



Forest Cover Falling Across CRD

by Amy Dove

Originally printed in the Goldstream News Gazette - April 16, 2008. Reprinted with permission HAT is a lead project partner in the Urban Forest Stewardship Initiative

It's hard to see the forest through the trees. But understanding the role an urban forest plays in communities is vital to a healthy, vibrant neighbourhood.

"Nobody was paying attention to the bigger picture. We were missing a very important piece of information," said Judith Cullington, a member of the Urban Forest Stewardship Initiative (UFSI). "Where is our urban forest and how has it changed?"

That question and more has been answered with the release of the urban forest canopy map for the Capital Regional District.

Land from North Saanich to Sooke lost eight per cent of the overall tree coverage between 1986 to 2005. That's about 2,588 hectares or 6-1/2 times the area of Goldstream Provincial Park. Greater Victoria, at 58,000 hectares, still retains 53 per cent of its ground covered in forest.

Using aerial photographs, Caslys Consulting Ltd. compiled the report for Habitat Acquisition Trust on behalf of UFSI.

Caslys also compared the area of surfaces impervious to water, including roads, sidewalks and roofs. In 19 years, the Capital Region added 922 hectares of such hardtop for about 7,900 hectares impervious surfaces.

Predictably, Langford and Colwood have taken the biggest hit on tree cover. That's expected since they have had the largest boom in development, Cullington said.

Langford lost 507 hectares, whereas Colwood lost 536 hectares of forest. That accounts for 16 and 46 per cent of the city's overall tree coverage respectively.

Perhaps not surprisingly, the District of Highlands has seen 14 hectares added to its forests. Rural Metchosin, though, lost 505 hectares of forest over the study period. Some of that is related to farming than to development, Cullington said. View Royal lost 186

hectares or about 15 per cent its tree coverage.

The West Shore in total lost some 1,700 hectares of tree cover or more than 12 per cent over less than one generation.

When it comes to city planning, the maps have varied uses. An overall picture shows the forest through the trees so to speak, Cullington said.

Wildlife corridors become more obvious and community planning can extend beyond the property line. If you look at areas like Cook Street Village in Victoria, trees have a positive impact on economics too, she said, since trees and landscaping make a place more pleasant to live.

"(We need) an ecosystem-based landscape level of approach to the way we (develop)," she said.

That information will come into play when municipalities look to plan around watersheds or storm water

"We need an ecosystem-based landscape level of approach to the way we develop."

– Judith Cullington (UFSI)

management, said Adriane Pollard, manager of environmental planning for Saanich.

Being able to see where the trees are makes it easier to protect larger stands. On the other hand, knowing exactly where the pavement is lets you plan vegetation accordingly to minimize the impacts of the impervious surfaces, she said.

"The main thing is the database attached to the mapping that allows us to run queries," Pollard said. "We can get real data on very specific percentages. It gives us a good baseline."

The report was about quantity, not quality, Cullington said. With this information now in place, it will be up to the individual municipalities to take the initiative to do further reports.

Such work could look at what types of trees are growing where, the overall age of forests and the impact they have on a specific area in terms of storm water retention.

Inside...

We'll be in touch

Mock Orange

Sponsors

New HAT Staff

Farewell Jennifer

The 8th Annual Conservation Connection Forum



Listen
Talk
Act

September 19th, 2008

www.conservationconnection.bc.ca

*We'd like to hear
about your western
painted turtle and
Sharp-tailed snake
sightings for our
Species at Risk
outreach project.*



We'll be in touch...

Over the next few months, you may just get a phone call from **Moira Campbell, Tara Dunning, Geoff Huber, Glenn Harrington, Peter Lewis, Simon Philp or Adam Taylor**. We are your local land trust's friendly Communication and Fundraising committee, and we want to get in touch with our members, supporters and friends. I hope you will have a moment to talk to us; we want to hear your questions, feedback, and thoughts. And we want to make it easy for you to update your membership and perhaps even to add an annual donation to HAT.

Your membership counts: When you sign up as a member, you are taking an important step. As a local membership organization, HAT is only as strong as its membership. Membership sends a positive message to our partners, including local government, and to our funders. Not to mention, your annual membership fee helps us grow and look ahead to new opportunities.

So – if your membership is a little out of date, or you haven't had a chance to become a member, we'll be in touch with you in the next little while.

We look forward to talking to you!

Moira, Tara, Geoff, Glenn, Peter, Simon, & Adam

PS: You can also take a moment to sign up now, using the form on the back of this newsletter.

Mock Orange

by Richard Hebda



Botanical scents are everywhere these days - in shampoos, in soaps, in air fresheners. Yet there is still little that matches the delicious fragrance of a plant in the garden on a warm, sunny day. One of our most beautiful native shrubs, mock orange (*Philadelphus lewisii*), provides gardeners with a wonderful orange-like scent, and much more.

Loose, elongate clusters of snow-white flowers appear at the end of the branches from late May to July, depending on the shrub's location. Greenish sepals surround the petals, and a mass of yellow-tipped stamens punctuates the display. The greenish four-chambered pistil in the middle of each flower matures into a dry, dark-brown pointed capsule.

Gardeners have long prized mock orange for its showy flowers and exotic scent. David Douglas, the famed botanical explorer of our region, brought it to European gardens in 1825. In your garden, choose a site in full sun and soil of normal fertility. Try it in the shrub border, as a lawn specimen or at the edge of a woodland patch.

Combine this shrub with other native species, such as Nootka rose (*Rosa nutkana*), ocean spray (*Holodiscus discolor*) and snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*), into a wildlife-friendly, people-resistant hedge. Power-line right-of-ways are suitable sites because of the mock orange's modest height.

Mock orange is widely available from garden centres and nurseries, and it germinates readily from seed. For a wild effect, you can scatter seeds over the site where you would like the plant to grow, and let nature take over. Seeds sown in flats in the fall germinate readily in the spring. Mock orange roots easily from cuttings taken in mid-July and treated with hormone. To establish a mock orange on a dry, rocky site, mulch and water it well for a year or two.

It's hard to imagine a better native shrub for wild or tame gardens in our region. The dense intertwined branches of mock orange are even ideal for bird nests. Bushtits hang their small pouches among the branches, while other birds assemble more conventional nests in the crotches of the stems. With its attractive blooms and intoxicating fragrance, mock orange will serve you and your local bird life well for many years.

Thank you to all our great sponsors!

GENERAL

Centre for Sustainability—EnviroPOD
JW McConnell Family Foundation/
Victoria Foundation Environment Fund
Kaatza Foundation
Mountain Equipment Co-op
Provincial Employees Community
Services Fund
Victoria Foundation
Victoria Foundation—Outdoor Club of
Victoria
Lighthouse Brewery
Government of Canada -
Habitat Stewardship Program

GOOD NEIGHBOURS

British Columbia Gaming
Commission
Shell Environmental Fund
TD Friends of the Environment
Vancity Savings Credit Union
Town of View Royal

GREEN SPOTS

Natural Sciences and Engineering
Research Council
Telus
Victoria Foundation

UFSI

Real Estate Foundation
Bartlett Tree Services
BC Hydro
District of Saanich
City of Victoria
District of Central Saanich
District of North Saanich
City of Colwood
Municipality of Metchosin
Town of View Royal

New HAT Staff



ADAM joined HAT early this year after working as a Naturalist and manager for many years at Nature Houses on southern Vancouver Island. He brings a passion for environmental education and community engagement, and a wealth of experience working with youth in outdoor settings. As Executive Director, Adam oversees day-to-day operations of the HAT office.



WENDY is originally from California, holds a BSc in Ecology & Systematic Biology and has been working in the field of restoration and invasive plant management for more than six years. Prior to moving to Canada, Wendy worked as an ecologist for a local land trust developing and implementing restoration projects on covenanted lands and monitoring the efficacy of their invasive plant program. Since arriving in British Columbia, she has become involved in the community on many different levels, volunteering on two GOERT Committees, as a Director with the Victoria Natural History Society, and as the CRD Region Volunteer Coordinator for the Wildlife Tree Stewardship Program (WiTS).

As the Covenants & Acquisitions Coordinator, Wendy works with public and private landowners to assist them in placing permanent protection on their lands through conservation covenants and/or acquisitions. In addition, Wendy performs annual compliance monitoring on HAT's covenanted properties.

Wendy enjoys the being in the outdoors, gardening, outrigger, hiking, backpacking and she and her husband, Doug, are avid sea kayakers.



Laurie comes to HAT with a wealth of experience with school children and some sharp ideas to help our outreach program attain its goals. Currently writing her Masters Thesis on delivery of programs in an educational environment, Laurie is exploring new methods of interaction with kids at several schools around the GVA including Lochside Elementary, Ecole Marigold and a handful of others. "The best part of working at HAT is the knowledge that your work means something and is a hand-up to teachers who need some help adding Green learning to the classroom - indoors and especially outside. Many of the kids I speak with are interested in native plants, birds and environmental issues on the Island but only read about it in books. I can come in and add support to allow them to get outside, smell the fresh air of Knockan Hill Park, for example, and expand their relationship with the natural world around them." For more information on the Green Spots program, contact Laurie at the HAT office.

What Would HAT do?

With your Climate
Action Dividend
Cheque...

Go to www.hat.bc.ca
to find out more about

Green Spots
Good Neighbours
UFSI
Conservation
Covenants
Matson Lands

and more...



Best wishes Jennifer!

by Todd Carnahan



JENNIFER ELIASON began working with HAT in 2002 after learning the art and science of landowner contact for habitat conservation in Nanaimo. Moving rapidly into the director role from stewardship outreach, Jennifer mastered many new and challenging skills on the fly. Hiring me was but one of her fine accomplishments as she built a new and improved regional land trust with greater capacity and professionalism. Jen has brought many dedicated people onboard under her watch, and she left HAT in fine condition to tackle greater challenges with the Islands Trust Fund. Our new director Adam Taylor moved into her position seamlessly, which is a testament to Mrs. Eliason's self-taught organizational skills. Personally, Jennifer has taught me a great deal about team building and diplomacy, perseverance, and the power of a positive attitude. We're proud of your career achievements Jen, and we look forward to continued partnership with the ITF. Thank you!

Help Create a Conservation Legacy - Join now!

YES! I would like to be a member of HAT!	Annual Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$30
		<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$45
		<input type="checkbox"/> VNHS Member	\$20
		<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate	\$100
Name: _____			
Address: _____			
Phone: _____ Email: _____			
HAT will issue a charitable tax receipt for all memberships and donations \$20 and more			
I would also like to make a donation to HAT			
Monthly Support:		Single Donation	
Amount per month: <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 10 <input type="checkbox"/> 15 <input type="checkbox"/> 20		S _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____			
Please direct my donation to:	<input type="checkbox"/> Where most needed	<input type="checkbox"/> Covenants & Acquisitions	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Good Neighbours	<input type="checkbox"/> Endowment	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:		



Habitat Acquisition Trust

P.O. Box 8552, Victoria, B.C., V8W 3S2
 Phone: (250) 995-2428 Fax: (250) 920-7975
 email: hatmail@hat.bc.ca
www.hat.bc.ca



RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED
 PORT DE RETOUR GARANTI