



Habitat Acquisition Trust. Your regional land trust since 1996.



Habitat Acquisition Trust **Spring Chat '13**

Peninsula Farmers who Love Trout are Good Neighbours

In 2013, HAT will bring our Good Neighbours community outreach program to the Mt. Newton Valley on the Saanich Peninsula. Farms, people, and Cutthroat Trout rely on the clean water of Hagan and Graham Creeks flowing to the Saanich Inlet. A variety of threats to Mt. Newton Valley's waterways are often complex and increasing. HAT's goal is to engage the community in practical solutions to significant local conservation issues that harm our quality of life and future generations.

Most of the valley is privately owned so residents play an important part in maintaining water quality for trout and farming. All property owners want functional, attractive landscapes and HAT's Good Neighbours Project can help out with a native garden prescription for birds and butterflies.

Want to build a wetland? Call your land trust today to reserve a spring or summer land care visit: call 250 995 2428 or email todd@hat.bc.ca.

Good Neighbours Quick Facts

- Established in 2001
- Over 500 Habitat Stewards Created
- 2 Ecostar Awards
- Saanich Volunteer Award
- Recognized by the B.C. Ministry of Environment

Habitat Acquisition Trust

Spring is always a great time of year for all of us here at HAT as it usually means that we will be outdoors more than our dark winter months in the office. Wendy, our Covenants and Acquisitions Coordinator is going to start her season of monitoring which is always a great way to reconnect with our protected properties and their respective owners. As you read on the first page, Todd will be out of the office almost everyday with an outreach intern to help build a more sustainable and educated neighbourhood in Mt. Newton Valley. Peter is looking forward to some volunteer events that involve pulling broom and restoring natural areas. When the sun is out and the wind dies down, we see our dedicated volunteers' smiling faces as they pull broom with all their might.



kid's corner

Here is a fun scavenger hunt that staff member Wendy Tyrrell designed for her four-year-old son Quinn, that you can do on your next outing in nature. Email us a photo of your family searching high and low and we'll post it on Facebook to spread the joy of being in nature! hatmail@hat.bc.ca

SCAVENGER HUNT!!

1. Smooth Rock 
2. Rough Rock
3. Sea Shell 
4. Brown Leaf 
5. Green Leaf 
6. Fir Cone 
7. Twig in the shape of a letter 
8. Something Special to You...
9. Feather 
10. Piece of Moss 

HAT happenings

Even though we are busy outdoors, our office is equally as vibrant with plenty of new volunteers helping us update our databases, map our covenants on GIS systems and working on the development end of things. We have the Ancient Forest Alliance renting some space and they are a great group to work with. There is also a new president on our board of directors and we are continuing our fundraising efforts by writing grant proposals and reporting on the ones that we have used in the past year. In case you haven't been by the HAT office in a while, we also have some new art pieces by Joanne Thomson on display for your viewing pleasure.

staff favourites

With the third print run of our *Gardening with Native Plants* guide recently completed, it's almost that time to plan your perfect garden before the season arrives. Our guide can help you save water and money by using native plants in your garden. We asked the creator of the guide, Todd Carnahah, what one of his favourite plants was for his own yard.



Pictured above is one of Todd's favorite plants, the Nodding Onion (*Allium cernuum*)

Three reasons why he loves it:

1. It attracts hummingbirds and butterflies.
2. It's deer resistant!
3. Bulbs multiply fast and are easy to transplant.

plants in the ground

We've been hard at work getting plants into the ground over the past few months. With help from our volunteers, students, teachers and parents we have had plenty of help. Students and community volunteers planted to date in 2013:

- 317 Camas Bulbs
- 25 Nootka Rose
- 30 Sword Fern
- 15 Indian Plum
- 37 Tall Oregon Grape
- 22 Woolly Sunflower
- And 20 other native species!



Green Spots 2013

Wow. Green Spots has had an exhilarating start to the season in which over 500 students have planted gardens at 3 different schools!

Participating schools:

Glanford Middle School
Ecole Quadra Elementary School
Westmont Montessori

Upcoming plantings at:

Elizabeth Buckley School
Shoreline Middle School
Oaklands Middle School

Thank you to our school staff and parents who made it possible!

Quadra PAC
Shellie Gudgeon
City of Victoria Parks
Jason Bower (Westmont)
Jonathon Allsopp (Glanford)

Thank you for the media coverage:

Victoria News
Shaw TV
CTV Vancouver Island
Times Colonist

Funding provided by:

Victoria Foundation
Natural Sciences & Engineering
Research Council





HAT

2013



HAT Spring Chat

earth week events

Come visit our staff and board members at these two great events to pick up the freshly printed *Gardening with Native Plants* guide and tell us what you have planned for your spring gardening!

Saturday April 20 - *Creatively United Festival* - 11am - 3pm

Saturday April 20- *Swan Lake Plant Sale* - 9am - 3pm

Sunday April 21 - *Creatively United Festival* - 12pm -4pm

Sunday April 21- *Swan Lake Plant Sale* - 9am- 3pm

www.creativelyunitedfortheplanet.com

www.swanlake.bc.ca/plant-sale.php



Welcome to New Members!

Bonita Bernard
Nitya Harris

Thank you for donating!

Provincial Employees through
PECSF
Scott Poole and family
Lyndis Davis
Lenart Sopuck
Kristiina Ovaska

Volunteers Extraordinaire!

Tony Cheong
Gail Harcombe
Charlie LeRoss
Gord Warrenchuk
Hannah Galloway
Paige Erickson-McGee

HAT Funders

Vancity
Government of Canada -Habitat
Stewardship Program
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Foundation
Victoria Foundation
Capital Regional District
Real Estate Foundation
Natural Sciences & Engineering
Research Council
The Province of British
Columbia

Thank you for your support.

Donations from individuals are very important to HAT's sustainability. We truly appreciate the support of our members and donors; it is this support that enables us to keep HAT operating day-to-day.

To make it easier for donors, HAT has established a monthly giving program and accepts monthly giving through VISA, Mastercard, AMEX, and direct deposit.

Visit our website or call us at 250-995-2428 to make your donation.

