

## What's Next? Some of GOERT's projects for 2009-2010



- \*Revising the Recovery Strategy for Garry Oak and Associated Ecosystems and their Associated Species at Risk in Canada
- \*Completing drafts of two multi-species action plans for Garry oak ecosystem species and contributing to numerous recovery strategies
- \*Landowner contact for all federally-listed plant species at risk on non-federal lands
- \*Restoration of habitat for rare species on at least five sites
- \*Helping landowners, local governments and First Nations steward their land and protect rare species and ecosystems
- \*Developing a Compendium of Garry Oak Ecosystems Restoration
- \*Increasing public awareness of the value of Garry oak habitat
- \*Supporting partner organizations with Garry oak recovery efforts

## Our new office in Victoria

In June 2008, GOERT staff moved into a 'new' office at 606 Courtney Street in one of Victoria's oldest buildings.

We held an open house in June that many of you attended. It was a full house! Thanks for helping us warm up the new place.

Shyanne Smith (Deanna Mathewson), Program Manager  
 Betsy Rose, Financial Administration and Outreach  
 Carolyn Masson, Outreach Specialist  
 Chris Junck, Species at Risk Outreach Specialist  
 Kersti Vaino, Recovery Coordinator (GIS Technician)



## Recovery Team Members

Here are some of the people who served on the Team, RIGs and Steering Committees in 2008-2009

Adriane Pollard	Jeff Ward	Pam Wesley
Andrea Schiller	Jennifer Heron	Pat Boyle
Ardice Todosichuk	Jennifer Psyllakis	Patrick Lilley
Art Robinson	Jill Hamilton	Paul Chapman
Bill Woodhouse	John Dick	Rob Hagel
Brenda Costanzo	Karen Barry	Rob Lawrance
Brian Reader	Kari Nelson	Robin Annschild
Bruce Greig	Kate Emmings	Ross Vennesland
Carinna Maslovat	Kevin Bridges	Simone Runyan
Carla Parkes	Kevin Fort	Sue Askew
Carolyn MacDonald	Laura Matthias	Susan Blundell
Chris Adams	Leanne Blackwood	Susan Fisher
Christina Waddle	Louise Blight	Suzanne Beauchesne
Conan Webb	Louise Waterhouse	Suzanne Murray
Cris Guppy	Lucy Bashford	Suzie Lavallee
Darren Copley	Lynn Atwood	Ted Lea
Dave Polster	Marilyn Fuchs	Todd Golumbia
David Clements	Marta Donovan	Tom Gillespie
Don Eastman	Matt Fairbarns	Tracy Cornforth
Donna Hill	Melissa Oakes	Tracy Fleming
Duncan Morrison	Michelle Connolly	Trudy Chatwin
Fred Hook	Michelle Gorman	Wendy Tyrrell
Gail Adrienne	Mike Meagher	
Gary Slater	Mike Miller	
Geoff Scudder	Mike Rody	
Hal Gibbard	Mike Waters	
Irvin Banman	Moralea Milne	
James Miskelly	Nick Page	
Jan Kirkby	Nicole Kroeker	

Financial summary available at [www.goert.ca](http://www.goert.ca)  
 and financial statements available upon request.

# Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team Annual Report 2008-2009



## Our unique strategy

GOERT's recovery strategy uses a unique, ecosystem-based approach to protecting individual species at risk. Recovery planning in Canada has historically taken a species-by-species approach, but national initiatives now recognize the importance of incorporating a wider scope in some circumstances.

The ecosystem-based approach makes sense in this case, as so many species at risk occur in the same geographical area in Garry oak and associated ecosystems.

## Like an ecosystem

Like an ecosystem, GOERT functions through relationships. Thanks to the dedicated work of individuals from the community, non-profit groups, businesses, and all levels of government, we have achieved much toward protecting Garry oak ecosystems and species at risk for the future. In 08-09, more than 80 individuals contributed their time and expertise to the Team or one of its working groups.

## Accomplishments

### Program development

In 2008-2009, GOERT established four new stewardship programs for key species at risk sites. As the coordinating body, we were able to successfully fundraise, bring partners together, and provide resources, tools and expertise to launch these programs.

We increased the proportion of funding from non-government sources in 2008-2009, and are working on further diversifying our sources of funding.

GOERT became an independent registered society (*and in 2009 we became a registered charity*).

### Recovery planning for species and ecosystems at risk

In partnership with the Conservation Data Centre, Parks Canada and local governments, we created and maintained GIS, rare species and site databases for recovery planning.

Multi-species action plans and single-species management plans or recovery strategies were developed for a total of 39 species at risk.

We worked with several land trusts and conservancies as well as staff from the Ministry of Environment, Environment Canada and Parks Canada to ensure that landowner contact for species at risk is coordinated and effective.

### Outreach and landowner contact

In 2008-2009 GOERT's outreach program created new materials for targeted outreach, improved existing materials and met with governments, organizations and the public to increase stewardship of species at risk on non-federal lands.

We contacted more than 160 landholders (private & corporate) with species at risk on their land, including several landowners who were contacted about surveys by Conservation Data Centre staff.

Fifty-two surveys of species at risk were completed on private, corporate and municipal lands.

Ten local governments were contacted about species at risk in their jurisdiction; three species at risk workshops were held for local government staff. *more >>*



## Recovery goals

### Long-term goals

Establish a network of Garry oak and associated ecosystem sites and landscape linkages

Improve and secure the status of all species at risk in Garry oak and associated ecosystems in Canada so that they are no longer at risk of extinction

### Short-term objectives

Develop the information base necessary for ecosystem and species recovery

Protect and manage sites and species at risk to minimize immediate losses of ecosystems and species

Motivate public and private protection and stewardship activities by supplying critical information to appropriate audiences



## More Accomplishments

GOERT corresponded or met with Beecher Bay First Nation, Songhees First Nation, Tseycum First Nation, Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group, and Sencot'en Alliance about Garry oak ecosystems and species at risk. We held a workshop for Cowichan Tribes that was attended by approximately 50 students, teachers, land managers and elders.

We met and corresponded with developers and local governments on tree protection bylaws, development proposals, Official Community Plans, and power transmission line and road developments, providing information on how to protect Garry oak habitat and species at risk.

In response to neighbourhood sightings from Dec '08 through Feb '09 of presumed-extirpated western bluebirds, 6 nestboxes were quickly installed in two City of Victoria parks. Nearby community members and students were notified.

Native Plant Propagation Guidelines for more than 75 plants were completed and are now available on our website at [www.goert.ca/propagation](http://www.goert.ca/propagation).

Eleven invasive species and 12 species at risk accounts were added to our stewardship field manuals, also available on our website.

*The Garry Oak Gardener's Handbook* won a national citation from the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects.

An additional 5500 copies of an expanded second edition of the gardener's handbook were printed at the end of March.

The development of a *Compendium of Garry Oak Ecosystems Restoration* is in progress, with the first draft of this complete resource expected in 2009-2010.

We worked with partners at the Royal BC Museum to produce an interactive online grass identification key, anticipated to be in operation later in 2009-2010.

The sixth annual Garry Oak Ecosystems Research Colloquium held in February was a success, with more than 70 attendees from BC, Ontario and the United States.



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## Thank you GOERT Society Members 2008-2009

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Clare Allan  
Lucy Bashford  
Robb Bennett  
Graham Booth  
Jeffrey Boron  
Patricia Boyle  
Dennis Burk  
Trudy Chatwin  
Brenda Costanzo  
Matthew Fairbarns  
Paul Feldman  
Roy Fletcher  
George Floyd  
Marilyn Fuchs  
Hal Gibbard  
Michelle Gorman  
Marion Grau  
Rob Hagel

Susan Hannon  
Gail Harcombe  
Andrew Harcombe  
Richard Hebda  
Jennifer Heron  
Fred Hook  
Hannah Horn  
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Jan Kirkby  
Margaret Lidkea  
Patrick Lilley  
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Dave Polster  
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Brian Reader  
Art Robinson  
Jens Roland  
Genevieve Singleton  
Janet Stark  
Wendy Tyrrell  
Conan Webb  
Thomas Wheeler  
Merrie-Ellen Wilcox



## Thank you to our funders and donors

### Government

Parks Canada Agency  
Habitat Stewardship Program  
EcoCanada  
BC Ministry of Environment  
Habitat Conservation Trust Fund

### Foundations

Mountain Equipment Co-op  
Real Estate Foundation  
VanCity enviroFund

**Many thanks** to all the individuals who have provided much-needed and valued support this year and in previous years.

## Board of Directors 2008-2009

Andrew Harcombe (Director)

Brian Reader (Recovery Team Chair and ex-officio Director)

Dave Polster (Director)

Hal Gibbard (Director)

Jennifer Psyllakis (Secretary)

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Terry Rachwalski (Treasurer)