

Our unique strategy

GOERT's recovery planning approach considers ecosystems as well as 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.

This ecosystem-based approach makes sense for us, as so many species at risk occur in the same geographical area in Garry Oak and related 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 many goals which allow us to protect Garry Oak ecosystems and species at risk for the future.



One of the female Western Bluebirds that returned to the Cowichan Valley in 2013. Photo by Rick Woolley

Message from the Chair

This was a very busy year for GOERT. In addition to our many accomplishments highlighted in this report, loss of government funding for many long-term programs necessitated a period of change, evaluation and program development. In response, the Board developed a strategic plan – a living document intended to guide decision-making during this time of change. Bringing our expenses down to size in response to both anticipated and unanticipated reductions in funding has been a difficult task. However, we have made considerable strides and continue to work on diversifying our revenue sources by seeking non-government grants, donations and sponsorships. The move of our office to the Songhees lands has also resulted in savings in rent.

There continue to be lots of exciting things happening on the project front. Capacity-raising and facilitating training for local governments was identified to be a key priority given the considerable overlap between the occurrence of rare GOE species and local and regional government parks and lands. The Bring Back the Bluebirds project had a successful third year. We also began the development of Back to our Roots, designed to engage homeowners in the conservation of rare species on or near their properties. These are all very worthwhile projects, and we need your support more than ever to ensure their success.

The dedication of staff, Recovery Team and RIG members, other volunteers, members, donors and our partners, was integral to our many achievements in 2013-2014. We thank you for joining with us and truly appreciate your support.

Valentin Schaefer, Board Chair

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 they are no longer at risk of extinction or extirpation

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 these audiences

Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team

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A snapshot of our accomplishments

We carried out restoration projects at Harling Point, Leefield Road, Gordon Head, Playfair Park, and 7 other locations. During restoration on Trial Island, we conducted invasive species removal, salvaged plant material, and planted native species for remediation.

Thanks to the many volunteers who participated through our Volunteer Restoration Day at Harling Point, a dump truck load of invasive Scotch Broom was removed from this ecologically and historically significant site.

13 critical habitat surveys were completed including Rigid Apple Moss surveys on Sidney Island, Macoun's Meadow-foam surveys at Arbutus Cove and Pearson College Road, and Lindley's False Silverpuffs surveys on Ruxton Is.

We contacted more than 50 landowners and managers with known or suspected occurrences of species at risk on their properties and provided guidance and resources in order to aid individual stewardship efforts.

The **Fire and Stand Dynamics Subcommittee** developed a background document, a presentation, and a proposal for carrying out prescribed burns in local government parks. This information was delivered during meetings with City of Victoria Parks and Fire Departments.

We provided information about the status and protection of GOEs at 8 public events.

We released 9 adult Western Bluebird pairs with 10 nestlings to the Cowichan Valley. These joined the 4 juveniles that returned from 2012. Our **Bring Back the Bluebirds** project had 5 successful nests last year.

220,000 mealworms were used for supplemental feedings for the bluebirds and their young. Making a comeback sure works up an appetite!

The **Invertebrates at Risk RIG** and **Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly Community Working Group** held a workshop to draft a translocation and habitat enhancement plan for the Endangered Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly.

With funding from Parks Canada Agency, we hosted public guided hikes and an applied field workshop in Uplands Park on managing parks to protect species at risk, which brought together 11 staff from the District of Oak Bay and 5 members of the Friends of Uplands Park.

Native Plants for Your Garden rack cards, profiling 12 different species, were printed to promote their use in gardens and landscaping, and distributed to 12 gardening suppliers and individual gardeners from Comox to Victoria.

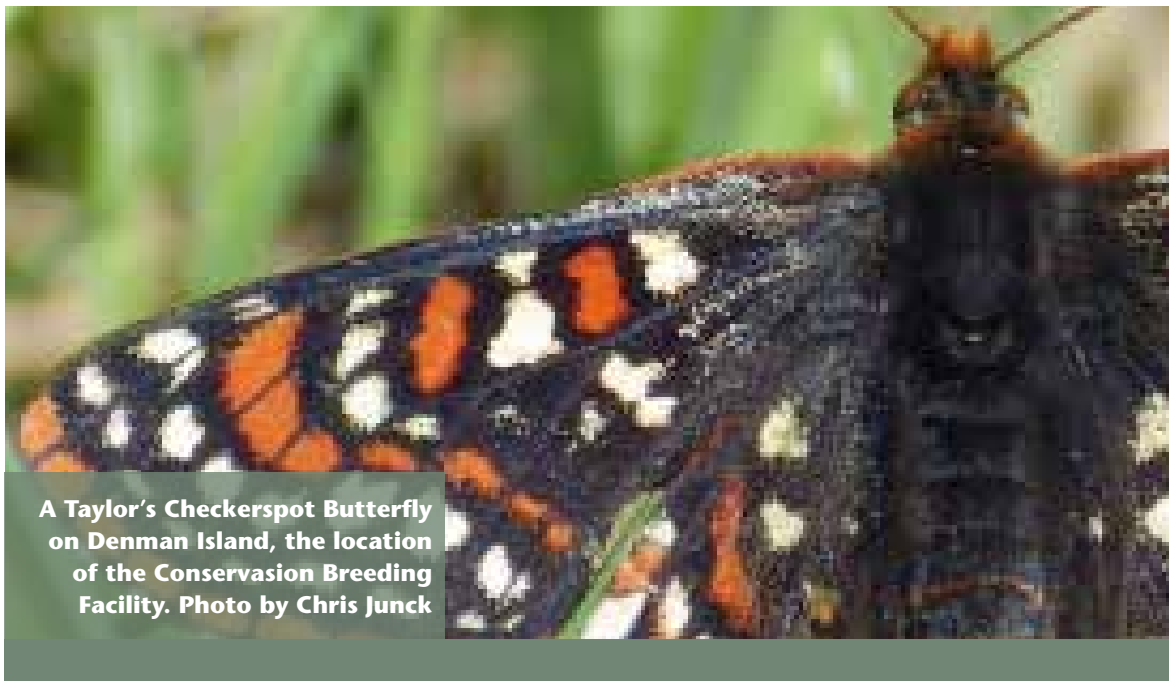
The **10th GOERT Seminar Series** (Beyond Research: Moving into Action!) was enjoyed by over 80 participants. This event replaced the annual Research Colloquium and featured moderated discussions, posters, and a dozen presenters sharing research and restoration results.

GOERT and Society board member David Polster received the **Society for Ecological Restoration's John Rieger Award** for his important contributions to ecological restoration. Dave has 30 years of experience as a restoration practitioner, regularly teaches students at the University of Victoria, and is respected across Canada for his innovative work in restoration and reclamation.

One of our **Acorn Awards** was presented to our former Executive Director, Louise Goulet.

Model Bylaws for the Protection of Garry Oak and Associated Ecosystems: a Guide for Local Governments, a Reference for First Nations was printed and distributed to 43 local governments, First Nations, and government agencies. Meetings were held with 15 local governments and 10 First Nations to provide resource packages and determine information needs.

Partnering with Vancouver Island University, we created a GIS-based Garry Oak ecosystems (GOEs) connectivity planning prototype which will allow us to map ecosystems and their linkages to reduce habitat loss. This was piloted in Cowichan Valley and on Salt Spring Island.



A Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly on Denman Island, the location of the Conservasion Breeding Facility. Photo by Chris Junck

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Maleea Acker
Director at Large

Ken Cossey
Director at Large

Rebecca Mersereau
Director at Large

Dave Polster
Director at Large

Stuart Prescott
Director at Large

We're grateful for your involvement

Recovery Team, RIG, and committee members

| | | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Adriane Pollard | Elaine Williams | John Mills | Marta Donovan | Rob Walker |
| Aimee Pelletier | Elizabeth Bailey | Judith Arney | Mary Hewitt | Robert Templeman |
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| Brian Starzomski | Harold Gibard | Kella Sadler | Mike Ryan | Sue Dugaro |
| Bruce Greig | Haj Bains | Kevin Brown | Nathan Fisk | Suzanne Beauchesne |
| Chris Adams | Irvin Banman | Kristen Miskelly | Nick Page | Suzie Lavallee |
| Chris Tuttle | James Miskelly | Launi Lucas | Nicole Kroeker | Terry McIntosh |
| Conan Webb | Jamie Fenneman | Laura Matthias | Patrick Lilley | Thomas Munson |
| Darren Copley | Jan Kirkby | Leanne Taylor | Peter Arcese | Tim Ennis |
| Dave Polster | Jay Rastogi | Louise Blight | Peter Karsten | Todd Golumbia |
| David Clements | Jennifer Eliason | Louise Goulet | Rachelle McElroy | Tory Stevens |
| David Critchley | Jennifer Heron | Louise Waterhouse | Raj Prasad | Tracy Cornforth |
| David Fraser | Jennifer Psyllakis | Loys Maingon | Reg Brady | Tracy Fleming |
| David Jordan | Jenny Balke | Lynn Wilson | Richard Hebda | Trudy Chatwin |
| Don Closson | Jessica Hellmann | Marian McCoy | Rob Hagel | Vince Nealis |
| Don Eastman | John Cooper | Marilyn Fuchs | Rob Lawrance | Wendy Tyrrell |
| Drew Chapman | John Dick | Marlow Pellatt | Rob Underhill | Ze'ev Gedalof |

Volunteers

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Ann Nightingale | Jennifer Goodbrand | Roger Wiles |
| Bill Pennell | Karen Ferguson | Ruth Rutledge |
| Colleen O'Brien | Larry White | Susan Smith |
| Daryl Johnson | Laura Sutherland | Ted Leischner |
| Don Carson | Liz Belcher | Linda Knox |
| Dorothy Marshall | Matt Fairbarns | Marg Woolley |
| Genevieve Singleton | Pat Johnston | Moralea Milne |
| James Strümpfer | Rick Woolley | and many more! |

Outgoing Board Members

Marian McCoy
Marion Grau

Seasonal Staff

Elizabeth Bailey
Julia Daly

Our Staff 2013-2014

Rebecca Mersereau
replaced by
Tony Cheong
Executive Director

Craig Elder
Financial
Administrator

Chris Junck
Habitat Conservation
Facilitator

Kathryn Martell
Conservation
Specialist

Carolyn Masson
Communications
Coordinator

Holly Clermont
Conservation
Specialist

Todd Kohler
Ecosystem Biologist

A big thank you to our donors!



Coast Microseris at Harling Point.
Photo by Chris Junck

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|--------------------------------------|---------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Agnes Lynn | Elizabeth Poppe | Keith Pincott | Susan Fisher |
| Ann Macleod | Fiona MacLeod | Kent Yakel | Susan Hannon |
| Belva L. Fisher | Frances Rautenbach | Kerri Ward | Susan Morrow |
| Ben Singleton Polster | Gary Hadfield | Kevin Brown | Sylvia Samborski |
| Betsy Rose | Genevieve Singleton | Lois Fenna | Sylvia Pincott |
| Carol Milo | Guy Croome | Marilyn Fuchs | Tony Cheong |
| Carolyn Yakel | Henry Awmack | Mary Murphy | Tony MacLeod |
| Cindy Dunphy | Ian Bruce | Patricia Bruce | Travis Parsons |
| Connie Halbert | Janet Simpson | Patrick Lilley | Trudy Chatwin |
| Cowichan Valley Naturalists' Society | Janet Smith | Provincial Employees Community Services Fund | Vicki L. Sanders |
| Deborah M. Dickson | Jennifer Feick | Richard Hebda | Victoria Natural History Society |
| Dianne McNair | Jennifer Psyllakis | Sharon Van Meer | Wynne Miles |
| Dixie Mueller | Judy Morrison | Sheila Wallace | Yolande Du Gardein Matson |
| Duncan Hunter | Jose Magathan | | Yvonne Yakimovich |
| | Judy Spearing | | |

Our funders are critical to our success!

Government Funders

- Government of Canada
- Canada Summer Jobs
- EcoAction
- Habitat Stewardship Program
- Parks Canada Agency

Foundations and Businesses

- James L. Baillie Memorial Fund
- Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation
- Mountain Equipment Co-op
- North American Bluebird Society
- Public Conservation Assistance Fund
- Real Estate Foundation
- TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
- Vancity
- Vancouver Foundation
- Victoria Foundation
- Wildlife Preservation Canada

Financial Summary

