and land managers was spearheaded by the Salt Spring Island Conservancy to work together to maintain the ecological integrity of the area. The Mt. Tuam Special Management Area (SMA) was developed to facilitate collaboration between all parties. The total size of the SMA is 305.6 hectares.

What exactly is a SMA? Botanist Carrina Maslovat, who is working with the multiple

parties on Mt. Tuam, describes it as "an area defined by ecological boundaries rather than property lines in order to allow efficient and appropriate ecologically based management". To date, the Resource Team has developed a Memorandum of Understanding to express how we are working together to reach our common goals. A Management and Restoration Plan has been completed to outline what each member of the Resource Team will be doing on the ground over the coming years.

Overall, the Resource Team aims to protect the unique ecological values on Mt. Tuam through appropriate restoration and management, to address threats to species at risk and sensitive ecosystems, and to work with authorized users on Mt. Tuam to limit unauthorized access and vandalism.

This Resource Team is a fantastic example of how multiple parties can successfully work together on collaborative conservation actions that they otherwise could not accomplish on their own. It can serve as a model for others throughout the province who are seeking to work together effectively on sensitive ecosystems with multiple jurisdictions and diverse landowners.



Land Trust Partners to Bring Cascading Conservation Efforts to Rare Ecosystem

Ecologists consider the Coastal Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic zone (CDF zone) to contain some of the most endangered ecosystems in Canada. Limited to a small part of southeastern Vancouver Island, an adjacent strip along the mainland, and the Gulf Islands south of Cortes, the CDF zone covers less than one percent of B.C.'s land base. This tiny area holds an astonishing range of biodiversity; the CDF zone has the highest density of species of global and provincial concern in all of the sixteen zones in B.C. The ecosystem is characterized by its mild, Mediterranean-like climate, mixed forests including Garry oak and arbutus trees, and wildlife such as Black-tailed deer, sharp-tailed snake, and many species of waterfowl and colony-nesting seabirds.

Recognizing the CDF zone's fragility and the intense development pressure it faces as one of Canada's most sought-after regions to live, people who hold these ecosystems in a special place in their heart are coming together to protect what's left of them. North Pender Island, located in the CDF zone, has become a hub of grassroots conservation activity in recent years. In the last five years, the Islands Trust Fund and the Pender Islands Conservancy Association have partnered with conservation-minded



PICA and Islands Trust friends, with Sylvia and Keith Pincott, and Marilyn King, celebrating the protection of Marilyn's Stanley Point covenants and Pincott's Woodwinds.



Woodwinds sign, that shows the cooperation between ITF, PICA and Biodiversity Fund.

property owners on the island to protect nine properties with conservation covenants – an impressive feat for an island of only 27 square kilometers and a population of 2,000.

Averaging nearly 2 covenants per year is an impressive task for a volunteer-driven land trust like the Pender Islands Conservancy Association. The Conservancy's volunteers are experts in reaching out to interested landowners and inspiring them to take the leap, protecting natural areas on their property with a conservation covenant. By partnering with the Islands Trust Fund, the Conservancy can access the Fund's expertise in the field of covenant writing and registration, and protected area monitoring and management. Also, through the Islands Trust Fund, the Conservancy is able to offer landowners the option of registering their covenant in the NAPTEP program (the Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program, a tax exemption program for covenant landowners offered only by the Fund.

One of the secrets to the island's successful covenant program, however, is the Nancy Waxler Morrison Biodiversity Protection Legacy Fund. The fund was established to hon-

our Nancy's memory by assisting Pender Island property owners with the costs of establishing conservation covenants. Funding from this home-grown resource helps landowners overcome barriers to protecting their land with a covenant, such as surveying and legal expenses. The Nancy Waxler Morrison Fund has been vital to the successful protection of a number of the island's newly covenanted properties, and is a wonderful tribute to an island woman whose social science work was legendary around the world.



Barrie Morrison and Graham Boffey of PICA visiting the Frog Song Forest Covenant with the Kikuchi Family

With the vast majority of land in the CDF zone privately owned, private landowners are playing an increasingly important role in protecting this rare and biodiverse ecosystem. Most landowners permanently protecting ecosystems on North Pender say they were inspired by other islanders – friends, neighbours, and acquaintances – who did the same. The cascade effect of conserving this island is one of the partnership's greatest conservation success stories. The Pender Island Conservancy Association and Islands Trust Fund hopes that as a community, they can preserve the land and character of this island forever.

LTABC Photo Contest

Land Trust Alliance Summer 2012 Photo Contest was held on Facebook. In addition to the Grand Prize Winner, prizes were awarded in three categories: Places, People and Wildlife.



Places: 1st Place: Nadine Biggs, Squirrel Cove on Cortez Island



Wildlife: 1st Place: Heather McDonald, Seagull, Sooke



Grand Prize Winner: Trina Dvies, Dunn Lake, Kamloops BC.



Places: Honourable Mention: Nadine Biggs, Vargas Island, Clayoquot Sound.



People: 1st Place: Jacki Ens, Surfers in Tofino.



Wildlife: Honourable Mention: Heather McDonald, Sunstar, Sooke.



Wildlife: Honourable Mention: Dee Nelson, Butterfly, Prince George

Thank you to everyone who entered our contest.
To view full size images, please visit our blog at www.ltabc.ca.

Habitat Acquisition Trust & Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia
present
A Green Christmas Fundraiser
See page 21 for details and ticket information

B.C. Youth Council

Are you between the ages of 13 and 24? In Junior High, High School, College or University? Interested in the environment?



The Land Trust Alliance is setting up a BC Youth Council to provide insights on how they view conservation and environmental issues in our province.

Most work will be done by email and teleconference and the time commitment is approximately 1-2 hours each month for a year.

If you are interested send along your name, address, email, school name, your age and in 100 words tell us why you are interested in our BC Youth Council.

info@ltabc.ca subject line: Youth Council Application deadline: November 11, 2012

HAT *I want to...* *volunteer* *donate for nature*
protect my land *get our kids outside*
care for habitat at home

Habitat Acquisition Trust | 250.995.2428 | WWW.HAT.BC.CA | Your regional land trust

The advertisement features a blue background with a falcon on the left, a couple in the center, and a group of children on the right. The text is arranged in a grid-like fashion, with the HAT logo and 'I want to...' at the top left, and the contact information at the bottom. The overall theme is environmental conservation and community involvement.

The Blue-grey Taildropper: Stewardship for an Endangered Slug

It is small, slimy, blue, and can autotomize its tail when threatened. Yes, it's a slug. And it is endangered.

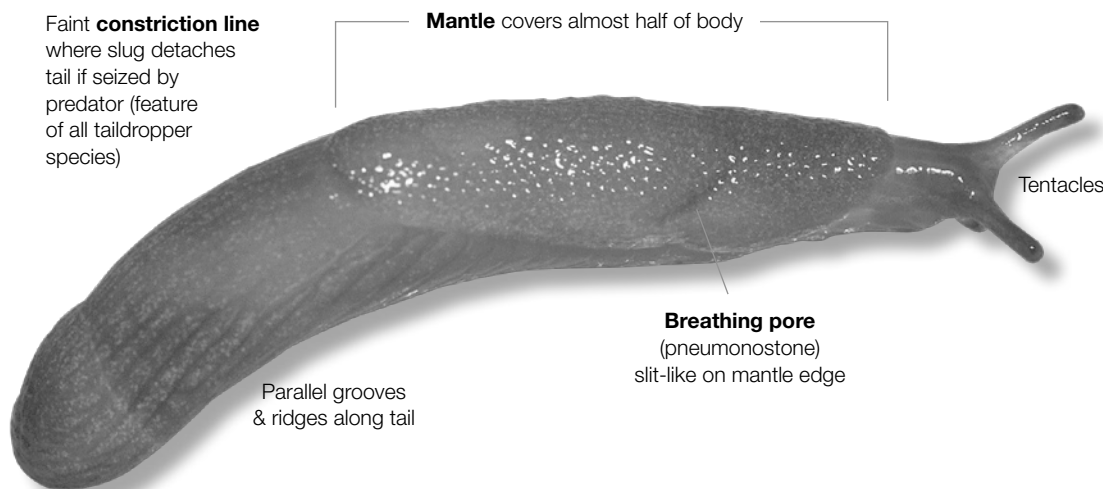
The Blue-grey Taildropper may not be the best known endangered species in the Capital region, but a lucky few naturalists may find one of these small slugs in the fall leaf litter on southern Vancouver Island.

Identifying the Blue-grey Taildropper can be a challenge if you are not used to looking at slugs. Usually 2 to 3 cm long fully extended, the Blue-grey ranges in color (as its name implies), from grey to a surprisingly vivid blue, often with very fine speckling. As its name also implies, this slug can autotomize (drop) its tail when threatened, and if you look very, very closely, you may be able to see a thin line where the tail would detach.

In Canada, the Blue-grey Taildropper is known from only a few sites – all on southern Vancouver Island. The slug may be associated with Garry oak meadows and Douglas-fir forests, especially in small openings with dense shrubs such as Ocean Spray. The role of

Blue-grey Taildroppers in these ecosystems is not well understood, but they may play a part in spreading the spores of mycorrhizal fungi. Mycorrhizal fungi grow on the roots of plants and trees and help them capture nutrients from the soil. This relationship between beneficial fungi and trees is essential for healthy forests. In Oregon, biologists found mycorrhizal fungal spores in 90% of the droppings they examined.

Stewarding these small slugs is a challenge. Their distribution and habitats are not well understood, and they are usually hidden in leaf litter or under logs. Habitat Acquisition Trust is interested in working with people near known Blue-grey Taildropper locations or with good potential habitat to monitor for the slugs. If you see a small, blue slug, please send a photo of it (preferably both from above and from the right side of the slug to show the position of the breathing hole (pneumostome)) to hatmail@hat.bc.ca.



Compare Blue-grey Taildroppers with similar slugs

Blue-grey Taildropper

(*Prophysaon coeruleum*)

2-3 cm. Solid colour: ranges from blue to grey; no mottling or banding. Mantle covers almost half of body. Breathing pore (pneumostome) slit-like on mantle edge towards the front. Faint constriction line on tail.

Yellow-bordered Taildropper

(*P. foliolatum*)

5-10cm. Light mid-dorsal stripe on tail; dark lateral stripe on each side of mantle may be broken. Colour variable; yellow mantle edge. Yellow mucus.

Note: Reticulate Taildropper (*P. andersonii*) is similar but smaller, and lacks yellow mantle edge.

Scarletback Taildropper (*P. vanatta*)

2.5-4 cm. Grey, tan, black, to orange. Dark lateral stripes on each side of mantle and tail (arrows) which may be bordered by a lighter band.

Longneck Fieldslug

(*Deroceras panormitanum*)

2.5-3 cm. Translucent grey or brown, often with fine dark flecks. Pneumostome at rear of mantle, often with light border. Mucus clear.

Grey Fieldslug (*Deroceras reticulatum*)

3.5-5 cm. Cream tan, or grey; usually with dark mottling or flecks. Pneumostome at rear of mantle. Partial keel (ridge) towards tail end. Mucus milky white.

Worm Slug (*Boettgerilla pallens*)

3-6 cm. Light grey to bluish. Burrowing and worm-like when moving. Keel (ridge) atop entire tail.

Hedgehog Arion (*Arion intermedius*)

1-2 cm. Light grey; dark head & tentacles, yellowish bottom. Prickly when contracted. Faint or no lateral bands.

Hatchlings of Chocolate Arion

(*A. Rufus*) and many other introduced Arions are tiny and bell-shaped when contracted. Grey to bluish; dark lateral bands often present. Tail lacks parallel grooves and constriction line found on taildroppers.

Land Trust Word Search for BC Kids!

J Z C Y W H C D T N A N E V O C Q
 C S K Y R K O K A T G X D U W L C
 F X M U W G A L T T I Y E J S B O
 O S S A L I S H S E A O N N P H N
 R U X V J N T H G B L T V Z E T S
 E S L E T I A I Z D H S I O C O E
 S S Z P X S L Z T R S U R W I O R
 T D Z B K A D I Z E L R O H E N V
 T N O W A L O Y J H T T N A S Z A
 Y A X O O M U M D S F D M L A K T
 G L K B Y O G F F I I N E E T K I
 V S M Q R N L L W F G A N J R Y O
 G I P L R G A U N G O L T N I A N
 U F D V A Z S E N N C B B D S N J
 G L V K G I F J V I E I I H K G M
 Q U Y F Y E I L V K U B C K A C V
 X G M Z Q W R S D N A L S S A R G

coastal douglas fir
 gulf islands
 conservation
 kingfisher
 covenant
 land trust
 ecogift
 salish sea
 environment
 salmon
 forest
 species at risk
 garry oak
 whale
 grasslands

Hey kids!

Complete this word search and send us your entries by November 30, 2012.

We'll make a random draw from the correct responses we receive and send you a super-duper prize!

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____ Town / City _____

Postal code _____ Telephone _____

OPEN TO ALL BC RESIDENTS AGES 5 TO 12!

Send to: LTABC 201-569 Johnson St VICTORIA BC V8W 1M2

Turning the Tide of Species Loss in Georgia Basin Ecosystems

By Dr. Peter Arcese, Director of The Nature Trust of BC

Early European explorers to the Georgia Basin described a verdant and varied landscape of large, old fir forests, oak and arbutus woodland, and bracken and camas-filled meadows extending along the southeastern coast of Vancouver Island, throughout the Gulf Islands, and at low elevation on the adjacent mainland coast. Sheltered by the rain-shadow of the Olympic mountains and warmed by the temperate waters of the Pacific Ocean, this area's Mediterranean climate and abundant natural resources sheltered First Nations peoples for thousands of years, and more recently have become among the most desirable places to live in our small world. This is where The Nature Trust of BC comes in. Today, conservation biologists recognize the "Coastal Douglas Fir Zone" as among the most biologically unique and rich areas in western Canada, but also among its most imperilled ecosystems.

Not large to begin with (~2,561 km²), this seasonally dry forest and woodland ecosystem is now 49% converted to human use with less than 3% of its original "old growth" cover of 145+ yr-old forest, and less than 10% of historic oak woodlands remaining. As a consequence, the CDF zone now provides uncertain habitat for 117 "Species at Risk" and 29 red-listed plant communities. Surprisingly, however, the CDF has yet to see a sustained, coordinated effort by government, non-profits and private land owners to insure that relatively "intact" examples of our most treasured native landscapes are conserved for future generations. The Nature Trust of British Columbia, an early leader in land acquisition in the region, is now helping change that fact. We are re-focusing attention on the CDF and facilitating strategic planning efforts aimed at conserving landscapes with high native species diversity, and restoring mature Douglas fir forests to old growth status over the coming decades. But we will need



to do more than acquire land, because much evidence shows that "stewardship" will be just as important to achieving these objectives.

Why? It is well-established that humans affect plant and animal populations directly via habitat conversion. But it is now also clear that the "indirect effects" of humans arising via exotic species introductions or by facilitating "human commensal species" at the expense of vulnerable native species, can be just as detrimental. Familiar examples include the introduction of mosquitoes to Hawaii, resulting in the extinction of 28 bird species. Closer to home, many biologists now point to the rise of urban and rural populations of small-bodied predators, such as raccoons, as threats to the persistence of many vulnerable bird and reptile species. Small-bodied predators increase when humans eliminate large predators from landscapes, because wolves, cougars and other large predators can limit their population size. Our removal of once abundant cougar and wolf populations from the CDF has similarly result-

ed in the "release" of black-tailed deer populations, particularly those restricted to islands. As a consequence, biologists have identified high deer density as a threat to the persistence of many species, including iconic members of coastal Douglas fir and Garry oak woodlands. As examples, many plants once abundant in forest and woodland habitats, such as great camas, fawn and chocolate lilies, onions and brodea, are now becoming scarce, particularly in the Southern Gulf Islands where cougars and wolves are largely absent and hunting has become a lost art. Stewardship will therefore be needed to prevent indirect human effects from reducing further the natural values that have drawn so many humans to the region. The Nature Trust's focus on the Coastal Douglas Fir Zone is aimed at turning the tide of species and habitat loss in the region, and at building on our history of acquisition and stewardship in cooperation with you. We believe the problem of species loss in the CDF is reversible, and we're getting to work on proving that right now.

Scout Island Transforms Lives

By The Nature Trust of BC

Scout Island Nature Centre is a place for people of all ages to connect with nature. Right in the heart of Williams Lake, the centre provides a unique opportunity to get close and personal with plants, birds, mammals, insects and even reptiles.

Purchased by The Nature Trust of BC in 1973, the City of Williams Lake leases the property and the Williams Lake Field Naturalists operate the environmental features of the park, including the Nature Centre. In celebration of The Nature Trust's 40th anniversary of conserving land across BC, the organization partnered with Scout Island on a writing contest this fall. The response to the contest brought smiles to the faces of the judges who read all of them. It's truly heart-warming to know how much this gem of nature in Williams Lake means to people.

Adult winner Maggie Ranger wrote:

"...my grandson Ryver says "Geese! Ducks!" and that is his way of asking to go to Scout Island. A few weeks ago, when we heard thunder there, Ryver rubs his fingers together and makes a kissing sound. He says "Rainbow, rainbow... kiss, kiss, kiss." Lo and behold, we turn to walk back to the car and there is the most vivid, spectacular rainbow I have ever seen... magic...yes, years of magic...thank you, Scout Island"

High school winner Sam Delacherois wrote:

*"Scout Island is a place to let go
A place to say your final goodbye
Watching the balloons float to the sky
A note of desire and hope fastened on the string
As it soars through the clouds
That Sunday of every May."*

Intermediate winner Mia Leblanc wrote

"I think Scout Island is a good place to be because it's calm. So when you're upset or mad, you can go there and you will forget why you were even mad and upset."

Primary winner Candice-Rose Mapson wrote a letter inviting a friend to visit Scout Island:

"Dear Keleey: I hope you get a chance to visit Scout Island. It is sooo cool with all its little paths and boardwalks. I just love it...Just watch out, it's animal friendly so don't hurt any of the animals there. But I'm telling you, you really should go because it rules sooo much."

Thanks to all who entered our contest and shared their appreciation of Scout Island. Congratulations to all the winners!



Exploring creatures from the dock

"Scout Island has touched my life at various points during my 21-year journey. It started as a toddler at the Spiders, Snakes and Frog summer program, and then the pre-school. I have fond memories of playing in the sand pit at preschool, and was fortunate enough to have a love of nature and the outdoors instilled in me at this young age. During elementary and high school my class had field trips to the nature centre to learn from the staff and then play at the beach. I also spent a lot of time walking around Scout Island with friends as fun social activities can be challenging to find in Williams Lake. Finally, I was fortunate enough to have the incredible experience of running the Nature Fun kids program the summer after first year and second year of university."

—Monica McMahan



Benefaction's top 10 charitable giving tips for Canadians

Canadians know that giving brings with it a tremendous sense of connection and fulfillment. Check out these tips to see how to get the most out of your charitable gifts.

1 Save tax by taking full advantage of tax planning opportunities.

Structure and time your gifts to limit any tax on the capital gain and obtain full benefit of the tax credits available to you.

2 Make gifts of securities instead of giving cash.

In addition to the tax credit, NO tax on any capital gain applies to gifts of publicly-traded securities given to charities.

3 Limit taxes for your estate by gifting your RRSP or RRIF.

Naming a charity as the beneficiary for your RRSP or RRIF usually eliminates the tax on this investment.

4 Executives should consider donating optioned stock.

Cash proceeds from optioned stock may be donated within 30 days of the exercise date. Like public securities, the donated portion will incur NO tax on the capital gain.

5 Make your gift go further.

By designating a charity as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy, donors can bequeath many times more to their favourite charity.

6 Know your limits.

Up to 75% of net income (100% in the year of death) can be deducted annually. Any excess can be carried forward for the next five year.

7 Donate flow-through shares.

Despite the 2011 budget eliminating the capital gain component of the tax benefit that existed where a Canadian taxpayer buys a FT and then donates it to charity, taxpayers continue to benefit from the allocated FT resource deduction and the charitable donation tax credit. Subscription agreements prior to March 22nd 2011 are not affected, but charitable owners of FTs should be aware of the impact this budget may have on their future donation plans and the possible time limit on being able to take advantage of the capital gain exemption of a FT share donation.

8 Save time by dealing with professionals who can manage your donations.

Benefaction can help to administer all your gifts from one place; and we can help make complex gifts easy for you to donate to your favourite charities.

9 Take control of your giving.

Enjoy benefits of having your own private foundation without the administrative costs and complications. Contact us for more information about a Benefaction Donor Advised Fund.

10 Create a legacy.

Many charities offer donors the ability to make gifts (and attach their names to them) so that others will know of their generosity for generations to come.

Tax planning opportunities for gifts of securities

For those of us who hold highly appreciated shares, tax rule changes have brought wonderful news and have significantly increased donations of listed securities over recent years. The Government's reduction of the capital gain inclusion rate to zero percent for donations of listed securities eliminates the tax on the capital gains from the gifting of those securities. This preferred tax treatment has proved to be a powerful incentive to give.

Listed securities of publicly traded stocks, bonds, bills, warrants, and mutual funds all qualify. But remember, to receive this additional

tax benefit, your charity must receive the listed security in kind.

Example: Gift of Cash vs. Gift of Securities
Susan lives in British Columbia. Through the Direct Giving option of the Charitable Giving Program, she contributes to a public charity of her choice listed stock with a fair market value of \$100,000 and a cost base of \$10,000. Her net income is \$160,000 per year, and her other charitable gifts exceed \$200.

The contribution limitation for in-kind gifts that have appreciated in value is 75 percent of annual net income from all sources. Any

excess may be carried forward and claimed in any of the next five years.

(Original article written by Nicola Elkins of Benefaction Foundation).

Land trusts are capable of accepting gifts of cash and gifts of securities. The Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia (LTABC) is one option for making a gift. The Alliance can also discuss with you other options and local land trusts that may share similar interests with you as a donor. To make a gift or enquire about the process contact LTABC at 250-590-1921 / info@ltabc.ca.

	Sell Stock & Donate Cash	Donate Stock In -Kind
Capital Gain	\$90,000	\$90,000
Taxable Gain (50%)	\$45,000	nil
Tax Payable on Gain	\$19,665	nil
Donation Receipt	\$100,000	\$100,000
Donation Tax Credit (assumes tax credit of 43.70%)	\$43,700	\$43,700
Net Tax Savings (Tax credit less tax on gain)	\$24,035	\$43,700
After tax cost of donating stock vs. cash (fair market value less net tax savings)	\$65,965	\$56,300

**To make a donation, gift of securities or bequest
please contact;**

The Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia by emailing us
at **info@ltabc.ca** or call us at **250.590.1921**

Together we can conserve BC's future!



The 49th parallel cuts through the Flathead River Valley. Photo by NCC

Governments, non-profits, business join forces in \$10 million project to conserve iconic North American landscape

The Nature Conservancy of Canada (“NCC”) and The Nature Conservancy (“TNC”) today announced that, through a collaboration of public and private partners, more than \$10 million has been raised to help remove the biggest ecological threat to British Columbia’s Flathead River Valley — a spectacular wilderness area that straddles the Canada-U.S. border.

Straddling the BC-Montana border in the western shadow of the Rocky Mountains, the Flathead River Valley is one of North America’s most spectacular wilderness areas. The BC portion of the valley spans almost 400,000 acres (160,000 hectares) of near-pristine wilderness. With no permanent human settlement today — and despite almost no protection from development — the valley has maintained its ecological integrity as one of the most abundant natural areas on the planet.

The Flathead River Valley supports an incredible diversity of species, including bighorn sheep, moose, wolverine, elk and the highest density of grizzly bears in the interior of

North America. The BC portion of the valley is largely undeveloped and is still home to the same variety of plants and animals that existed 400 years ago.

“There is no other large watershed in North America like the Flathead — the richness of its waters, the abundance of its carnivores. It is a truly wild river in southern Canada,” says biologist Richard Cannings, a past board member for the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC).

Along with providing a critical habitat to wildlife, the Flathead River Valley is an important resource -- providing timber, fish and game, and recreation to British Columbians, and securing clean drinking water for more than 100,000 people in the State of Montana.

The Flathead River system flows undammed from British Columbia into Montana and contains some of the purest water found in North America. The entire river basin is part a spectacular trans-boundary ecosystem that spans southwest Alberta, southeast British Columbia and northern Montana. It forms the western boundary of Glacier-Waterton Inter-

national Peace Park, and has been named both a Wild and Scenic River and World Heritage Site.

“Nature does not recognize international borders,” said Linda Hannah, regional vice president of the Nature Conservancy of Canada in BC. “We are extremely proud to be able to achieve globally significant conservation in partnership with governments and conservation groups on both sides of the border.”

Thanks to the generous funding contributions from the Government of Canada’s Natural Areas Conservation Program (NACP); Warburg Pincus, a leading global private equity firm focused on growth investing; and other private donors, the Canadian portion of the Flathead River Valley is now permanently protected from mining and other sub-surface development.

NCC and TNC will assist the British Columbia government in maintaining and enhancing high conservation standards in the natural area in order to protect the rich diversity of plant and animal life.

A Green Christmas

A gala event to benefit

Habitat Acquisition Trust & Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia

Christmas shopping, gourmet local food and your favorite cause: land protection in BC
– a perfect evening with HAT, the Land Trust Alliance of BC, and Passion Eat Foods.

**Sunday, November 18 2012, from 7-9:30pm at
The Atrium on Yates and Blanshard, Tickets: \$75 per person**

Purchase tickets through HAT (250-995-2428 / hatmail@hat.bc.ca)



About the food: Join us for an evening of local food prepared by Chef Dwane MacIsaac served tapas style. Chef Dwane is a Red Seal Certified, President of the Island Chef's Collaborative, and Chef at Passioneat Foods. He is passionate about local sourced, organic, sustainable, and delicious food. Wine and drink pairings included.

About the Auction: Get a jump on your Christmas shopping, and support your favourite causes at the same time! There will be both a silent auction and live auction, featuring a wide variety of gifts, trips, art, and more! Check out our preview list at <http://hat.bc.ca/index.php/hat-about/donate/gala-fundraiser>



REAL ESTATE FOUNDATION

2012 Land Awards Gala

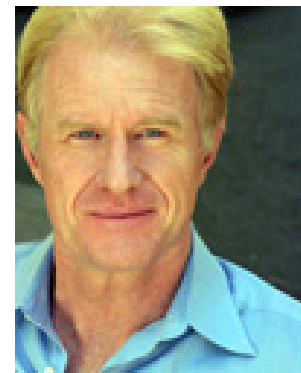
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Gala proceeds benefit the BC Water Sustainability Endowment Fund.



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*Finalists
announced
October 1st*



Members Directory

Land Trust	City, Prov	Phone	Web
Bowen Island Conservancy	Bowen Island, BC	604-947-0363	www.bowenlandconservancy.org
Central Okanagan Land Trust C/o C.O. Foundation	Kelowna, BC	250-861-6160	www.coltrust.ca
Comox Valley Land Trust	Courtenay, BC	250-331-0670	www.cvlandtrust.org
Cowichan Land Trust	Duncan, BC	250-746-0227	www.cowichanlandtrust.ca
Denman Conservancy Association	Denman Island, BC	250-335-9089	www.denmanconservancy.org
Discovery Coast Greenways Land Trust	Campbell River, BC	250-287-3785	www.greenwaystrust.ca
Ducks Unlimited	Surrey, BC	604-592-0987	www.ducks.ca
Fraser Valley Conservancy	Abbotsford, BC	604-864-5530	www.fraservalleyconservancy.ca
Gabriola Land & Trails Trust	Gabriola Island, BC	250-247-8066	www.galtr.ca
Galiano Conservancy	Galiano Island, BC	250-539-2424	www.galianoconservancy.ca
Habitat Acquisition Trust	Victoria, BC	250-995-2428	www.hat.bc.ca
Haida Ecological Land Trust	Masset, BC	250-858-8911	
Conservancy Hornby Island	Hornby Island, BC	250-335-9049	
Islands Trust Fund	Victoria, BC	250-405-5151	www.islandstrust.bc.ca
Kootenay Land Trust Society	Winlaw, B.C., BC	250-226-6988	
Malaspina Land Conservancy Society	Powell River, BC	604-485-0077	www.malaspinaland.ca
Mayne Island Conservancy	Mayne Island, BC	250-539-5168	www.conservancyonmayne.com
Nanaimo and Area Land Trust Society	Nanaimo, BC	250-758-5490	www.nalt.bc.ca
Nature Conservancy Of Canada	Victoria, BC	250-479-3191	www.natureconservancy.ca
Nature Trust of BC	North Vancouver, BC	604-924-9771	www.naturetrust.bc.ca
North Okanagan Parks & Natural Area Trust	Vernon, BC	250-535-1153	www.nopnat.com
Pender Islands Conservancy Association	Pender Island, BC	250-629-6797	www.penderconservancy.org
Quadra Island Conservancy & Stewardship	Heriot Bay, BC	250-285-3582	www.quadraislandconservancy.ca
Quamichan Watershed Stewardship Society	Duncan, BC	250-746-0227	www.quamichanlake.ca
Salt Spring Island Conservancy	Salt Spring Island, BC	250-538-0318	www.saltspringconservancy.ca
Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Soc.	Salt Spring Island, BC	250-538-1615	www.ssiwaterpreservationsociety.ca/
Savary Island Land Trust Society	Lund, BC	604-414-0073	www.silts.ca

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Victoria BC <http://www.facebook.com/landtrustbc>
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Your membership includes this beautiful 160-page full colour book. Offer ends Dec. 31/12

"The most beautiful, inspiring maps I've ever seen, put together to make us more aware of our place in this fragile world."



Land Trust Alliance
BRITISH COLUMBIA

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Supporting 30 Land Trusts across BC, LTABC has helped members protect over 1 million acres of sensitive land through education, communications, and advocacy. Your help is needed to do even more - support all Land Trusts across BC!

Individual: ___ \$45

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Province: _____

Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

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