



*Habitat Acquisition Trust. Your regional land trust since 1996.*



Dedicated volunteers on Senanus Island get some rest before the boat trip home.



# Habitat Acquisition Trust Summer Chat '13

## Volunteers Help Shape Local Land Trust

You may or may not know that the HAT staff is comprised of only four people - Peter, Todd, Wendy and Adam. You may be wondering “How do four people get so much accomplished?”. The answer is easy - we don’t. There is no way we could successfully accomplish all of the projects and initiatives we do if it was not for our wide range of volunteers. Our board of directors consist of twelve dedicated volunteers who help out our organization in a variety of capacities. They offer advice, feedback and guidance on important decisions and each director comes with a unique background and knowledge that helps our organization grow. Restoration volunteers are scattered across our region and we love when we see familiar faces come out to their “home base” for volunteering. It is nice to see volunteers have a close connection to their closest river or park, restoring can

be rewarding on many levels. We want to sincerely thank everyone who has volunteered with HAT; you’ve made a huge difference!

### Senanus Island Quick Facts

- Sacred to the Tsartlip First Nations
- Home to over 20 native plant species
- HAT helps to restore Senanus along with Kennes Watershed Project volunteers and Lauwelnew Tribal School

# Habitat Acquisition Trust

Monitoring our covenants is an underrated component of the Covenants program. It is crucial that we keep our promise to uphold protected lands to the highest standard. Unfortunately there is no funding for covenant monitoring, so we rely heavily on our volunteers and community members to help us carry out our duties each summer. HAT now monitors over 17 covenants so each summer becomes more daunting to cover and report on these protected places. With that being said, monitoring covenants is a really great reminder for all of us as to why we work so hard to protect natural places. Reading about and viewing pictures of a natural place cannot replace the physical experience of hiking through a pristine ecosystem that provides life for so many species. Having the opportunity to

## monitoring with Wendy

explore these places is a thrill, and heading out to monitor a covenant with Wendy is a ton of fun! Bushwhacking, ducking under trees and looking for infractions feels like being on a treasure hunt. Wendy can also help volunteers learn how to read GPS coordinates and understand proper mapping techniques. Seeing wildlife in their natural habitat is always a great feeling, and walking through forests that contain no trails is the ultimate five sense experience. Birds chirp happily and butterflies flutter at every turn, it is simply stunning to be in place without any noise pollution coming from cars and daily activities. We owe a big thank you to our board members and volunteers who have come out this summer to help us keep our promises to our landowners and partners.



## do you have bats?

The bat population on Southern Vancouver Island is not well studied or monitored but fear not, HAT is here to save the day! We just need a little help. In order to learn more about these bats we need to find out where they live. Do you have bats in your house or a bat box on your property? Email us RIGHT now - [hatmail@hat.bc.ca](mailto:hatmail@hat.bc.ca)



### SOME THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT BATS

- *16 species of bats in BC, 10 of which live in Southern Vancouver Island. Eight species of bats in B.C cannot be found anywhere else in Canada.*
- *The ONLY flying mammal in the world!*
- *Our local species of bat can eat up to 600 insects a night. Many of which are mosquitoes – they save you from itching in the morning after a night of camping.*
- *They are actually quite cute up close!*
- *Our local bats are all insectivores, no fruit or vampire bats after your lunch or blood!*
- *Bats are shy creatures, they don't want to interact with humans or harm you.*
- *Scientists estimate that only 0.5% of bats carry rabies.*
- *Our local bats keeping insect populations in check. They are the single most important control of night-flying insects.*

## write about your senses

We want to hear from our members and supporters about their nature experiences in our region to open the public dialogue about what we see, hear, feel, smell and taste in nature. Your article can be about absolutely anything and can include questions for our staff, e.g., if you do not know the name of a species or bird you see. Feel free to send photos of your exciting



adventure too and we can show them off on our Facebook page and in future publications. Articles can be any length you would like, the only restriction we have is that you write about somewhere or something in the Capital Regional District! Looking forward to some exciting reads! Email [hatmail@hat.bc.ca](mailto:hatmail@hat.bc.ca) or call our office 250-995-2428.

## celebrating our members

On June 18th we hosted a members lunch sponsored by Frank Arnold and the Pinch Group to thank all of our dedicated members and supporters for their generosity over the past year. We were pleased to see some old friends as well as some new HAT members as we caught everyone up on our exciting year in 2013 and some of the very interesting projects that will be carried out.

Thanks to everyone for coming out and sharing their stories, feedback and goals for HAT in the upcoming year. We are so proud of our donors as they are absolutely vital to our success.



## our favourite spots

Where does our staff spend their free time with friends and family?

**Peter :**

Lone Tree Hill Park was a surprise spot for me, a short hike leads to incredible panoramic views of our region.

**Adam :**

Russell Island was a wonderful spot to kayak with the kids, and some of the largest garter snakes I have ever seen!

**Paige:**

Grassie Lake (HAT covenant) in the Sooke Hills, our guide led us deep into the forest, up and over the hills to the beautiful lake teeming with the adorable rough-skinned newts!

**Wendy:**

Mt. Tolmie continues to be one of my favourite local hikes with my 4 yr. old son Quinn. Especially in the winter when it's damp and dark on other forest hikes, Mt. Tolmie is beautifully bright and rich with Garry Oaks and rock outcrops and many little nooks and crannies to play hide n' go seek!

**Todd:**

Meeting landowners living on the slopes of Mt Newton impressed me with their strong sense of community and concern about the health of their beautiful Hagan Creek Valley.



# HAT

2013

## back to school

September is nearly here and we know for a lot of you with children this means that exciting time when kids get excited or dread going back to school. Our Green Spots program is an award-winning, free service that offers elementary school students the chance to plant native species or restore a natural area on their school property. There is nothing quite like getting your hands dirty and forming a real relationship with the soil around you. Let us help enhance your child's school year by getting your school teachers and PAC involved with this great program. If your children and their school would be interested, send our Green Spots coordinator Todd Carnahan an e-mail - [todd@hat.bc.ca](mailto:todd@hat.bc.ca). Read more about Green Spots on our website - [www.hat.bc.ca](http://www.hat.bc.ca).

**Photo below: Elder David Underwood welcomes volunteers to sacred Senanus Island and tells us the story of how the island came to be in Sencoten and English.**



## HAT Summer Chat

### **Welcome to New Members!**

Kari Frazer  
Rebecca Mersereau  
Maureen Milburn  
Joyce Calland

### **Thank you for donating!**

Provincial Employees through  
PECSF  
Jessica Braithwaite  
Margaret Sherwood

### **Volunteers Extraordinaire!**

Gail Harcombe  
Charlie LeRoss  
Alf and Robbi Birch  
Marilyn Rathwell  
Gord Warrenchuk

### **HAT Funders**

Vancity  
Government of Canada -Habitat  
Stewardship Program  
Habitat Conservation Trust  
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.

