18th Annual

2026 Garry Oak Ecosystems Gathering

With deep gratitude and respect, we acknowledge that the lands on which we live, work, and gather are the traditional and unceded territories of numerous Indigenous communities, including all those whose language is rooted in these lands: the Hul'q'umi'num', lək̓wəŋiʔnəŋ, and SENĆOŦEN-speaking peoples.

Since time immemorial, these Host Nations have been the original stewards of all ecosystems across these territories. The landscapes we work to understand and care for are not simply ecological zones — they are living cultural systems, shaped and sustained through Indigenous knowledge, ceremony, and stewardship. The ecosystems we seek to restore are not separate from the communities that have cultivated them for generations; they are expressions of Indigenous presence, sovereignty, and resilience.

We recognize that our ability to engage in ecosystem recovery rests on the enduring leadership and guardianship of these Host Nations. Their stewardship has never ceased, even in the face of colonial disruption. We name this truth and commit to moving beyond acknowledgement into action.

As the Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team, we accept our responsibility to build and uphold reciprocal, respectful, and accountable relationships with the original stewards of these ecosystems. We commit to centring Indigenous voices, knowledge systems, and priorities in all aspects of our work — through listening, trust-based relationships, and meaningful collaboration.

This event is an opportunity to listen deeply, learn humbly, and act courageously. *We invite all participants to join us in this ongoing journey of truth, reconciliation, and relational restoration — between land, culture, and community.*

Friday, November 6

10:00 am to 2:00 pm

MÁW̱UEĆ Restoration Tour & Community Planting Day

- hosted by W̱JOŁEŁP (Tsartlip) First Nation & Peninsula Streams Society

Saturday, November 7

9:00 am **WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS**

- Jon Osborne
  Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team Chair
- Genevieve Singleton & SNEMITIYE Dominique James
  Facilitators
- JSIṈTEṈ Dr John Elliott
  W̱JOŁEŁP Nation & SENĆOŦEN scholar

9:30 am ***Ecological Restoration Needs Archaeology: Cultural Landscapes, Archaeological Heritage, and Indigenous Histories in Restoration Practice***

- Darcy Mathews & Nancy Shackelford
  School of Environmental Studies, University of Victoria

10:00 am ***The Archaeology of Coast Salish Prairies: A Case Study from Rocky Point***

- Maddi Tolmie
  School of Environmental Studies, University of Victoria

10:30 am **COFFEE BREAK**

11:00 am ***Local Native Seed Supply Research for Prairie Oak Restoration***

- David Krug & Kristen Miskelly
  Satinflower Nurseries & University of Victoria

11:30 am ***Exploring Relationship with TEṈEW̱ (land/water), KLOEL Food Systems, and Your Role in Revitalization Efforts***

- Beangka Elliott
  W̱SÁNEĆ Nation & Songhees/Lekwungen ancestry

12:10 pm **LUNCH**

- provided by Songhees Events & Catering

1:15 pm **IN MEMORIAM — David Polster & Hans Roemer**

PRESENTATION — the Acorn Award

- *Vanier Nature Park Garry Oak Restoration Project (accepted by Jim Boulter)*

PROJECT UPDATE — Bring Back the Bluebirds

- Jacquie Taylor, *Project Coordinator*

1:40 pm ***Rematriate Stewardship: A Matrifocal Stewardship and Restoration Project***

- ŚW̱,XELOSELWET Tiffany Joseph
  W̱SÁNEĆ & Sḵwx̱wú7mesh

2:20 pm **COFFEE BREAK**

2:35 pm ***Remote Sensing: A Collaboration to Accurately Locate and Measure Garry Oak Trees in Saanich and Victoria***

- Kate McIntyre, Jiaju (Jason) Wu & Ryan Senechal
  Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society (GOMPS) & UBC Faculty of Forestry and Environmental Stewardship

3:05 pm ***Restoring the Balance***

- Adam Huggins & Bobbi-Jo Basarab
  Galiano Conservancy Association

3:35 pm **CLOSING REMARKS**

Sunday, November 8

10:00 am to 2:00 pm

UVic Learning Meadow Tour & Community Restoration Day

- hosted by the UVic Ecological Restoration Club Society

Garry oak ecosystems recovery team

This event is produced by the ***Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team*** (GOERT). To learn more about our organization, to explore and download resources, or to get involved, visit ***www.goert.ca***.

This event is made possible through the work of ***many volunteers***, as well as these ***generous sponsors***:

Nature Victoria

Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions

Saanich

Castilleja Conservation Society

Coastal Oak and Prairie Working Group

CRD

District of Oak Bay

OAK Ecological Restoration & Nursery

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IEG Integral Ecology Group

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GOMPS

Satinflower Nurseries

Friends of Uplands Park

Grasslands Conservation Council of British Columbia

AtkinsRéalis

Rocketday

We'd also like to thank sponsors ***Emony Nicholls' Ecological Garden Design***, ***Islands Trust Conservancy***, ***KiKi Nursery***, ***Russell Nursery***, ***Streamside Native Plants***, and ***Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary***. Thanks also to ***Carla Duffy*** (@limesodaphotography) for the live graphic recording of the event.