

## Species Profile: Seablush, *Plectritis congesta*

photos and article by Cora Skaien

What is that beautiful flower in the meadows along the seashore? Seablush, *Plectritis congesta*, is an iconic winter annual of threatened oak-savanna habitats in western North America (e.g., Garry oak and maritime meadow ecosystems) and is a key early spring resource for native pollinators. It has bright green leaves and beautiful pink to magenta flowers on one to multiple inflorescences, often creating a beautiful carpet along the shore. (Figure 1) It is found on many islands in the Georgia Basin and the Strait of Juan de Fuca and extends as far south as California. Seablush is common on the small rocky islets around Lasqueti.



Figure 1. Seablush on the shoreline in the Gulf Islands.

Seablush most often grows on dry rocky sites or meadows that are moist in the spring but are dry over the summer, such as deeper soil pockets that hold moisture through the blooming season on dry rocky islets. It germinates in late summer to early fall (September to November). It then

remains as a small plant through the winter until the spring, when it bolts and produces flowers, completing its life cycle by mid-summer. A plant's phenotype is its physically observable characteristics. The phenotype often results from the interaction of its genotype with its environment, although some traits are purely genetically determined. Each Seablush plant produces one of two fruit phenotypes: with or without wing-like appendages (see Figure 2). Whether the plant produces the seed phenotype with wings or without wings is purely genetically determined. These forms can easily be observed once the plant goes to seed from mid spring to early summer.

Although Seablush itself is not threatened, it is iconic of an endangered ecosystem in the Coastal Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic zone. It often grows alongside camas (*Camassia quamash*, *C. leichtlinii*), harvest brodieae (*Brodieae coronaria*), fool's onion (*Triteleia hyacinthina*), maiden blue-eyed Mary (*Collinsia*

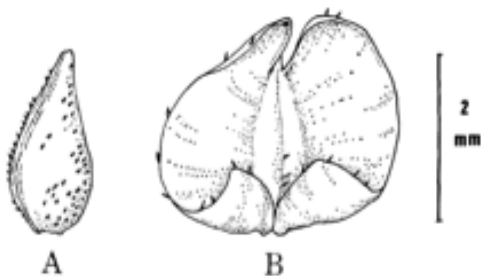


Figure 2. Seablush fruit phenotypes: A is the wingless type and B the winged type. Reprinted from Ganders, Carey, and Griffiths, 1977.

*parviflora*) and other wildflower species, many of which have high ecological and cultural value.

What makes Seablush so interesting? One reason is that populations of Seablush have an unusual ability to respond to changing levels of herbivory.

In the Gulf and San Juan Islands of British Columbia and Washington State, the environment for hundreds of plant species has changed dramatically in the last ~150 years. Much habitat has been lost through development, but even in areas with less development, there have been dramatic changes. Many ecosystems in our region were once maintained by Indigenous peoples who practiced the sustainable harvest of plant and animal species and used frequent low-severity fires as a management tool. But these practices have been suppressed since the arrival of European settlers in the 1800s. The loss of predators and the reduction in hunting pressure have allowed abnormally high deer populations to become common throughout the region. As a result, browsing pressure has reduced the abundance of many species.

In contrast, Seablush is an example of a plant which appears to have evolved rapidly in response to browsing by deer. Seablush has adapted to conditions with or without ungulate herbivores by presenting two very different growth forms on islands with ungulate herbivores versus those without. On islands with ungulates, such as deer or sheep, seablush tends to be short (<20 cm tall), with many branches closer to the ground. As well, more plants have the wingless form of fruits, and plants flower and grow much later in the spring compared to plants on islands without ungulates. On islands without ungulates, Seablush can grow to over 1 m. tall, with branches higher from the ground. They mostly have winged fruits and the plant grows and flowers much earlier in the spring. What height is observed (i.e. phenotype for height) is determined by both genetics and the environment.

Although the mechanism favouring wingless fruits in the presence of ungulates is not confirmed, anecdotal evidence suggests that wingless fruits fall off of a plant more easily when brushed than winged fruits do, allowing the wingless fruits to be less likely to be consumed. Additionally, when consumed, wingless fruits are more likely to pass undamaged through the digestive tract of sheep or deer compared to winged fruits, which suffer more damage. Together, this suggests that wingless fruits are more

likely to avoid and survive ungulate herbivory than their winged counterparts.

Research conducted by my colleague Peter Arcese, myself, and our predecessors shows that, under experimental selection pressure, seablush populations can show a shift in these strategies for growth and reproduction in as few as 5 years (this is only 5 generations)! This is a truly impressive ability to respond to changing environmental pressures. However, whilst seablush is clearly capable of rapid adaption in response to environmental change, it remains vulnerable to extinction where deer populations have become hyper-abundant. This has been observed in Salt Spring and Sidney Islands, for example. Such hyper-abundance would likely never have happened historically due to the combination of mortality from predators and Indigenous hunters. And unfortunately, within our region



Seablush with deer present in habitat

Seablush is fairly rare in its ability to respond this way – we don't know of other plants in the region with this degree of rapid adaptive capability.

More information about Seablush ecology and its ability to adapt to herbivory can be found in a series of publications on this topic:

Skaen, C.L., and Arcese, P. (2018) Spatial variation in herbivory, climate and isolation predict plant height and fruit phenotype in *Plectritis*

*congesta* island populations. *Journal of Ecology*, 106: 2344-2352 (<https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2745.12982>).

Skaen, C.L., and Arcese, P. (2020) Local adaptation in island populations of *Plectritis congesta* historically exposed to ungulate herbivory. *Ecology* (<https://doi.org/10.1002/ecy.3054>).

Skaen, C.L., and Arcese, P. (2022) On the capacity for rapid adaptation and plastic responses to herbivory and intraspecific competition in insular populations of *Plectritis congesta*. *Evolutionary Applications*, in press.

Gonzales, E. K., and P. Arcese. 2008. Herbivory more limiting than competition on early and established native plants in an invaded meadow. *Ecology* 89:3282–3289.

Ganders, F. R., K. Carey, and A. J. F. Griffiths. 1977a. Natural selection for a fruit dimorphism in *Plectritis congesta* (Valerianaceae). *Evolution* 31:873–881.

Reed, P. B., L. E. Pfeifer-Meister, B. A. Roy, B. R. Johnson, G. T. Bailes, A. A. Nelson, M. C. Boulay, S. T. Hamman, and S. D. Bridgham. 2019. Prairie plant phenology driven more by temperature than moisture in climate manipulations across a latitudinal gradient in the Pacific Northwest, USA. *Ecology and Evolution*:1–14.



## Western Toad Profile *Anaxyrus boreas* (formerly *Bufo boreas*)

Article by Ken Lertzman,  
Photos by Kathy Schultz

The Western Toad is one of the iconic native species resident on Lasqueti. It is widespread through western North America and is present throughout the BC Coast, though its populations have declined in developed areas of the south coast. To the south in the US, toad populations have declined dramatically and it is absent from much of its historical range – with this decline, the centre of the world’s distribution has shifted from the US to BC. In BC, the Western Toad is considered a “species of special concern”

under the Species at Risk Act (SARA): a species which may become threatened or endangered because of a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats. Toads are at risk from a broad range of factors characteristic of the broader global decline in amphibians: habitat loss, human disturbance, pollution, introduction of aquatic predators, diseases, parasites, and climate change.

Toads breed in ponds in the spring and females have been reported to lay up to 12,000 eggs in a clutch, though 1-5,000 eggs per clutch may be more common in BC. Though these numbers seem large, there is high mortality among tadpoles and toadlets. Many things eat the tadpoles and juveniles (for instance by predacious diving beetles, ravens, snakes, and being run over by cars as toadlets cross roads) and even young toads have a parotid gland behind the eye, which releases a mild toxin when they are stressed. Western Toads rely on the longevity of adults for population persistence and they can live up to 9-11 years. Females reach sexual maturity between 2-6 years of age and may reproduce only every 1-3 years—however, because of the high energetic cost of reproduction, some breed only once in their lifetime. Toads breed in shallow water, usually no deeper than 30 cm, ideally with sandy bottoms. Warmer water in the shallows increases the rate of eggs development.

Western Toads use three different types of habitats over the seasons: the shallow ponds they breed in, terrestrial habitats for summer range, and winter hibernation sites. On Lasqueti, as elsewhere, large numbers of toadlets can



“To our knowledge, there are no reported occurrences of Western Toads on any of the Gulf Islands except Lasqueti.” Melissa Todd (Issue 18)

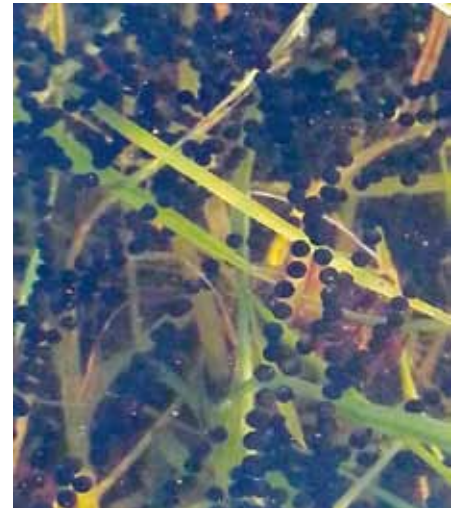
be seen moving in aggregations after metamorphosis. Toads can move as much as several kilometres. On Vancouver Island, among their distinct seasonal habitats, their home range where most of their activity takes place on a daily basis may be only 0.1 ha. They have strong breeding site fidelity, returning to the ponds where they were born. This emphasizes the importance of protecting wetlands that toad populations depend on and to which they will return.

For more information about the biology, ecology, and conservation of Western Toads see: LINC’s Newsletter, Issue 18, summer 2019

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/westerntoad.pdf>

<http://www.sccp.ca/species-habitat/western-toad>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry/cosewic-assessments-status-reports/western-toad-2012.html>



In a previous issue, we described the very rare nature of our Coastal Douglas-Fir Ecosystem that we live in. Protecting as much overstory (tree canopy) as possible is really important for both carbon storage and the protection of shade and water. Protecting understory (low lying plants and shrubs) is important to protect the soil, and to provide precious food and cover for bees, butterflies, amphibians and birds.

# Protected Areas around Lasqueti, Current Status and Goals for the Future

*by Ken Lertzman*

For decades there has been a lot of discussion in the scientific press, the popular media, and in government policy about how much land needs to be protected to safeguard the earth's biodiversity and to achieve society's broader goals of sustainability. The first number to make an impact on the international stage was the 12% proposed in the 1980's by the Brundtland Commission and committed to by Canada and other nations at the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992. Though it had no scientific basis, the 12% was an important idea at the time and motivated a lot of good conservation effort. It was a factor in the Protected Areas Strategy in BC in the 1990's when we more than doubled our protected land from ~6% to over 14%. It was even reflected as an Objective in Lasqueti's OCP until the current revision.

Since the 1990's, a big question has been, "how much is enough." For instance, years of debate in the context of forestry in the Great Bear Rainforest on BC's Central and North Coast resulted in a consensus that 1) protecting less than 30% of the land base would result in a high risk to biological diversity and ecosystem services, that 2) protecting more than 70% of the land base would provide a low level of risk, and that 3) the range in between 30% and 70% was a realm of more uncertainty, which varied with the landscape, the indicator being discussed, and



Point Young Point, Lasqueti's newest protected area, photo by Gordon Scott

the nature of development on the landscape.

Globally, there has been a lot of recent discussion in the conservation practice and conservation science communities about the notion that "nature needs half". The argument is essentially that a minimum of 30% of a land base should be in some formal kind of protected status (i.e., parks or reserves), with

at least a further 20% in a natural enough state that it can play a supporting role in the context of climate resilience, etc. There is far from a consensus on this 30-50% target, but it is a good working model and probably as close as we can come to having a science-supported number at the present. The people who in 1995 were strong advocates for the 12% goal are now pushing for 30-50%. This all ties in with movements for nature-based climate solutions and social justice issues in relation to Indigenous land rights.

In 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced Canada's commitment to protect 25 percent of our lands and waters by 2025 and 30 percent by 2030. These new targets are intended to be a key component of the effort to address interrelated crises of biodiversity loss, ecological degradation, and climate change. As of 2020, Canada as a whole was at 12.5% of its lands and inland waters protected plus 13.8% of its marine territory. There are a lot of interesting nuances and challenges to



this discussion - notably how this commitment dovetails with the country's commitment to reconciliation and the move to return jurisdiction over their traditional lands and water to Indigenous people. The federal government has stated that Indigenous-led conservation will play a central role in implementing this plan, but the details of how this will happen remain unclear. In British Columbia, a little over 15% of the province is in protected areas. As of 2021, the Canadian government reports that 16.6% of terrestrial area globally (this includes freshwater) was "conserved", with 15.7% of this in protected areas. So collectively at all these scales of analysis – global, federal, and provincial, achieving the 30% by 2030 goal is clearly going to be challenging.



Salish View Nature Reserve forest and bluffs

### How are we doing on Lasqueti in this context?

The Lasqueti Island Local Trust Area includes three provincial parks (Jedediah Island and Sabine Channel Marine Provincial Parks and Squitty Bay Provincial Park) and four protected Nature Reserves (Salish View, Mount Trematon, John Osland, Kwell), and the Lasqueti Island Ecological Reserve (Table 1). Although still not in an official Protected status, the recent addition of Point Young contributed another 256 acres to our estimate.

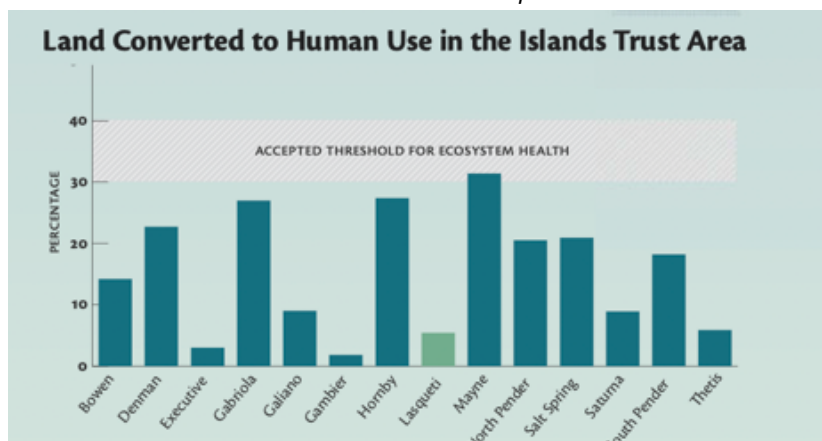
These areas total to about 11% of the Lasqueti Trust Area (Lasqueti itself plus the surrounding islets and islands), with about 7.1% of Lasqueti itself protected (i.e., not including Jedediah and Sabine Channel parks). The big difference in % protected largely arises because Jedediah Island is relatively large and is entirely protected. By comparison, as of 2009, there was 15% protected across the Islands Trust area of jurisdiction. So, not only are we nowhere near the targets highlighted in the modern discussion of protected area goals, we haven't even achieved the more modest goal set before the end of the last century and embedded in our previous community plan. While we have a lower proportion of developed area than most other islands within the Islands Trust area, very little of it is actually protected from development (Figure 1). We fall well below the modest standard achieved so far at global, national, provincial, and Islands Trust scales.

In fact, there are good reasons for Lasqueti to have a higher level of protected area than the generic Provincial and National targets. The Coastal Douglas-fir (CDF) zone, in which Lasqueti exists, is the ecosystem type in the province that has been most modified by human activities. Compared to the rest of the CDF zone (Eastern Vancouver Island, all the Gulf Islands and some of the lower mainland) Lasqueti has the among the highest proportions of remaining natural habitat. In fact, within the CDF as a whole, there is little expectation we can get anywhere near 30% protected areas because so much of it is private land and already developed. It doesn't make sense to develop conservation strategies, such the 30% target, without

considering that we here on Lasqueti are part of a broader system. For the Lasqueti Trust area, a higher level of protection than we currently have would be consistent with national and provincial goals.

Not only are we nowhere near the targets highlighted in the modern discussion of protected area goals, we haven't even achieved the more modest goal set before the end of the last century and embedded in our previous community plan.

Figure 1. Percentage of land converted to human use in the Islands Trust Area. Prepared by the Islands Trust: <https://islandstrust.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Lasqueti-Island-LTA-Profile.pdf>





Fawn lilies at Osland Nature Reserve, photo Izzy Harrington

For those who are interested in supporting materials for the discussion of the 30-50% targets, see these sources for more information:

- <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/scientists-call-for-protecting-30-percent-of-lands-by-2030/>
- <https://www.globaldealornature.org/science/>
- <https://natureneedshalf.org/2019/04/scientists-call-for-a-global-deal-for-nature/>
- Dinerstein E, Vynne C, Sala E, Joshi AR, Fernando S, Lovejoy TE, Mayorga J, Olson D, Asner GP, Baillie JE, Burgess ND. A global deal for nature: guiding principles, milestones, and targets. Science advances. 2019 Apr 1;5(4):eaaw2869.
- <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-indicators/conserved-areas.html>
- <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-indicators/global-trends-conserved-areas.html>

Our current estimate is that only about 17% of Lasqueti is public (“crown”) land. Like the rest of the CDF, Lasqueti is dominated by private land. If we were able to get some kind of protected status for all the remaining public land, we’d be approaching close to the 30% threshold target for formal protection. However, the Provincial government’s commitment to giving First Nations priority access to unallocated public lands in the province means that they will have a big say in the future of all such parcels. This is reflected in the current proposal for two of Lasqueti’s crown land parcels to be part of a First Nations Woodland License. Given the high proportion of private land on Lasqueti, opportunities for outright protection of public lands (i.e., park or reserve status) are limited. This emphasizes the importance of private land conservation initiatives, including conservation covenants, and supporting stewardship initiatives on private land, such as maintaining healthy forests, wetlands, streams, and shorelines as much as possible.

As Lasquetians we need to think carefully about our goals for the future of land on the island. How much do we want to protect from potential future development? Do we want to be part of the global movement for 30% protected area in the land-base? If so, how will we achieve that? The Lasqueti Island Nature Conservancy has recently updated its 2022 – 2026 Strategic Plan. It includes a new goal of doubling our conserved lands in the next five years. It also sets out some strategies to achieve this.

**DO YOU WANT TO LEAVE A LEGACY FOR THE FUTURE?**

**LINC AND THE LAST RESORT SOCIETY ARE HOLDING A WORKSHOP ON ESTATE PLANNING - JUNE 24TH 11 AM AT THE JUDITH FISHER CENTRE**



Mt. Trematon Nature Reserve from Osland NR



**Table 1. Protected areas and their sizes on Lasqueti and nearby islands as of December 2021. Area does not include rockfish conservation zones. Note that while this is a good first approximation, some numbers may be rough, and we will obtain better estimates.**

### Protected Areas in Lasqueti Trust Area

	ha	acres
Jedediah Island Marine Park	243	600
Sabine Channel Marine Park	95	235
<b>Total Jedediah and Sabine MP</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>835</b>
Squitty Bay Marine Park	12	30
Squitty Bay Marine Park Addition	37	93
Ecological Reserve	201	497
Salish View Nature Reserve	11	28
Mt Trematon Nature Reserve	57	140
Johnny Osland Nature Reserve	65	160
Young Point	104	256
Kwel Nature Reserve	10	25
<b>Total area PA's Lasqueti Island only</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>1229</b>



Total area in Lasqueti Island Trust Area	7360	18187
<b>Percent protected Lasqueti Trust Area</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>11.3</b>
Total area Lasqueti Island only	7022	17351
Total protected area on Lasqueti island	497	1229
<b>Percent protected Lasqueti Island only</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>7.1</b>

### Crown Land Parcels

name	size ha
Parcel A-1	49
Parcel A-2	65
Parcel B	344.82
Parcel C	139.71
Parcel D	323.43
Parcel E	65.67
Parcel F	47
Parcel G	66.38
Parcel H	56.33
Parcel I	12.59
Parcel J	5.38
Parcel K	21.07

Not incl Parcel L - Jedediah islets

Not incl Parcel M - Finnerty islets

Not incl Parcel M - Fagen islets

Parcel O 1.81

Parcel P not included community hall  
land 10.44 ha

Total area Crown Land 1198.19

% crownland 17.063



Camas and Seablush at Finnerty Islands

## Book Review

### Finding the Mother Tree, Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest, Reviewed by Sue Wheeler



On a seasonal job for a logging company when she was 20, checking the growth of newly planted trees, Suzanne Simard idly picks a Suillus mushroom and notices some fine yellow threads in the hole left by the mushroom's stem. She digs farther into the hole and sees a vast network of threads (mycelia) covering every part of the soil and leading in all directions.

From there, through forestry jobs requiring things that her own observations and instincts tell her are wrong, like spraying glyphosate on native plants in tree plantations, her curiosity grows. Along with this grows a need to make known what she is discovering, such as the mycelial connections of all members of a forest community, or the way an old tree, the "mother tree," can recognize, protect, and preferentially send nourishment to her offspring through the mycelial network. She demonstrates, via carefully designed studies, that a forest needs many species and ages of trees and other plants to thrive and shows how it is the network of mushrooms, mycelia, and tree roots underground that enable this system.

A powerful example of new forest knowledge revealed by Simard's research is the fact that the roots of Douglas-fir and paper birch exchange water and nutrients with each other through their shared mycorrhizal network. The general benefit is to the fir. This upends the long held belief that the faster growing birch out-competed the fir seedlings, and therefore must be cut or sprayed to "release" the firs. For the past 25 years, Simard's discoveries have been slowly changing how decisions about forestry are made.

Through years of ridicule and rejection by many foresters, whose received ideas her work challenged, Simard persisted in her research. The ideas that she first intuited, and then proved about the forest began to be acknowledged by the scientific community.

Eventually Simard gained a PhD in forest ecology, which took years of carefully planned research projects, the patient building of verified information and conclusions, and the deep study of allied fields. This book shows the time, passion, and dedication required of any scientist who makes these kinds of breakthroughs.

Through articles, a popular TED talk, and podcast interviews, her work has caught the public imagination, and

*Finding the Mother Tree* is a New York Times bestseller, a surprise for a book that includes so much description of scientific experiments and their results. People are ready for a message that shows a direction to go in understanding life and protecting it as climate change increases.

This book is also a memoir. The rich story of Simard's personal life, from her childhood in a logging and farming family in BC's southern interior through university and her later career, provides the base for her account of the growing passion for what she was discovering. Beyond becoming familiar with her studies and her career, I felt like I came to know her as someone deeply embedded in her family.

This is an exceptionally well written, engaging, and informative book. I highly recommend it.

(note: *Finding the Mother Tree* pairs well with *Entangled Life*, by Merlin Sheldrake, and *Braiding Sweetgrass*, by Robin Wall Kimmerer.)

**LINC is inviting you to attend our  
Annual General Meeting, May 21,  
Saturday at the Judith Fisher Centre at  
11 am. In person and by zoom**

After hearing about last year's projects, we will review and discuss this year's plans for stewardship and conservation around the island. Then, two new stalwart Lasquetians will stand for election along with the current board.

Following the business meeting, we invite you to Mt. Trematon to enjoy one of Lasqueti's Nature Reserves and to have a look at the recent biodiversity restoration project.

**Put us on your calendar for May 21st and  
bring a lunch for our walk after.**



# Shifting Our Baselines: Beavers Move onto the Osland Reserve

by Gordon Scott

A group of LINC directors were recently caught by surprise when they visited the Osland Nature Reserve in late January 2022 and discovered that a family of beavers (*Castor canadensis*) had decided to take up residence in the Osland wetland. The beaver crew had raised the level of the wetland by nearly 3 feet! The normal access along the old road to the farmstead was flooded, our two enclosure experiments were underwater, and most of the plants we had carefully installed over the years were either underwater or eaten by the new beaver family. Oh boy, now what?

Volunteers built two fenced enclosures in the riparian zone of the Osland wetland in March 2017. The idea was to install a three-sided enclosure open to the water that would prevent deer and sheep from browsing inside the enclosures. We thought this design would save a little money and fencing. A few dozen native plants and trees were planted within the enclosures with the hopes they would grow up and provide some shade on the water's edge. It was a "seat of the pants" experiment to see if larger enclosures would be more successful in increasing plant diversity than single caged trees, the standard restoration method we have used elsewhere. The growth of the planted trees and the condition of the enclosures was annually monitored by LINC directors. The difference in vegetation inside and outside the fenced areas was dramatic as the photo on the next page shows. On one visit a few months after the installation we noticed that the water level had actually dropped a foot and it would be necessary to extend the fencing further into the open water.

In the fall of 2021, a formal wetland restoration plan was developed by the Islands Trust Conservancy and implemented with the help of the False Bay School, the Nanaimo and Area Land Trust, and LINC volunteers. A couple of new smaller enclosures were constructed and more plants were installed in the existing enclosures. Then sometime last winter the beaver or family of beavers moved into the Osland Reserve, constructed a new dam at the outlet, and raised the water level of the wetland.



Above: directors observing new water levels  
Below: enclosure showing plants and trees now underwater  
photos Gordon Scott

We are is not unfamiliar with beavers. In 2017 former LINC Director Bonnie Olesko wrote about the beaver family that moved into the pond near her house, coppiced the overgrown willows, and how she became concerned when the pond started to cover her field. Bonnie soon became curious about these once abundant aquatic creatures and their life history. She researched and discovered the benefits that beavers do to slow down floods, increase biodiversity, raise water tables, increase wildlife habitat and generally help mitigate the effects of climate change. Ecologists refer to beavers as a Keystone Species and call them ecosystem engineers. (Newtletter, Issue #11)



Speaking strictly about the climate crisis it is true that beaver ponds are guilty of emitting methane, a potent greenhouse gas, though it is estimated their contribution is only about 1 percent of what cows emit. In an elegant and well researched book entitled *Eager: The Surprising, Secret life of Beavers and Why they Matter* the author, Ben Goldfarb writes:

*...active beaver complexes on twenty-seven streams in Rocky Mountain National Park once stored more than 2.6 million megatons of carbon. By my calculations, [this is] the equivalent of thirty-seven thousand acres of average American forest ... Forget trees: if you want to fight climate change, it's entirely possible that you're better off planting beavers.*

Beavers are very busy workers and do their own thing with water. This has led humans to kill, trap, or relocate beavers -- or adapt infrastructure to protect roads, bridges, culverts, and our favorite apple trees. A lot of work has been done to find ways to live with beavers, including engineered structures to keep water levels constant in beaver ponds, like those at Magic Mountain and The Shumach Farm. At the Osland Nature Reserve, LINC, has started to remove the fencing that was flooded and will rebuild exclosures



Photos Left Top: large cedars flooded by rising water, Below: Wendy observing the new dam 2022 Right: beaver, and beaver faceoff with large dog, both photos by Brigitte Dörner,

away from the wetland along a small tributary. A short trail was built around the flooded access road and on to the dam, so visitors can observe the beaver activity. Beavers do move around the landscape and we don't know how long they will call Osland Nature Reserve home, but it will likely be a function of available food, such as willows and alders. In the meantime LINC will continue monitoring the water levels and progress of the beaver family.

## Point Young Update

While most of us are slowly coming out of our winter cocoon, the BC Parks Foundation has been very busy at their Point Young property. A dedicated and experienced clean-up crew of workers have been sprucing up the old homestead area, removing waste material and composting wood debris, starting the long-term restoration of the site. An assessment of the condition of the existing buildings has been completed and under review. An initial survey of archeological resources has been completed and an ecological assessment of the property is underway. This spectacular 256-acre property is one of the most significant conservation successes in the Salish Sea. Big thank-yous to the hard work of the BC Parks Foundation and generous donations from the many friends of Lasqueti.

Want to be involved?? Contact [linc@lasqueti.ca](mailto:linc@lasqueti.ca) to volunteer (summer watering needed), or to help build trails or to help with other great work!



## Upcoming Events

### LINC Annual General Meeting

May 21, 2022, 11:00 am

Judith Fisher Centre and by Zoom

followed by tour of the Mt. Trematon Restoration Project

### Mt Trematon Bioblitz

On May 30th the False Bay School kids, their parents, and a few others will travel to Mt. Trematon for a Bioblitz. This is an opportunity for the kids to learn about the plants, birds, insects and more that make our island so special to live on. Participants will do a species inventory under the guidance of Cora Skaen, the biologist leading the Restoration project at the site, Catriona Gordon, an environmental educator and part of the family who donated Mt. Trematon to the community, and Petra Knight, False Bay School's wonderful Grade 4-7 teacher who has returned to the island with a passion for getting the kids out in nature!

### Estate Planning Workshop

On Friday, June 24th LINC with the Last Resort Society are co-hosting a workshop on Estate Planning. Join us at 11 am to welcome Carla Funk, a Strategic Fund Development Specialist with the Islands Trust Conservancy. She will describe options for financial and estate planning that can help you reduce or eliminate costly capital gains taxes, and at the same time help your family and the organizations that you love, as you pass the torch to the next generations. Land transfer to the next generation or other land trust organizations will be of particular interest for discussion.

### Hike from Mt. Trematon to the Ecoreserve

June 28, Tuesday, join Director Duane West for a hike from Mt. Trematon to the Ecoreserve. Starts at 11.

### Squitty Bay Day

Sunday in late August, stay tuned for dates and further information

one of many garter snake species found on Lasqueti and surrounding islands, portrait by Morgan Maher



We are excited to announce the official launch of a new LINC website!

You can find it here: <https://linc.lasqueti.ca>

We have been working over several months to put together a new in-depth website for Lasqueti Island Nature Conservancy. We would like to thank the administrators of [lasqueti.ca](https://linc.lasqueti.ca) for continuing to host LINC's digital world, as well as Ian Rusconi for volunteering his time and expertise to create this site. We appreciate the many photographers from the Lasqueti community and at large who captured these moments in nature.

#### Some highlights of the website are:

- The title pages (with subheadings) are full of information and great photos of Lasqueti and details about LINC's many programs and options.
- A page where you can learn about the history of LINC, our board of directors, and our new 2022-26 strategic plan <https://linc.lasqueti.ca/about/>.
- A news and events page with announcements and current opportunities to get involved <https://linc.lasqueti.ca/news-and-events/>
- An information page about the protected lands on Lasqueti <https://linc.lasqueti.ca/about-lasqueti/>
- An archive of all our newsletters <https://linc.lasqueti.ca/newsletters/>
- Ways to support nature in this era of climate change through volunteering, membership, and conservation options <https://linc.lasqueti.ca/how-to-help/>
- Numerous great photographs including drone footage of Salish View <https://linc.lasqueti.ca/salish-view/>
- A donation page, with options for on-line, cheque or e-transfer options to conserve nature <https://linc.lasqueti.ca/donate/>

LINC is looking to rent a small secure office space of about 250 sq ft, with internet, heat and phone. Contact us if you have something like this to offer. Thank-you

# Seen In Passing



Upper left: Bowl Earthstar (*Geastrum saccatum*) photo N. Stacey, Centre: Bee on Flowering Red Current seen February 2022, photo Izzy Harrington, Upper right: Great Gray Owl, photo Lisa Johnson, Lower left: fawn lily *Erythronium*, photo Ken Lertzman, Centre: immature Bald Eagle, photo Petra Knight, Far right: Chocolate lily in bloom in April on Finnerty Islands, photo Terry Theiss

## Donations help support the resilience of nature on Lasqueti and surrounding islands

**Lasqueti Island Nature Conservancy has set up two funds to help direct your donations:**

**Acquisition Fund (to help acquire new protected sites)**

**General Fund (for communications, stewardship, operations)**

**Donations gratefully accepted to support our work: Charity BN #84848 5595**



**Board of Directors:** Gordon Scott, Wendy Schneible, Sheila Harrington, Hilary Duinker, Ken Lertzman, James Schwartz, Duane West

**Join the conversation, share your photos, become a member: \$10-\$20 (\$5 min) annually**

**Editor: Ken Lertzman, Layout: Izzy Harrington**

**All our past Newtletters and more at [linc.lasqueti.ca](https://linc.lasqueti.ca)**

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