



# HAT Chat

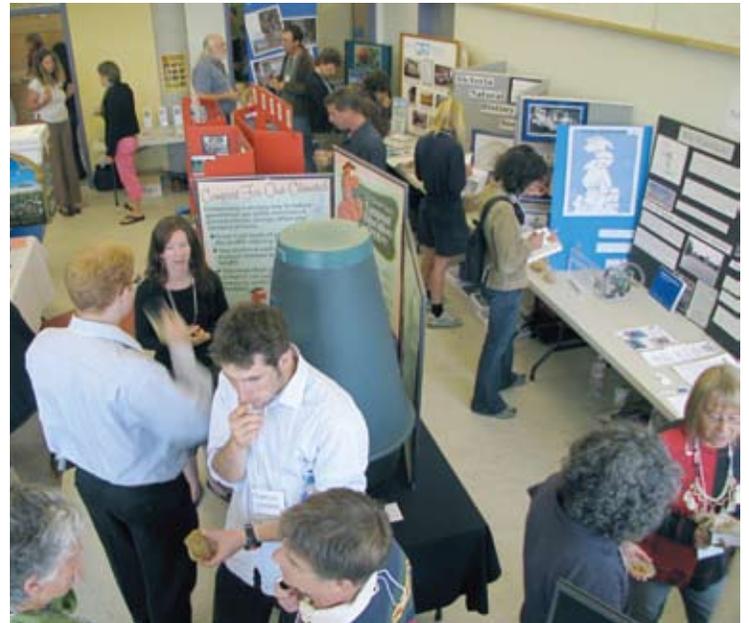
Habitat Acquisition Trust

## On Common Ground

**H**abitat Acquisition Trust, in conjunction with Royal Roads University and the Victoria Foundation, is hosting the 9th annual Conservation Connection Forum on Friday September 18th, 2009 at Royal Roads University. The full day event, themed “Engaging Communities,” will feature workshops, panel discussions, networking opportunities and round table discussions for people who are passionate about the environment and want to work together to create viable, sustainable programming in the Capital Regional District.

Maeve Lydon, Associate Director of the Office of Community Based Research at the University of Victoria, will give the keynote address. Maeve has worked with local and national NGOs for 25 years in the areas of human rights, community development and sustainability. She co-founded a group named Common Ground, which formed from a community mapping project and led to the development of the multilingual *Mapping Our Common Ground* book as well as the adoption of the Victoria and Region Green Map project by the University of Victoria. Ms. Lydon also helped form the Victoria Coalition for Survivors of Torture, an alliance of agencies and individuals responding to the needs of survivors of torture and their families. Her specialty areas include community mapping and participatory planning for NGOs, organizations and neighbourhoods.

Kim Klein, who recently referred to the thrill ride that is our economy as “the new normal,” will lead a special session. Ms. Klein is an internationally renowned author, fundraising trainer and consultant. As a member of the Building Movement Project, she leads workshops on tax policy and the importance of the Commons, as well as being a regular contributor to their website. She is the Chardon Press Series Editor at Jossey-Bass Publishers and founded the



*Participants browse through booths at the Conservation Connection Forum 2008, where over 30 organizations were represented.*

bimonthly *Grassroots Fundraising Journal* in 1981. Her books include *Fundraising for Social Change* (now in its fifth edition, 2006); *Fundraising for the Long Haul* (2000), which explores the particular challenges of older grassroots organizations; *Ask and You Shall Receive: A Fundraising Training Program for Religious Organizations or Projects, Raise More Money* (2001), which she edited with her partner, Stephanie Roth; and *Fundraising in Times of Crisis* (2004). Kim Klein has provided training and consultation in all 50 states in the U.S. and in 21 countries. Her writing is showcased in several locations on the Internet, including her blog, “Kim Klein and the Commons.”

The Conservation Connection Forum seeks to facilitate cooperation and communication among the many organizations working on environmental stewardship and conservation projects, and to find new ways to work together to achieve our goals. For more information contact HAT by email at [hatmail@hat.bc.ca](mailto:hatmail@hat.bc.ca) or our website [www.hat.bc.ca](http://www.hat.bc.ca).

-Darin Steinkey

Inside...

*Sharp-tailed Snake Report 2009*

*Millstream Good Neighbours*

*Native Plant Gardening Guide Released*

*Lasagna Gardening*

We would like to say a special thank you to Haydn, Baxter, and the Junior Achievers who conducted a twoonie drive to raise money for HAT's Covenant program!

Covenants are a cost-effective way to legally protect habitat forever.

Covenants are particularly important in our region, where endangered Garry Oak meadows and Coastal Douglas fir forests flourish, but property prices put all but a few acquisitions out of reach.



*Haydn and Baxter in action!*

The Covenant program costs \$20,000 each year, and currently provides permanent legal protection for over 4,000 acres of habitat.

Your donation to the Covenants will help us establish new covenants, and steward our existing covenants. You can donate by phone, online, or mail.

To donate, call 250.995.2428, or visit [www.hat.bc.ca](http://www.hat.bc.ca) and click on "Get Involved"

## Sharp-tailed Snake Report 2009

Despite the overall success of HAT's Species at Risk outreach since 2006, I've often wondered if some of our community outreach techniques are as effective as others. As a case in point, I've never heard from anyone who first saw HAT's endangered Sharp-tailed snake poster and then actually found the species on their daily travels. I had imagined that it was like asking for unicorn reports — until a helpful Pender Island resident mailed me an intact but formerly fresh Sharp-tailed snake this summer.

After noting the deceased serpent's tiny size, belly banding, and smooth brown scales, the observant Penderite alerted the property's occupants and reported her discovery to HAT. Thanks to her sharp eyes, we have expanded the known occurrence of Sharp-tailed snake on South Pender Island. HAT and the Pender Island Conservancy Association (PICA) will contact landowners in that neighbourhood to share the good news and to offer free land stewardship information.



Call Todd if you have seen a Sharpie or a turtle. Become one of the many residents working with HAT to protect our most vulnerable species over the long term. Thanks to the federal Habitat Stewardship Program, HAT has been helping local landowners live in harmony with Species at Risk since 2006.

-Todd Carnahan, HAT Land Care Coordinator

## Millstream Good Neighbours Project Starts Off Swimmingly

What do salmon, native plants, and scouts have in common? They're all part of the Millstream Good Neighbours Project. This season HAT staff are in the Millstream Watershed working with residents to protect the salmon in Millstream Creek. As in previous award-winning Good Neighbours projects, HAT staff provide free information packages and confidential visits to landowners interested in learning more about how they can best protect the natural values of their properties.

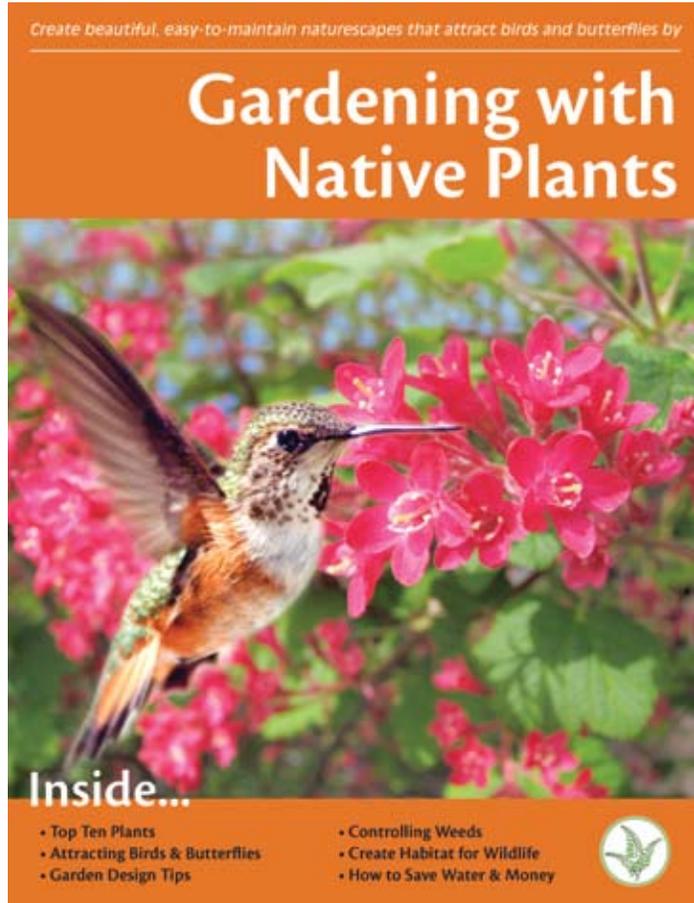
Draining an area of 26 square kilometres from the Highlands down into Esquimalt Harbour, the Millstream Watershed is home to a self-sustaining salmon run that sees 300 fish return to the creek each year. It's also at an important threshold of 10-15% impervious surfaces: roofs, driveways, parking lots, and other paved surfaces stop water (and pollutants) from filtering through into the ground, instead directing all the runoff into storm drains or directly into the creek. This increases the sheer volume of water and prevents natural filtering processes, altering the natural flow patterns and increasing downcutting and streambank erosion.

HAT Land Care Co-ordinator Todd Carnahan and Outreach Intern Maggie Knight also meet with landowners at community events. HAT's Millstream Speaker Series has featured a Garden and Woodland Tour and a Salmon Stream Care and Restoration Walk, with more events to come in the fall. HAT draws on regional experts such as David Polster, Pam Wesley, Bob McMinn, and Peter McCully to share local solutions from neighbour to neighbour. Local scouts are helping out too, painting yellow fish on storm drains and helping with streamside invasive species removal and native plant plantings. To receive your free information package, please contact HAT at 250.995.2428 or [hatmail@hat.bc.ca](mailto:hatmail@hat.bc.ca). For more information on the project, please visit [www.hat.bc.ca](http://www.hat.bc.ca).

- Maggie Knight, Outreach Intern

## Gardenening with Native Plants Released

HAT is very happy to announce that the *Gardenening with Native Plants* guide is now available. Many Vancouver Island residents want attractive, easy to maintain, drought tolerant gardens that attract birds and butterflies. These gardens will also help protect our beautiful, fragile, and unique flora and fauna for future generations.



This 8 page guide is perfect for native plant beginners, or those hoping to inspire friends and neighbours. The guide covers topics like Naturoscapes, native plants that are great for gardens and what plants deer will not eat. *Gardenening with Native Plants* suggests options for drought resistant and shade friendly plants and offers design tips from landscaping and native plant experts.

On the back page of this issue of HAT Chat you'll find a short sample on "lasagna gardening" — a simple and effective way to replace your lawn with more attractive, durable, and wildlife friendly plants.

And we'd like to hear more from you. Send your questions about wildlife or native plants and in each issue of HAT Chat, we will find the answer to one.

The *Gardenening with Native Plants* guide is available in hard copy at our office downtown, or on our website, [www.hat.bc.ca](http://www.hat.bc.ca), under "Publications".

## Learning with Laurie...

*Having worked both in the classroom and for the environment Laurie Parker now heads up the school outreach programs, with the star being Green Spots (featured in the Spring issue of HAT Chat). This year she will complete her Masters degree in Environmental Education and Communication, with a focus on organizational networking.*

“Green Spots gardens are a native species outdoor classroom where children can learn about soil processes, ecosystems, and other subjects such as art, music, writing and math. For many, it is a refuge on the playground, a place where they can sit and think.

We can't underestimate the benefit of giving students continual opportunities to experience nature. This reconnection is vital to the health and wellbeing of the students, as well as that of ecosystems.

I feel lucky to be a part of an organization where this is a priority. We have worked with many schools in the region, and will continue this good work.”



Laurie and husband Darin. Photo Laurie Parker.

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# Lasagna Gardening

Worms find this gardening technique absolutely delicious. In this article you'll learn how professional landscapers use waste cardboard and mulch to transform weed patches and lawns into beautiful drought tolerant gardens. There is a secret to doing it without digging. The lasagna gardening technique feeds worms and your soil while saving water and your chronically sore back. By employing biomimicry, you can take advantage of natural systems to support your garden plants. In a forest, leaf litter and branches create a thick layer of mulch that



becomes humus and eventually soil. This crucial mulch layer supports a fungus network that drives the soil process and holds great quantities of water and nutrients for plants. The mulch layer protects soil from erosion and insulates plant roots from intense summer heat. Making garden lasagna is fun and easy:

1. Prepare the site
2. Install cardboard layer
3. Mulch heavily
4. Plant in fall

Prepare the future garden site anytime by cutting large weeds with a mower. Do not spread weed seeds; instead, cut and remove from site. Cut down and remove any saplings or woody plants. If desired, spread composted chicken manure and/or lime to improve poor soil and to speed grass composting.

Install three layers of heavy cardboard over the entire site. You can find it in recycling bins at appliance and bike stores. Stake it onto slopes and cover the edges with soil. Wet the cardboard as required and remove any plastic tape to avoid messy surprises next season. Likewise, avoid using plastic cloth as a weed barrier; it never turns into soil and haunts the gardener for years to come. Mulch the cardboard layer with any organic mulch that will stay in place. Stone mulch and other non-composting materials are best left for people who like running leaf blowers and pulling weeds. The best mulch for gardens is shredded leaves and bark because it is readily available, holds moisture, rots quickly, and will not erode in rain. Other good choices are clean straw (not hay) and wood chips.

Once the fall rains have begun, pull back the mulch to reveal wet cardboard, dead plants, and worm-aerated soil. Open up a hole and place the extra soil onto a tarp. After planting a native shrub to the same depth as in the pot, replace the cardboard and mulch close to (but not touching) the plant stems. Baby plants need regular, deep irrigation over the first two summers (July - Sept) to establish tough root systems. Finished compost placed around transplants will also help. Replace leaf mulch every two years. Established bindweed (*Convolvulus* spp), ivy (*Helix* spp), and other weeds may require successive lasagna layering treatments. Avoid purchasing weed-contaminated soil / manure from suppliers; assume there are weed seeds present and treat all exposed soils with lasagna.

-Todd Carnahan, Land Care Coordinator

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