GARRY OAK LEAFLET

Newsletter of the Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society March 2001 Vol. 8, No. 1

Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Plan Drafted

After nearly two years of research and deliberation, the Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team [GOERT] has produced the first draft of a comprehensive plan to slow, stop, or reverse the decline of Garry oak habitat in British Columbia.

The Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team has identified ecosystem characteristics that are essential to sustain Garry oak habitat but which are at risk in present political, social, and economic conditions.

Rough estimates made in 1993 suggest that only about 1 to 5 % of the original Garry oak habitat remains in a near-natural condition. What is left are remnant stands embedded in a patchwork of agricultural and urban lands. The land base available for protection and restoration is consequently extremely limited.

The strategy presents goals and objectives that address broad-based threats to Garry oak ecosystems and identifies methods for addressing the threats. It also presents an approach for recovery of the species at risk found within the ecosystems. There are a great number of species at risk found under the canopy of Garry oak habitat: 93, if the Conservation Data Centre system of classification is used

There is no legislation which compels any level of government to protect Garry oak ecosystems. Because most of the land is held by private landowners within a rapidly urbanizing area, ecosystem protection is closely related to where and how development occurs.

Short term objectives, to be addressed over the next 5 years, are:

- To develop the information base necessary for ecosystem and species recovery;
- To take protection and management actions that will minimize immediate losses; and
- To motivate public and private protection and stewardship activities by supplying critical information to the appropriate audiences.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Join GOMPS at

Annual General Meeting

For a presentation by

Marilyn Fuchs

Principal author of the Recovery Strategy

TUESDAY ~~Thursday~~ March 27

Swan Lake Nature House

7:30 p.m.

For those not able to attend the AGM, the presentation by Marilyn Fuchs will be repeated on Saturday March 31 between 2:pm and 4:pm at St Ann's Academy auditorium 835 Humbodlt Street Victoria BC

Proposed Braefoot Action Plan Will See More Garry Oak Meadow Destroyed To Maximize Development

The Process

On May 31, 1999 Saanich Council directed planning staff to undertake a special study to examine social and environmental implications of potential development in the Braefoot area. The area under study is on the east side of Braefoot Road from Mount Douglas Cross Road south to Simon Road (just north of McKenzie). The planners produced a Braefoot Area Planning Study in September 1999 which included five development options of differing densities and environmental impacts, ranging from no change on Braefoot Road itself to very dense (RS12 zoning). At least two of these proposals, and possibly three, were environmentally acceptable in the opinion of GOMPS representatives who evaluated the proposals. On January 17, 2000, council discussed the proposals, rejected them because of protests from property owners, and issued new guidelines.

Revised terms of reference were approved by Council on March 27, 2000. In the original terms of reference an advisory committee (variously also called the "core working group" or "stake-holder's committee") was to be formed with its membership restricted to local planning area residents and one representative from one Resident's Association. In other words, the committee would be dominated by the very people who were hoping to profit from changing the zoning to as dense a built-up area as they could. Upon appeal by GOMPS and others, the terms of reference were changed to include a representative each of GOMPS, Friends of Mount Douglas Society, and Quadra/Cedar Hill Residents Association as well as the Gordon Head Ratepayers' Association.

Even with these additions, the end result is an advisory committee on which the majority of participants are the residents who stand to profit from denser development. Unsurprisingly, the desires of the larger community for good municipal planning, including environmental planning, have taken a back seat to financial planning for the property owners. Good municipal planning policies [see below] were considered in at least two of the alternatives produced in the Braefoot Area Planning Study of September 14, 1999 but rejected by council on January 17, 2000.

The Gordon Head Local Area Plan contains these relevant policies:

Policy 4.1 Protect indigenous vegetation, wildlife habitats, and landscapes when considering applications for change in land use.

Policy 5.3 Consider applications to rezone to permit subdivision having due regard for the prevalent lot size in the area, site-specific tree location information, and preservation of environmentally significant areas.

Policy 9.12 Carefully evaluate the aesthetic, environmental value, and character of the streetscape when considering plans for proposed road and intersection upgrading and utility installations.

In the new proposals, these planning policies seem to have been overridden by the "guiding principle" (GP5 in the Braefoot Action Plan of Feb. 2001) that "the cost of preserving rural landscape,

GREAT OAKS from LITTLE ACORNS Grow
Part I: Starting with an Acorn

By Pierre d'Estrube

Less than two centuries ago, Greater Victoria was a dense forest of Garry oaks (Quercus garryana). These native trees are associated with a complex meadow ecosystem unique to Southwestern B.C.. Ravaged by real estate development, introduced pests and disease, less than 1% are left. The rest are subject to an estimated 15-20% loss over the next decade. The need for regeneration, particularly on private property, is imperative. To this end, a few helpful instructions are herewith offered.

Starting With Acorns

Acorns that sprout spontaneously in the area of the mother tree have some chance of survival if the original oak meadow soil conditions have not been severely disturbed by lawns and flower beds. Their survival rate for the first five years is heartbreakingly low, as they are prey to drought, shading from non-oaks, such as conifers (firs, cedars, etc.), insects, rodents, mowers and "weed zappers", not to mention fastidious gardeners. Their chances of getting established are considerably improved if protected by a special sleeve which admits light, enhances warmth and discourages insects and vermin. They are available through GOMPS (Ph.:250-477-2410). Watering every two weeks during the dry seasons of late spring to early fall sustains them till their tap root reaches a stable source of moisture. Eliminating surrounding competitive weeds and grasses also helps. Under optimal environmental conditions an oakling can grow 6" (15 cm) or more a year but more likely it will struggle "bonzaied" for decades! Once leaves emerge from the protective cuff, replacement with a 12" (35 cm) metal fencing is recommended (see follow-up care below). Gardeners need not worry that the oakling will take over their garden space. Unlike conifers or fast growing shrubs, Garry oaks take centuries, 400 years or more, to reach maximum growth.

Selecting and Growing Acorns in Containers for Transplant

Serious threats to the Garry oaks' survival are the Filbert weevil (Curculio occidentis) and the Filbert worm (Melissopus latiferreanus), which in some areas have infested up to 98% of acorns in a bumper crop year. In selecting healthy stock, cull out those with obvious holes and larvae, but also look for subtle signs of dark discoloration or blistering; inside you will find a plump, whitish grub. Surprisingly, some infected acorns may be found sprouting early, having preceded the invader's destructiveness. Those can be candidates for planting, but are not recommended.

Cool storage in a refrigerator is advised for planting in late fall or spring. At the time of planting, check the health of the acorns with the "floating test", i.e., see if they float in water. Discard the floaters.

In preparing for seeding, it is strongly recommended that sterilized planting materials be used to avoid the potentially lethal damage of insects, worms, and weeds. These are readily available at local nurseries, but if you wish to "cook up a batch" in your oven, heat the material in a shallow pan at 200 F (93

be borne by existing landowners". The modifying comment attached to it seems to have been virtually ignored.

There are several logical fallacies in this guiding principle:

1. The cost borne by the landowners would not be out of their pockets but rather it would be a theoretical reduction in profit realized. This is a normal risk taken by every speculator trying to profit from rezoning
2. If the principle that every speculator or developer should be allowed to maximize their profit then by logical extension multistory development or commercial development would have to be permitted wherever requested. If Council would not allow such more profitable development in the Braefoot planning area because they think it would not be socially suitable, why do they balk at limiting development to what is suitable for the environment of the area?
3. The land within the planning area is not, environmentally, equally suitable for development on each owner's property. If one of the owners had a deep marsh on their property, should it be zoned for intensive development? Probably Council would decide it should not be drained and filled. But, if they did, this environmental constraint would be costly and come out of the developer's profit. Either way, the developer forgoes some profit in comparison to what he would potentially make if he were developing flat pastureland. Is the value of the endangered Garry oak ecosystem less than that of a marsh? Why should owners who have oaklands expect that level of profit? Why not zone the oak areas differently?

The committee met a number of times, but did not deal with density until the last meeting. It is the density of development on the Garry oak stands and meadows that will ultimately preserve or destroy them in the southern part of the planning area. The use of mitigating tools such as covenants will be futile if the footprints of the houses and driveways cover half the oaks and meadows.

The Result

The Environmental Planning Section of the Saanich Planning Department has correctly identified the environmental values in this area, including the Garry oaks and Garry oak meadows and their many endangered species. This work, and environmental values, is virtually ignored in these latest alternatives. The southern part of the planning area, particularly the southernmost two presently large lots, is mapped out as "deciduous trees". These are almost exclusively Garry oak meadows. The latest plans treat them with the same zoning as the more northern open pastureland, proposing a building density that will destroy much them.

There will be an **open house** for public comment on this plan on **Thursday, March 8,** at the **Braefoot Athletic Centre, 1359 McKenzie Avenue** from **6 to 9 pm**. Review the *Braefoot Action Plan, Feb 2001* and decide for yourself whether the values of the Garry oak meadows are being recognized. One of "Council's assumptions" was that "there should be a balance between social and environmental issues". Tell them whether you think these proposals have achieved a correct balance.

C) for 20 minutes. (Pasteurization heat range is 180-210 F (82-98.8C).

Growing acorns can be done in a number of different ways. They may simply be "stuck in a pot" of 1/3 coarse sand, 1/3 peat moss, 1/3 vermiculite, remembering that the deeper the pot the better, the ideal being a tapered plastic tube 4"x4"x12" (10x10x30 cm), a specialty item.

A more elaborate alternative is:

1. In the bottom of a clean 6" diameter planting pot, cover the drain holes with a coarse mesh screening material or a round coffee filter paper to prevent escape of sand.
2. Fill the bottom with 3/4 " [3 cm] of coarse sand.
3. In the center of the pot, on top of the sand, hold upright a round, approximately 1" [2.5 cm] dia. piece of wood, plastic or simply toilet paper spool, to act as a temporary mold.
4. Around the center mold tamp in a 2" [15 cm] layer of potting soil.
5. Carefully lift out the center core mold, creating a doughnut effect.
6. Fill the doughnut hole with sand and continue filling the pot with another 1" [2.5 cm] layer of sand.
7. Reinstall the center mold and repeat steps 4, 5, & 6, but build this last layer of sand to within 1/2" [1.5 cm] from the brim of the pot. Discard the mold.

Note that the center core mold will have left a continuous column of sand connecting the five layers providing efficient deep penetration of water attracting downward root growth.

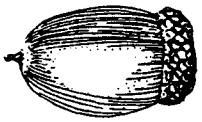
Planting of Acorns

To plant the acorns, bury 2 or 3 on their side to a depth that covers them with 1/2 in.(1.5 cm) of mixture or sand. If some are sprouting, bury the growing tip downward. Soak the plant thoroughly and let drain. Repeat soaking and draining every 2 weeks or more, depending on the dryness of the season.

Optional: cover the pot with landscape fabric, held in place with an elastic band. This allows air, water, and sunlight penetration, but excludes insects, weeds and grasses. (The fabric is available at nurseries in sheets or at Borden Mercantile Co. by the foot.)

Place the pot where it can drain freely and be exposed to slightly shaded sunlight. In winter it is advisable to protect against deep frost by burying the pot to its brim in a garden bed and covering it with sterilized oak leaves.

To be continued. . .



In a Nut Shell

OOPS! Your editor goofed! My deep apologies to **Kerry Lange,** who is the professional **Webmaster** who is responsible for GOMPS' website at www.garryoak.bc.ca. Kerry's wife, **Cornelia,** was mistakenly identified as the webmaster in the last issue of the *Leaflet.* She is a Director of GOMPS. Many, many thanks to them both for their respective efforts on behalf of GOMPS.

And while we're on the subject of credit where credit is due, **Hal Gibbard** represented GOMPS on the Braefoot advisory committee and wrote the article about the flawed result in this issue.

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Membership Information: Annual membership is $15 Individual or $20 Family. Annual rate includes *Garry Oak Leaflet.* Make cheque payable to GOMPS at the above address. Be sure to include your name, address, phone, and e-mail address [if any].

I want to help purchase the Rogers Farm addition to the Christmas Hill nature sanctuary. I will

☐ **donate $_____. My cheque is enclosed.**

☐ **pledge an annual donation of $_____ for five years. My first cheque is enclosed.**

Name _____

Address _____

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Telephone _____

Mail your pledge or donation today to

Hawk Home Fund
Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society
954 – A Queens Ave.
Victoria, B.C. V8T 1M6

[Donations may also be made to TLC, 5793 Old West Saanich Road, Victoria V9E 2H2]

Thank you, on behalf of the Red-tailed Hawks, and other creatures whose homes are being saved.

The Garry Oak Leaflet

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE GARRY OAK MEADOW PRESERVATION SOCIETY

May/June 2001 Issue

THE GARRY OAK RECOVERY TEAM

Over the past year, GOERT has worked to establish its operating principles and to develop an ecosystem-level recovery strategy.

With funds from the World Wildlife Federation of Canada, the Millenium Bureau of Canada, BC Ministry of the Environment Lands and Parks, Environment Canada through the Georgia Basin Initiative and the Garry Oak Meadows Preservation Society, a draft Recovery Strategy for Garry Oak and Associated Ecosystems and Their Associated Species at Risk in Canada has been prepared. The many groups and agencies represented on the team demonstrate the broad-based commitment to the development of a coordinated recovery program.

GOERT now requires your assistance in order to review and refine the Strategy. You or your organization can help the Recovery Team by:

1. Accessing the online version of the Recovery Strategy at www.bc.natureconservancy.ca or www.garryoak.bc.ca . Also available at these websites is the background document entitled "Toward a Recovery Strategy for Garry Oak and Associated Ecosystems in Canada: Ecological Assessment and Literature Review". You may review and submit your comments and feedback via email, post or fax. Contact information is also posted on the website.
2. If you cannot access the online version, request a copy of the Strategy from Marilyn Fuchs, GOERT Chair, c/o A-954 Queens Ave., Victoria, B.C., V8T 1M6 by fax at (250) 385 6609 or by email at foxtree@islandnet.com . Upon review, you may provide written comments and feedback via the above addresses.
3. It would be very helpful if your agency or organization could consider providing and endorsement of the Recovery Strategy.
4. GOERT issues an infrequent newsletter entitled "Acornucopia" which provides updates and issues pertaining to Garry oak and their associated ecosystems. Let us know is you would like a copy.

Great Oaks from Little Acorns Grow
Part 2 ~ by Pierre d'Estrube

A continuation of an article that appeared in the March edition of the Garry Oak Leaflet

Transplanting Oak Seedlings:
Optimal times for the transplanting of oak seedlings are late fall and early spring. Potted seedlings that have achieved 2 – 3 years growth stand a reasonable chance of soldiering on to maturity. The taller the growing container, the longer the tap root of the plant and the better its ability to withstand the stress of transplanting.
Site Selection and Preparation:
Garry oaks require a sunny exposure, well drained, even rocky soil, but thrive best on deep rich loam. They do poorly in soggy terrain.
Choose a south side location and amply distant from any dense, fast growing competitors (i.e. confiers such as fir and cedar) which will shade and therefore starve the oaks of sunlight.
Cultivate a circular area approximately 3 feet or 1m in diameter, clearing it of all weeds and grasses that will compete for moisture that is essential to the seedling's establishment of deep roots in search of reliable year round moisture sources. Dig a hole wide enough to give 6 inches (15 cm) clearance around the seedling's growing pot or tube and approximately 16 inches deep. You may fill the hole ½ full of loose soil or alternately, as an option , put a one inch layer of loose sand in the bottom and vertically place a "snorkel" into the side of the hole. This acts as a pipe-line, fast tracking irrigation water to the bottom of the hole for deep soaking. The snorkel consists of newspaper, rolled approximately into a 1 ½ inch (or 4 cm) tube and filled with sand, long enough to reach the top of the hole.
Gently tip the seedling out of the container and check the tap root. If the tap root is curled up it could cause self-strangulation. Nip this off cleanly and it will continue to grow downward. Set the plant with the root crown at soil surface level. Fill with soil, tamp down and soak so water reaches the roots. Mulch around the hole surrounding the plant in order to discourage weeds and to help retain moisture.
Follow up with care:
Regular watering and weeding are crucial. Soak and let drain every two weeks (more often if the top two inches are dry). Taper off frequency as the Oak settles in. Once the tree becomes established, it can fend for itself in surprisingly arid conditions. A translucent tube as indicated earlier is worth installing. In addition, a "mini-fence" fashioned from a 2 ft 1" x ½" gauge galvanized fencing can be rolled up into a 12" diameter cylinder. Hold in place by staking.
This can be slipped off for weeding or grass trimming.

One can refer to instructions by **Rob Hagel** of the **Pacific Forestry Centre**, 506 West Burnside Rd, Victoria,B.C., V8Z 1M5 (Ph: (250) 363-0600). His program has been successful in producing thousands of Garry oak seedlings in the Greater Victoria area.

THANKS DONORS!!!

The ***Hawk Home Fund*** is growing nicely. A big thanks to all those who have donated thus far!

The Camas in a Garry Oak Meadow

The Camas flower found in a Garry oak meadow is a perennial bulb pale to deep blue in colour but occasionally white.

The Camas bulb was an important food source and was semi-cultivated by *the **Coast Salish People*** of Vancouver Island. The Camas beds could be inherited or owned and each season, they were cleared of stones, brush and weeds. Controlled burning was practiced throughout the summer and harvesting was a seasonal event that often involved the setting up of temporary living shelters.

Bulb gathering could last for weeks with several families participating. The bulbs were dug with a pointed digging stick and only the choicest were selected. Usually steamed in large pits for 24 hours, the bulbs were sweet when cooked and were often used to help sweeten other foods. The steaming pits were large and as many as 50 kg. could be cooked at any one time. The bulbs were usually served right away, often at large feasts or potlatches. They could also be sun-dried for trade or storage.

QUICK FACT:

Less than 1% of the original area of Garry oak ecosystems remain in natural condition. Over 20% of the remaining area will be lost in the next decade, mostly due to urban development.

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If you are interested in becoming a member of Garry Oak Meadows Preservation Society, please contact Tom Gillespie at 361 1694.
Yearly Membership for individual:
$15.00
Yearly Membership for family
$20.00
Cheques can be mailed to: GOMPS, 954 – A Queens Avenue, Victoria, B.C. V8T 1M6

(Please be sure to include your name, address, telephone number and e-mail (if applicable).

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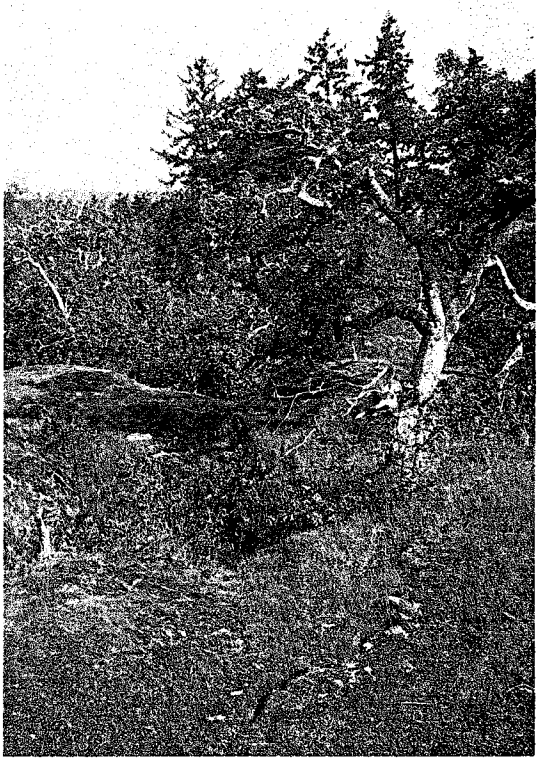
The Garry Oaks of Government House

Saturday, April 28, 2001 by John Scratchley, Leaflet Editor

Since 1991, Friends of Government House Gardens Society has been holding regular work parties on the premises. One of the groups involved here is the ***Woodlands and Nature Plant Volunteers.***

This group of eleven volunteers look after the 22 acres of Garry oak woodlands that take up two thirds of the property. Over the years, they have been successful in re-establishing much of the native flora and fauna found in a Garry oak meadow. Split into two groups and meeting on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 10:00 am, one group tackles the western side, the other the eastern side of the woodland. Among some surprisingly healthy looking Garry oak are found Camas, Ocean Spray, Spring Gold, Blue-eyed Mary, Indian Plum, Native currant, Chocolate lily and sword fern to name just a few of the native plants here.

Volunteers are always welcome and are in short supply. If you would like to become involved in this worthwhile project, please contact Hazel Vanslyke, 2777 Dewdney Ave., Victoria, B.C. V8R-3M3 or telephone 598-4238. The e-mail address is: gvanslyke@direct.ca .



Garry Oaks and Camas on Christmas Hill....May 8, 2001.

QUICK FACT:

Garry oak ecosystems support 93 rare and endangered species of plants and animals. Some species such as Lobb's water buttercup, Island marble butterfly, Lewis woodpecker and Western bluebird have already been lost.

FRIENDS OF KNOCKAN HILL PARK SOCIETY

The Friends of Knockan Hill Park Society have a long standing goal: the conservation as parkland of 2.4 acres of wilderness next to Knockan Hill known as **'101 High Street'**. The property is identified with the adjacent slopes of Knockan Hill in the Ministry of the Environment's Conservation Data Centre's Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory for Southern Vancouver Island. SEI polygon C0300: a conservation priority.
It includes a rocky bluff ecosystem with dwarf Garry oak and a full range of oak meadow biome now rare in View Royal.
Dr. Nancy Turner, Professor of Environmental Studies at UVIC has stated that '101 is "a critical piece of land which enhances the natural values of Knockan Hill Park, and, if it were to be built upon, or intensely developed would definitely threaten the wildlife, birds and flora of the park itself". Identified as prime Garry Oak habitat and given *Environmentally Sensitive Area* designation by resolution of View Royal Council, March 17, 1998, the Friends of Knockan Hill Park Society whose members are residents of both View Royal and Saanich, and even Victoria and North Saanich, will provide public public stewardship and leadership toward the restoration of ecosystem and community events.
If you would like to help, please contact Evie Chauncey, June Rogers, Andria Tetlow or Bob Burrow by calling 479-1947 or 479-2538. Your donations can be sent to:
HAT, PO BOX 8552, Victoria, B.C. V8W 3S2 (Telephone: 995-2428). Donations are Tax Deductable.

I would like to help purchase the Rogers Farm addition to the Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary. I will:

Donate $ _____. My cheque is enclosed.

Pledge an annual donation of $ _____ for five years. My first cheque is enclosed.

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Postal Code: _____ Telephone: _____

Mail your pledge or donation today to: Hawk Home Fund, Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society, 954 – A Queens Avenue, Victoria V8T 1M6. Donations can also be made to TLC, 5793 Old West Saanich Rd, Victoria V9E 2H2.

Thank you on behalf of the Red tailed Hawks, and other creatures whose homes are being saved.

MEMBERSHIP AND DONATIONS

Name: _____

Address:

_____

Email Address: _____

- ◻ Membership Dues: Donation:_____
- ◻ Individual $15 Family $20
- ◻ Youth and Associate $6 (no newsletter)

Gift memberships, send rec't to:

_____

_____

Please send more information about:

- ◻ Local sources for Garry oak meadow/plants
- ◻ Garry oak Inventory Project
- ◻ Operation Clean Sweep (Broom Removal)
- ◻ Growing/Planting of Garry oaks

Tax receipts available for all donations over $10

The Garry Oak Leaflet

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE GARRY OAK MEADOW PRESERVATION SOCIETY
July 2001 Issue

Excerpts from the San Francisco Chronicle, April, 2001 ~ Peter Fimrite, Staff Writer:

California's Oak Plague Spreading....Another Threat to the Garry Oak?

Could it be that another threat to the embattled Garry oaks is on its way? A recent article that appeared in the San Franciso Chronicle states that the disease ravaging the state's oak trees has spread to bay and madrone trees placing California's entire forest ecosystem in danger.

The discovery by a team of University of California scientists means that the contagion known as 'sudden oak death' is becoming more widespread than even the most pessimistic observers had originally feared.

The pathogen that causes the disease, a phytophthora, was recently isolated from the leaves and branches of bay laurel and madrone in numerous locations in Marin and Sonoma counties.

The team has not determined whether the disease is as deadly for bay and madrone as it is for oak. They said that the new hosts definitely served as a bridge for the microbe's spread. According to Matteo Garbelotto of UC, "It is no longer a problem that is just affecting oaks. It is now a disease that is affecting the whole ecosystem".

Sudden oak death has killed tens of thousands of coast live oak, black oak and tan oak trees in seven counties along a 190 mile range of coastline from Monterey to Sonoma.
It has also been found in Shreve's oak and wild huckleberry bushes. The breadth of the plague is such that in some forested areas virtually every tree is a host for the disease.
Bay, madrone and oak are the most common trees in Marin County.

The phytophthora that is responsible for the outbreak is the same type of organism responsible for the Irish potato famine in the mid-1800s.

Sudden oak death attacks each tree and plant differently. In oaks, the disease enters through the bark and attacks the living part of the tree known as the cambium. The disease is fatal for many oaks and numerous dead and dying madrones have been spotted in infected

areas. The infectious spores grow and spread faster in non-oak plants and trees.

Nonetheless, there is reason for hope... experiments on potted live oaks in Sonoma County determined that the compound phosphonate all but eliminated the lesions that characterize sudden oak death. The compound is not likely to help in wild areas however, as it would be impossible to inoculate all the hosts and spraying would be controversial and probably ineffective.

Transplanting Garry Oaks

From the experiences and observations of Ron Carter, Saanich Municipality – Tree Preservation

Garry oaks like most trees produce an initial taproot which, like other trees, eventually get replaced by lateral roots and upon occasion by sinker roots depending on soil conditions.
The easiest transplant situation are small seedlings or sapling trees growing in a well drained soil of about 18" in depth over a clay subsoil which encourages the majority of roots to remain in the top soil.
When a large percentage of roots have to be removed to form a practical size of rootball (for example4' diameter for a 2" caliper tree) it is best to root prune in sections to encourage fibrous root formation within the proposed rootball. This is carried out in late autumn or early winter and then, ideally during the same time the next year to complete the cutting of roots.
Wait until the following autumn or early winter to do the actual transplant.
The oaks need their surrounding soil to be relocated with the tree due to the strong mycorrihizal association it has. Bare root transplanting will not be successful.
A larger rootball can be taken with the aid of equipment but this is after all of the manual prepping has been accomplished over the required time period. Cutting corners on the prep will lessen the chances of success.
Careful watering, staking and mulching are essential over the next three years in order to maintain a healthy rooting area.
If the tree is growing on a rocky site, forget about transplanting it. The Garry oak is considered virtually a non-replaceable tree because of its slow growth as well as difficulty in transplanting or finding replacements.
Saanich does have a replacement requirement when oaks are removed either as a contravention of the Bylaw or as an agreed upon removal for construction purposes. In this type of circumstance, the municipality directs people to Kimoff Nurseries on Welsh Road. They have been successful in growing Garry oaks to a good size acceptable for landscaping purposes. Although they grow quickly in the nursery due to proper amounts of watering and mulching, the young oaks slow down considerably when transplanting occurs. They do however, seem to be surviving.

Quick Fact:

The Garry oak tree is an important part of an ecosystem that occurs on southeastern Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands and two tiny patches in the lower Fraser Valley. It is found nowhere else in Canada.

The Friends of the Matson Lands

The Matson Lands are situated on a bluff of property in Esquimalt and offers the viewer one of the last unobstructed views of Victoria's Inner Harbour. Sloping toward the water is a Garry oak meadow with the usual array of native plant life associated with this type of ecosystem The lands are presently

owned by the Salvation Army. Approximately two years ago, the *Friends of the Matson Lands* came into being and are attempting to restore and preserve the Garry oak portion to its original state.
Salvation Army has publicly committed to transferring the Garry oak portion to the community, but when recently approached by Esquimalt about subdividing this land, they stated that they wanted to keep their options open.
The Municipality has committed funds toward the purchase of the lands (approximately $250,000 from the Parks Acquisition Fund and about the same amount from a short-term loan). *City of* Victoria has also committed $15,000 in this regard.
The Land Conservancy of B.C. has agreed to act as banker as well as with fund-raising. To date however, this has not been formalized.
The FML has approached Esquimalt for assistance in the form of equipment for broom pulling and hauling away removed vegetation from last winter.

To get involved or become a member of this group, please contact Louise Blight at (250) 381-8648 or email lkblight@sfu.ca .

(Photo: Invasive plants/shrubs invade a stand of Garry oak on Matson Lands)

John Scratchley,-Editor, Garry Oak Leaflet

Editor's Note:

Your articles and essays are vital to the success of the Garry Oak Leaflet.

Let us hear from your Group or Society and we will make every effort to include them in the Newsletter.

Contact me at (250) 382-4994 or by email at wralff@home.com

J. Scratchley, Ed. .

Visit our Website at: www.garryoak.bc.ca

Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society Board of Directors

Pierre d'Estrube, President	477-2410	swdestrube@pacificcoast.net
Hal Gibbard, Vice-President	477-2986	hagibbard@home.com
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John Scratchley, Editor	382-4994	wralff@home.com
Sharron Waite	479-3380	garryoak@yahoo.com

To plant a tree is
an act of faith in the
earth
An act of hope for the
future
An act of humanity
towards
coming generations
Who will enjoy its fruits
After we shall be gone.
J. Mercier (1740-1814)

The Garry Oak

Quercus garryana is also known as Oregon oak, Oak post oak and White oak.
According to legend, carrying an acorn would preserve a youthful appearance.
Oaks were sacred to the god of thunder.
Named for Nicholas Garry of the Hudson's Bay Company
Latin for oak is 'Quercus'
The only native oak of B.C.

Phase One – Beacon Hill Park Management Plan:

The following is part of a bulletin dated 29 May, 2001 from Rosaline R. Cannesa, PhD, Project Manager

Looking Towards the Future: A Vision of Beacon Hill Park:
"Victorians value Beacon Hill park as a peaceful oasis in the heart of their city, providing enjoyment of beautiful views and surroundings. These include magnificent ornamental

gardens and seasonal landscaping as well as natural ecosystems, unique to this region, where camas blooms in Garry oak meadows and heron rookeries grace tall stands of Douglas fir. The park's natural and historical features, together with its Victorian era landscape design, are culturally significant to the people of the city. In addition, First Nations' traditional use of land and sea resources and of the area as a social gathering place and sacred burial ground provide a valued legacy. Together, these attributes create important educational opportunities for learning about the park's natural environment, plants and animals, culture and history. Publicly owned, and protected in Trust since 1882, the park has been valued ever since for its free and open access to its land and beaches, and a wide range of recreational and leisure areas and facilities."

If you have any questions concerning Beacon Hill Park or wish to discuss the project, please visit the website at www.city.victoria.bc.ca/beaconhill .

Memberships and Donations to G.O.M.P.S.

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Postal Code: _____ Email: _____

- ☐ Single Membership, $15.00
- ☐ Family Membership, $20.00
- ☐ Youth/Associate Membership, $6.00*

- ☐ Guest Membership, _____

- ☐ Send Receipt to, _____

- ☐ Address: _____

Send your cheque to: G.O.M.P.S. c/o A-954 Queens Ave, Victoria, BC, V8T 1M6

Tax receipts for donations over $10.00 available on request

(* No newsletter with membership)

The Garry Oak Leaflet

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE GARRY OAK MEADOW PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Email: garry1oak@netscape.net

September 2001

British Columbians and the Environment

(IMPACS Environmental Survey from April, 2001)

A survey was commissioned by IMPACS (Institute for Media, Policy and Civil Society) and was conducted by McAllister Opinion Research. IMPACS is Canada's first non-profit communications training and services organization, dedicated to serving other non-profits. The survey of 600 British Columbians was conducted by telephone between 31 March and 10 April, 2001. A sample of this size has a margin or error of plus or minus 4%, 19 times out of 20.

The project builds on a survey IMPACS commissioned in 1998 for BC Wild, and asks several of the same questions, in order to track public opinion in several areas. It digs more deeply than ever before into public opinion on specific issues, core environmental values, the profile of environmental supporters, and new message directions. This survey was developed in consultation with dozens of conservation leaders in BC, and builds on data from 5 focus groups held for IMPACS in Nanaimo and Vancouver in February, as well as several other regional, national and US surveys the project team reviewed over the past several months.

Here are a few key findings:

- In the minds of British Columbians, the environment has powerful, spontaneous links to quality of life, the future economy and our life support system.
- Asked what they actually emotionally 'worried' about, British Columbians focus in on habitat, species protection and

American control of our natural resources – not 'water' and 'air' as we hear when asking about "concern".

- "New Economy" industries like high-tech, film and tele-communications are viewed as having by far the greatest economic potential for the future economy compared to older, large-scale resource extraction industries.
- Two thirds of British Columbians are very concerned about the environment, but only one third are doing something about it.
- Salmon, followed closely by Orca whales and bears, are the most resonant wildlife icons for British Columbians.
- To help make all of this information even more actionable and user-friendly, IMPACS will soon be releasing a follow-up "BC Guide to Talking about the Environment". It will be full of tips and practical suggestions for talking about the natural environment even more effectively to other British Columbians.
- For more information, please contact: Marion Nader, Communications Assistant, IMPACS, 910-207 West Hastings, Vancouver, BC, V6B 1H7, telephone: (604) 682-1953 or Email: marionn@impacs.org . Their Website is: www.impacs.org .

Found in a Garry oak Meadow....

Fool's Onion (Brodiaea hyacinthena) Found on South-eastern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands south. Perennial herb with mostly white flowers, bell shaped with a green mid-vein. Upright cluster atop 3-5 bracts. Leaves are grass-like, to 1 cm wide, about 40 cm long. Fruits: Stalked capsules.

(photo: J. Scratchley, 'the Leaflet')

Celebration Time on Saltspring Island:

The Nature Trust of BC has purchased approximately 250 hectares of prime Saltspring woodland – *Canada's largest intact Garry oak woodland* –from Texada Land Corp. The land will go to BC Parks as an extension of the Mount Maxwell Ecological Reserve. The Land Conservancy of BC

has been a force in this effort, as it has in several high profile purchases – including the Sooke Hills – since it was founded in 1997. G.O.M.P.S. was represented on Saltsprng by Susanne Wilson.

Inventory of Garry Oaks Now Completed:

A four year project undertaken by Dr. U. Paul Gareau has now been finalized. Here are Paul's comments:

"As most of your are aware, the Garry oak inventory in the four core Municipalities of Greater Victoria started in 1994 and was supported by a grant of $2,000.00 from the British Columbia Ministry of the Environment, Lands and Parks. It is now complete.

Victoria Municipality was the first surveyed, followed by Saanich. Oak Bay and Esquimalt were counted simultaneously and both have just been finished.

As time went on, enthusiasm waned and each section took longer. Over a hundred volunteers took part and I must give special credit to Eric Redekop without whom, another two years or more would have elapsed.

In ten or twenty years it would be interesting to know if the population of Garry oak changes appreciably. To be comparable of course, such an inventory would have to be carried out in a similar manner i.e. by untrained volunteers recording lot by lot. I would estimate that there is a 10% error in the numbers we have accumulated and perhaps 15% in Oak Bay because of the huge lots and the number of trees in some sections. In the future, however, more exact techniques will be available to produce more precise results. In that case, a comparison with the present survey would not be possible.

To a limited degree this work complements the work carried out by Tony Embleton on behalf of the Victoria Natural History Society. His programme has been carried out over all public lands and much further afield than the four core Municipalities. It has also been carried out in a more precise manner as far as I am able to determine.

The Municipality of Victoria is apparently only using our maps when requests for development come forward ostensibly to know whether Garry oak might be involved. When Karen Hurley was at Saanich, she expected to put out findings on a data base. Saanich has had the maps over a year and this has not yet been done. The GOMPS Board can decide whether or not to approach Esquimalt and Oak Bay with the results."

NEW BOARD MEMBER FOR G.O.M.P.S.:

The members of the Board are pleased to welcome **Susanne Wilson** as our newest member....**Welcome aboard Sue!**

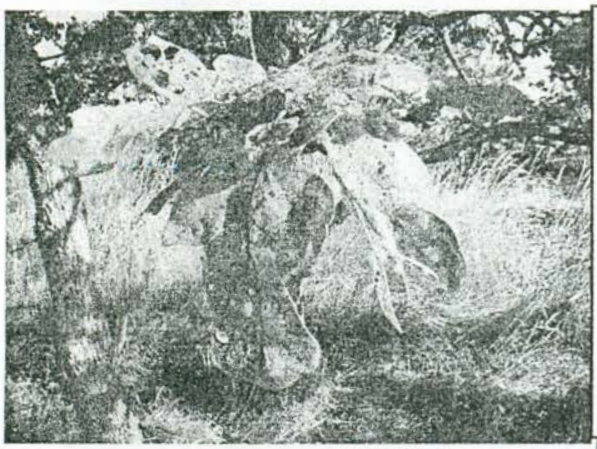
"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give." ~ Sir Winston Churchill

Brush Fire on Knockan Hill Park July 5th…..

Will the blackened Garry oak and their existing ecosystems return to this area again in the next few years?

(Photo: Times-Colonist)

Visit our website @ www.garryoak.bc.ca



Chionodes trichostola

This moth of the Gelechiidae family has infested the Garry oaks on Mount Tolmie in rapid fashion. The larvae skeletonise the leaves of the tree turning them brown. The infestation was identified last year and has rapidly spread in 2001 causing extensive damage to this area.

(Photo: J. Scratchley, 'The Leaflet")

NEWS FROM G.O.E.R.T.

The revised "Recovery Strategy for Garry Oak and Associated Ecosystems and their Associated Species at risk in Canada, 2001-2006":

Reviewer comments have now been incorporated into the updated draft. The draft will be submitted to the Recovery of Nationally Endangered Wildlife (RENEW), the national recovery programme for species at risk, consideration by the responsible jurisdiction for approval as an official recovery strategy and, if approved, to be translated and published.

To date, the municipalities of Colwood and Esquimalt, the Regional District of Comox-Strathcona, and the North American Native Plant Society have formally endorsed the Recovery Strategy. Endorsing the strategy is a great way for an agency to indicate interest in conservation and protection of the ecosystems and the many species that find homes therein, and to help us build a coordinated Recovery Program. Demonstrations of broad-based support can also go a long way in convincing funding agencies that projects and programs outlined in the Strategy are worthy of financial assistance.

Recovery Action Groups (RAGs):

Each RAG is responsible for developing a Recovery Action Plan and for implementing the projects and programs that fall under its mandate.
Expertise is an additional plus, but your time, enthusiasm, and willingness to help and to learn can comprise a considerable contribution, even without much background in the area.

The following are RAGs concerned with Garry oaks and their ecosystems:

Inventory, Mapping and Plant Communities. Contact: Wayne.Ericson@gems3.gov.bc.ca
Responsible for: Developing a standardized plant community classification; Establishing a GIS database; Mapping Garry oak and associated ecosystems, historical occurrences, wildlife habitat, and attributes of the adjacent natural and developed landscape.

Research RAG. Contact: Brent Ingram
Responsible for promoting and facilitating research on priority topics including Garry oaks and associated ecosystems. His E-mail address is: gb_ingram@telus.net .

Here are a few of the Exciting Projects that are under way:
Restoration options for Garry oak ecosystems are being investigated in research being conducted at the Nature Conservancy of Canada's Cowichan Garry Oak Preserve by Andrew MacDougall of UBC. The study is examining the impact of different management treatments on abundance of native and introduced plants.

Two projects initiated by the Municipality of Saanich are designed to inspire the young, the old, and those in-between to cherish and protect Garry oak ecosystems. The Garry Oak Education Kit (GEEK) partners are developing resource materials for educators. The Garry Oak Restoration Project (GORP) has established highly visible demonstration sites, in which community and school groups and individuals actively participate in ecosystem restoration. Partners in this project are numerous and include G.O.M.P.S.

(Courtesy: Acornucopia)

The Recovery Strategy is available on line at:
www.bc.natureconservancy.ca/cgo/index.html

Membership in Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society:

Name:_____

Address: _____

City & Postal Code: _____

E-Mail: _____

Single Member: $15.00
Family Member: $20.00
Youth or Associate Member: $6.00*
(*no newsletter)
Mail Cheques to: GOMPS, c/o A-954 Queen's Ave., Victoria, B.C. (V8T-1M6)
(Tax receipts for donations of over $10.00 on request)

Garry Oak at Yale

Article by Michael Meagher

The most easterly occurrence of Garry oak in B.C. occurs about two kilometers north-east of Yale covering approximately seven ha. It was noted in written records first during the 19th century. Mining/prospecting and construction of the rail line in 1913 likely removed some trees, but also opened the site for regeneration, as can be seen along the rail line. Much prior to that, the First Nation People were active for centuries, leaving burial sites and pit house excavations. Considerable speculation has been offered re the origin of this stand: introduction by Natives, birds, or a remnant of more-extensive stands during the post-glacial warm period a few thousand years ago. Crown Land portions (about half of the stand) are protected as an Ecological Reserve.

No concentrated examination of the site occurred until last year, when BC Parks let a contract to map the stand and document flora toward recommending management to preserve the ecosystem. As the stand includes Yale First Nation lands, Band members were involved in the work. Biospherics Environmental Inc. of Vancouver (Terry McIntosh gink@idirect.ca Tel: 604-874-1175) conducted the work. He and colleagues describe three species associated in three "stands", and list many trees, shrubs, annual plants, mosses, lichens and fungi – not all identified at report completion. Some of the oaks are estimated at over 150 years, based on a stem section from one of *five trees felled last year!*

Another contract has been let this year to collect and identify more species (the 2000 contract was let too late for confirmation of the vernal plants), estimate the age of the oldest tree, establish a permanent vegetation plot in each stand, examine the area for indications of fire history and start trials of canopy-removal practices, in cooperation with the Yale First Nations, including training in data collection.

With this knowledge and local First Nation interest, the future of this notable occurrence should be more secure.

Articles Needed!

We appreciate hearing from your group or organization and will make an all out effort to include your story in the 'Leaflet'.
Please contact or email the Editor

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Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society
A--954 Queens Avenue, Victoria, BC, V8T 1M6
(250)475-2024
garryoak@netscape.net
www.garryoak.bc.ca

The Garry Oak Leaflet March 2002

To all members of the Society:

We have been having great difficulty producing a newsletter during the last six months and this letter is being sent to announce that our Annual General Meeting will be held at the Swan Lake Nature Centre on Tuesday March 26 at 7:30 pm. All members are welcome to attend. There will be a slide show presentation on oaks after the general business meeting.

We particularly need volunteers to help us with the newsletter, serve on the Board of Directors and to attend meetings while researching land development issues.

We would like to thank the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation for providing a grant to reprint ten thousand copies of our colour brochure.

Annual Membership dues remain at $20. for a family or $15. for a single membership. Memberships are valid for twelve months from the end of the sign up month. A reminder to all members that your expires on date is printed on your mailing label as well as a red printed reminder if your fees are due.

A few announcements:

The **VNHS botany night** for Tues. April 16 7:30 pm. will be a slide presentation by Ted Lea (Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management): History of Garry oak ecosystems in the Greater Victoria area. This will be presented at the Swan Lake Nature House.

Gardening for Wildlife - A Native Plant Gardening Sale and Demonstration

Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary, 3873 Swan Lake Road, Victoria
Saturday and Sunday, **April 20 and 21**, 2002, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Over 100 species of Native Plants; Seeds, Books, Bird Feeders, Nesting Boxes
- Presentations on gardening with drought-tolerant native plants and developing wildlife habitat in an urban area, including a presentation by April Pettinger and Brenda Costanzo on The New Native Plants in the Coastal Garden, 2nd edition.
- Admission: $3/day, $5/weekend pass (price includes admission to all workshops and presentations) Free to 'Friends of the Sanctuary'
- Plant list and presentation schedule available at our website: www.swanlake.bc.ca
- 479-0211 for more information.

BC chapter of **Society for Ecological Restoration** will be hosting an AGM in Victoria, 27-28 April 2002. Central theme is Garry oak ecosystems. 27th (Saturday) indoor session with (tentatively) 2 keynote speakers and 10 formal presentations (plus lunch and dinner). 28th (Sunday) will be field trips. We will provide more information and registration details in the next newsletter.

Some changes to our contact points

Our e-mail address is garry1oak@netscape.net

Our website is www.garryoak.bc.ca

Our new phone # is 475-2024

New website for the Garry Oak Ecosysytem Recovery Team www.goert.ca

New website for the Victoria Natural History Society www.VicNHS.bc.ca

Board of Directors

Pierre d'Estrube, President	477-2410	e-mail swdesrtrube@pacificcoast.net
Hal Gibbard, Vice-President	477-2986	e-mail hagibbard@shaw.ca
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Neil Sparks	387-3891	e-mail sparky@pacificcoast.net
Sharron Waite	479-3380	e-mail garryoak@yahoo.com
Susanne Wilson	592-1027	

The Garry Oak Leaflet March 2002

SUDDEN OAK DEATH – A THREAT TO GARRY OAK?

Mike Meagher

News reports of thousands of oak, and other, trees dying suddenly in California due to "Sudden oak death" (SOD) have been replayed in our newspapers. Now it is in Oregon, and still advancing? Imagine the impact on us if it hits our beloved Garry oaks!
The "**good news**" is : it has not been found on Garry oak; the "**bad news**" is : it may be here already!.
The disease is caused by *Phytophthora ramorum* – a relative of the disease of potatos that decimated Ireland in the 1800s, and of a disease causing death of many cedar hedges in our area. Spores spread by rain, birds, etc. attack trees of several species, and shrubs also, growing through the bark and developing in the phloem and cambium. Plants infected may develop oozing cankers on the bark, or show leaf spotting and tip dieback of shoots about 13 months after infection. Trees die from a combination of reduced water flow to the tops and "starving" of roots due to damaged phloem, further aggravated by insect attacks on the weakened tops.
So far, trees and shrubs affected include oaks, tanoaks (a relative of oaks), horse chestnuts, arbutus (another local favorite!), maples, cascara, Oregon myrtle, Rhododendrons, Viburnums, manzanita (another local, shrub), and blueberry species. Lots of familiar names there. Even Coast redwood was mentioned as a possible host in a recent report – yet to be confirmed. Oregon web site, showing photos: http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/rogue/swofidsc/hot/oakdeath.html"

SOD seems to be confined mainly to "wetter" areas of southern Oregon, where moisture might be helpful in permitting spores to travel and infect. Also, moist areas in tree and shrub stands favour infection. Our susceptible species may be in "wetter" areas as defined in Oregon, so should we be concerned?
The disease was noted first in California in 1995; it was confirmed in southern Oregon last year by teams searching forests known to contain tree species infected in California. The Oregon agencies plan to control the known outbreaks by cutting and burning infected trees and shrubs on site.

Re the **"good news/bad news"** conundrum: no infected Garry oaks have been found SO FAR (and maybe never will). All infected oak species are in the "Black oak" section of the oaks, while Garry oak is in the "White oak" section. These sections are based on physical differences between trees, but they can also correspond to differences in pests, which can adapt quite sensitively to differences between hosts. The "**bad news**" may be that **SOD is here already**, due to past imports of infected plants of host species, especially Rhododendrons, azaleas, etc. Local nurseries are concerned that current Canadian bans on importing such rooted plants will ruin their businesses. Maybe they do not realise the potential impact if the disease arrives and attacks susceptible species in their nurseries!

Importation bans are enforced by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, a federal agency, with officers at borders – maybe! They check for import and plant-inspection documents and have the power to seize and destroy materials banned by Ottawa under authority outlined in the Canadian Food Inspection Agency Directorate "D-01-01". (Web address: http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/plaveg/protect/dir/sodmsce.shtml) However, the same officers must check Canadian airports, docks and business facilities for a lot of other agents, so they are stretched pretty thin.

Regardless of the "**good news**" re Garry oak and this disease, GOMPS is concerned enough about this threat that we have written to both Lyle Vanclief, Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Business, and David Anderson, Minister of Environment, to express our concern that SOD might be imported to Canada due to insufficient inspectors, especially following the September 11th effect on continental security and the pressure to divert funds to policing. Minister Vanclief's office sent a non-commital reply, largely repeating information from our letter to the Minister! Thus our concern.

GOMPS members and friends can help by ensuring that they do not bring back ANY plants, soil, roots, leaves, fruit or tree cones from California or Oregon, and advising their friends and neighbours of the threat if they should do so. Even if Garry oaks are not at risk, Arbutus, manzanita and other native plants are; there is no need to take chances with any native plants, and the ecosystems dependent on them, when simple precautions will help. Letters of concern to David Anderson to remind him of the importance of Garry oak, Arbutus and other species and your concern over the potential impact also can help.

The Garry Oak Leaflet

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE GARRY OAK MEADOW PRESERVATION SOCIETY

May 2002 issue

President's Annual Report for the Year 2001

We are approaching the 10th anniversary of the GOMPS which started in October, 1992, and my third term as President. Tom Gillespie, a founding member, is still on the Board as our veteran and steadfast Treasurer. Most of our Directors have served multi-functionally, working on other related committees and boards, some with heavy time commitments such as the Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team (GOERT) and Beacon Hill Park Management Plan, Round Table Committee. Others include Saanich's Garry Oak Restoration Project (GORP), the Garry Oak Ecosystem Education Kit (GEEK).

We gained three new Board members during the year, and lost one. Sue Wilson has brought new energy, which alas waned briefly because of illness, from which she is fortunately recovering. Neil Sparks of U.Vic. Environmental Studies, takes over the editing of GOMP's Leaflet, which John Scratchly undertook very capably in the early part of the year. John, unfortunately, had second thoughts about continuing that momentum and withdrew from the task and the Board. Overcoming this disappointing loss has been difficult, as evidenced by our hurriedly assembled "make-do" issue needed to announce today's Annual Meeting. However, we expect to recover and any additional help from the members would be welcomed. Incidentally, the Leaflet has gone into advertising big time: for $10 it will run your business card once; three times for $25!

We have been effectively engaged with municipalities, notably Saanich and Oak Bay, over the control of English ivy. Saanich is currently revamping its Tree and Noxious Weed Bylaws, as well as approaching nurseries to stop the sale of ivy to stem the invasion. Aiming to get public participation in the process, Oak Bay's Parks Department has adopted and modified Saanich's English ivy brochure, originally co-developed with GOMPS, and sent copies out to home owners with their water bills. GOMPS' Board members continue (and hope the rest of our membership will lend a hand) to report addresses of private (as well as public) property sites to the park managers who have agreed to send official letters of concern, urging property owners to halt the growth on the trees. Persuasion will have more legal leverage once the bylaws are modified in Saanich. Unfortunately, Oak Bay is hampered by a mayor who has scuttled its Parks Board's efforts in bylaw reform so far.

Other municipal activities include giving input to Saanich Parks and Recreation Master Plan, participation in the ten GORP sites (through our Vice President Hal Gibbard) and meeting with Saanich's Director of Planning Services, Russ Fuoco. Dr. Paul Gareau's Garry Oak Inventory, started in 1994, of the four core municipalities is now complete and available to them. Their use of the material has yet to be determined.

We have attempted to help in "rescue missions" to minimize the destruction of oaks and, where possible, the meadows of proposed development sites, such as Cridge Centre, the Linwood-Wicklow subdivision proposal off Quadra, the three-car garage house (8 oaks lost) in Oak Bay's Anderson Hill area, the colossal rock-blasting proposal of a hill (Hart Rd. and Wilfert Rd.) in View Royal, the Beam Cr. subdivision (off Cedar Hill Rd.) the Jeal property adjacent to the Commonwealth Centre where an access road threatens 33 oaks, the Royal Bay development in Colwood, still awaiting an environmental assessment. We have met with and supported Dr. Howard Petch, former President of U.Vic., in his quest to save the oak meadow grove in the southwest corner of the campus. The new campus' Smart Growth movement may be instrumental in achieving that goal. We have offered to be co-covenantors of the area.

Our rescue efforts on the whole have been hampered by the rights of property owners, whose building footprint is sacrosanct and challengeable only by the relatively impotent suggestions of the planning departments which have to cater to pro-development councils. The potential for law suits from aggressive developers is ever present. Despite our frustrations, there are definite signs of growing public awareness - our message is getting out! It has reached as far afield as Courtenay, where concerned citizens have called on us for advice in protecting their oaks.

An intriguing prospect is the undeveloped Garry oak meadow piece of acreage next to Oak Shade Lane off Richmond Road. It needs restoration work but could be suitable for a "low activity" nature sanctuary. We have approached T.L.C. who seem interested but for the time being have other priorities.

We have been very fortunate in receiving $1,950, 50% of a $3,900 grant from the Shell Environmental Fund for our project "Communicate and Educate." It will help fund brochures, the Leaflet, and the like. We have till December/03 to complete our project to qualify for the second 50%. The Shell logo will appear on subsequent Leaflets, the production of which is much in need of help from our membership with publishing skills, articles to publish, photographs, news items, etc.

We have been cooperating with schools, providing advice and brochures to teachers and classrooms, supporting school grounds committees with native plants and trees projects and joining the GEEK project. We participate in environmental activities such as Saanich's Tree Appreciation Day, Mother Earth Voice Day, as well as conferences, ex.: the Garry Oak Restoration Conference at U.Vic. We are attempting to pull together the 1999 U.Vic Symposium Proceedings.

We send letters to editors for public education, to councils and bureaucrats for enlightenment, and to government, protesting against retrogressive acts, such as environmental budget cutbacks and anti-slap legislation.

Meanwhile Mike Meagher, our tireless and ultra-efficient Secretary, whose precise recordings of minutes have been the mainstay of this report, has been busy lending his professional expertise as a forester to critique Salt Spring's new tree bylaw, has done numerous ring counts on fallen oaks, and been very active in the assessment and survey of the ectopic Garry oak groves at Yale and Sumas Mt., Abbotsford. Apart from contributing many hours to GOERT tasks, he is involved with UBC's research on oaks' effective population size and UBC's Centre for Gene Conservation.

In addition to our website (www.garryoak.bc.ca) and e-mail address (garry1oak@netscape.net), we now have a telephone voice-mail listing in the yellow pages under "Environmental Conservation and Ecological Organizations" (250-475-2024), which we are assessing for one year to determine its use by the public; so far, the frequency of calls in increasing.

We have available a list of nurseries that grow potted oak seedlings and larger oaklings, and a phone contact to the services of a wildflowers reclamation group.

Unfortunately, rescent draught years have suppressed the yield of viable acorns , our previous cooperative efforts with Rob Hagel of National Resourses Canada,Canadian Forest Services, who has grown thousands of Garry oak seedlings yearly has not been possible for the past two years. The coming fall looks more promissing. Despite the shortage of these GOMP sponsored seedlings, two small oaklings from my personal "nursery" were donated to the volunteer group restoring Sooke's Millenium Park.

GOMPS has supported and been involved with other groups' activities, including, the Saalish Seafest at Fort Rodd Hill (shared a booth with GEEK), the Little Saanich Mountain Broom Pull, and U.Vic.'s First Day Festival.

We have contributed to the Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary ($500), Salt Spring Island's land acquisition fund ($300), subscribed to SCAN's listing ($20), donated to Andrew Mc Dougal for his Elkington property research in Duncan ($800) and gathered pledges for the Hawk Home Fund ($2,828).

GOMPS being a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), our Treasurer continues to manage the accounting and dispensing of flow-through moneys to GOERT and more recently to Terrestrial Ecosystem Recovery Project (TERP). This latter has imposed such an extra management load that our Board has decided to levy a 5% administration charge on all future flow-through grants .

Probably the most significant justification for our existence is our role as co-covenantors. Already involved with Retreat Island, we are on the verge of signing with TLC for the Thelma Jull property on McNeil Avenue. Lack of an adequate tree map is holding things up.

As for the future we are, among other things, looking into establishing the dollar value of our trees with the future hope of engaging the real estate industry to promote the oaks as a valuable asset in the resale of properties. Should we succeed, we might push our luck into protecting treed neighborhoods with covenants - who knows?

I wish to thank the hard working members of our Board for their harmonious cooperation.

Respectfully submitted,

Pierre F. d'Estrubé, President

Some changes to our contact points

Our e-mail address is garry1oak@netscape.net

Our website is www.garryoak.bc.ca

Our new phone # is 475-2024

New website for the Garry Oak Ecosysytem Recovery Team www.goert.ca

New website for the Victoria Natural History Society www.VicNHS.bc.ca

Board of Directors

Pierre d'Estrube, President	477-2410	e-mail swdesrtrube@pacificcoast.net
Hal Gibbard, Vice-President	477-2986	e-mail hagibbard@shaw.ca
Tom Gillespie, Treasurer	361-1694	e-mail thomasw._gillespie@telus.net
Michael Meagher, Secretary	727-7675	e-mail mmeagher@pfc.forestry.ca
Neil Sparks	387-3891	e-mail sparky@pacificcoast.net
Sharron Waite	479-3380	e-mail garryoak@yahoo.com
Susanne Wilson	592-1027	

Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society

Financial Statement for 2001

Income:

membership dues	$ 1,310.oo
donations---general	$ 125.oo
Home Hawk fund donations	$ 1,425.oo
interest on bank account	$ 73.36
rebate on General Sales Tax	$ 30.oo
advertising in newsletter	$ 10.oo
sales of tree posters	$ 118.oo
GOERT Recovery Plan	$27,500.oo
Shell Canada Grant	$ 1,950.oo
TERP grant for GOERT	$20,000.oo
Canada Trust Grant for brochures	$ 2,825.oo
Butterfly Project grant	$ 8,500.oo

Expenditures:

charitable donations	$ 800.oo
newsletter	$ 446.99
society annual registry fee	$ 25.00
Postage and office expenses	$ 33.54
Publications, brochures	$ 2,899.14
Operation Clean Sweep	$ 50.oo
GOERT Expenses	$ 254.89
GOERT Recovery Plan	$30,000.oo
Butterfly Research project	$ 8,500.oo
Invasive Plants research grant	$ 800.oo
Advertising	$ 20.oo
Telephone	$ 256.68
Travel expenses	$ 56.59

total income: **$ 63,866.36**

total expenses: **$ 44,142.83**

excess of income over expenses $ 19,723.53

All accounts held by Pacific Coast Savings Credit Union

General Account Balance as of December 31 2001	$ 1,920.12
Hawk Home Savings account	$ 2,828.31
Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team	$ 478.32
One year term bond due Dec.1---2001	$ 6,000.oo
Net assets as of December 31 2001	**$11,226.75**
TERP funds held for GOERT	- $ 20,000.oo
Shell Canada grant as liability	- $ 1,950.oo

Memberships as of December 31 2001

Regular Adult 40 Family 34

with 74 households representing 108 members Free Subscriptions 11

With 87 months of Regular dues and 81 months of Family dues prepaid for 2002;
then $ 243.75 in membership dues liability is carried over into 2002.

GARRY OAK LEAFLET

Newsletter of the Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society August 2002 Vol. 9, No. 4

Hawk Home Fund Wound Up

GOMPS presented Mayor Frank Leonard a cheque for $4000 at the Saanich Council meeting on June 5, 2002. The money is the total assets of the Hawk Home Fund. It is to be applied to the debt on portion of Rogers' Farm which was purchased to add to the Christmas Hill nature reserve. President Pierre d'Estrube reminded Council of the importance of conserving oak habitat, and Director Sharron Waite outlined the historical connection between GOMPS and Christmas Hill.

Hawk Home Fund was started when the first development plans for Rogers' Farm were proposed. Its purpose was to see completion of the original 1976 design for Swan Lake—Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary along the Rogers' Farm boundary. It was named for the red-tailed hawks which nest in a tree on that part of the property. Fortunately for hawks, hill, and fumbling fund raisers in GOMPS, The Land Conservancy was formed and through a creative joint effort with Saanich and the Rogers family, secured the land with a half million dollar debt they are undertaking to pay off.

Among those attending the presentation, Kate Stewart was particularly welcome. A past president of GOMPS and one of the people behind the establishment of the Hawk Home Fund, she represented the Board of Directors of TLC.

With the donation to Saanich, Hawk Home Fund has been wound up. GOMPS' Directors have no expertise in fund-raising, and there are two other organizations, TLC and Habitat Acquisition Trust, which raise money to purchase or otherwise protect local endangered habitat.

This summer, Rogers Farm is a noisy place, as construction proceeds on the westerly portion and blasting and heavy equipment prepare the easterly portion for more housing. The swallows are gone, but the hawks and raven continue to cry on the hill.

GOMPS Gets a Logo

If you look at the top of this page, to the left of the words "Garry Oak Leaflet", you will see the symbol chosen by the Board of Directors to represent the Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society on its publications, letterheads, and other printed material.

It is a stylized Garry oak leaf, drawn from life by the artists who created the symbol. It will be seen in black, as in this newsletter, or dark green in colored documents, and may or may not have the legend "GOMPS" at its base.

Thanks go to Ginette Corrigan and Robin Johnston, wildcrafters who are moving into the commercial art field and chose to showcase their work and support a local organization whose aims they endorse at the same time. [You can see more of their work on weekends in Bastion Square this summer.]

Fight Over UVic Campus Plan Heats Up

The University Of Victoria recently released a draft campus plan designed to manage growth over the next 15 years. In the forty years since its inception, UVic's lush campus and storehouse of knowledge have become valued and treasured resources for the surrounding community.

The future of the UVic campus is a primary concern for all community members, yet minimal consultation occurred with the community in the preparation of its new Campus Plan. At a projected growth rate of 2% per year, the university is expected to grow by 40% in the next 15 years. In accommodating this growth, the University is considering using 1,175, 404 square feet of land for new buildings, adding 1,073 new beds, and installing 2,300 new parking spaces.

The draft plan suggests various concepts for managing the traffic and parking requirements but hasn't settled on any particular model, nor has it committed to a reduction in private vehicle use. A more inclusive planning process would ensure that the University's neighbours have a say in future traffic demand management schemes.

While undertaking to accommodate unlimited growth at UVic, the draft plan makes no commitment to sustainable growth management. The plan is loyal to the sprawled design of the original 1961 campus plan, developed when UVic was surrounded by farm land and open space. Today the campus is bound by residential neighbourhoods and commercial districts. Although the draft campus plan recognizes the need to efficiently utilize the limited land base of the campus, it lacks the necessary commitment to densification.

Alternative visions of campus growth propose that 75% of new buildings should be constructed within a limited and defined "growth boundary." This could be achieved by building on already impacted sites such as parking lots, and "retrofitting" existing developments so as to make the most efficient use of space.

The draft plan also fails to guarantee protection of the University's natural areas. The sections of Mystic Vale and Haro Woods that are protected under covenants are much smaller than the natural ecosystems. Moreover, ecologically important areas such as the Garry Oak Meadow, the South Woods, Bowker Creek Headwaters, and the University Native Plant Garden have been designated as "special study areas," meaning although there will be ecological studies performed, U Vic reserves the right to build in these areas.

In early June the University held two public consultation meetings concerning the draft. Response at the meetings indicated a new planning process is necessary to ensure the interests of the entire community are addressed in the Campus Plan. The creation of the Campus Plan requires community participation. As an institution of higher learning, the University of Victoria should be able to adequately respond to the need for due public process and careful land stewardship.

The draft plan can be viewed at www.uvic.ca/draftcampusplan, where comments are invited. The University will accept comments until early September. To advocate a new, participitory planning process and express your concerns with the draft plan's content, ... *continued on next page*

Study of Acorn Production Needs Your Help

Your assistance is needed for a study of acorn production in Garry oaks!

Acorns are essential for the reproduction of Garry oaks, provide an important food source for a variety of birds and mammals, and their production may be sensitive to environmental stresses. Understanding what factors control acorn production may be important in conserving Garry oak ecosystems.

A range-wide, long-term study of acorn production by Garry oaks was begun in 1999 by Connie Harrington and Dave Peter of the U.S. Forest Service laboratory in Olympia, Washington. Study objectives are to determine the frequency of good acorn crops and to relate acorn production to tree age, size, competitive status, and site characteristics. [More information at **www.fs.fed.us/pnw/olympia/silv/oakssurvey/oak_background.htm**]

Local data has been collected for the area between Rocky Point and Nanoose. An expansion of the survey to a wider range of sites and tree ages is planned for 2002.

Data sought

The acorn survey requires yearly assessments of acorn crops on each sample tree, the collection of basic tree growth data at the time of the initial survey and every five years thereafter, some site assessment, and a map or notes so the tree can be re-located each year. Acorn crops are assessed using classes ranging from 1 [none] to 4 [often occurring in pairs, branches bending under weight]. Acorn assessments are best done in mid-August to early September when acorns are yellowish-green and still attached to the tree.

Volunteers wanted

Your help is needed for the following:

Suggestions for oak stands to sample. To fill gaps in the existing survey sites, organizers are looking for sites with relatively young [less than 30 years old] stands; stands on relatively fertile and moist sites, especially if there are stands on constrasting sites [for example, rock outcrops] nearby to compare them with, and stands near the geographic limits of the range [for example, near Campbell River].

Conducting acorn surveys in sample trees, this year and in the future. If you have a favorite oak stand that you or others could survey each year, now is the year to begin! The organizers can assist in collecting growth and site data.

Interested?

Contact Kevin Brown, by telephone at [250] 727-3604, or e-mail him at **kevinlouise@pacificcoast.net**.

--by Kevin Brown

In a Nutshell

Your Board of Directors is pleased to welcome Jerri Lee as the new editor of the *Leaflet*. Jerri brings a background as a professional journalist to the job. She will assume the editorship with the next issue.

Fall planting time is almost upon us. Autumn is an ideal time to plant as warm soil and fall rains allow plants to establish readily. GOMPS has compiled a list of current sources of native plants. Phone or e-mail for a copy .

contact the University President David Turpin at pres@uvic.ca, or write to:

The Office of the President
University of Victoria
BEC 454, PO BOX 1700 STN CSC
Victoria BC V8W 2Y2

Comments can be copied and sent to the University of Victoria Sustainability Project at uvsp@uvic.ca or

Sedgewick Building Rm C147
PO BOX 1700, STN CSC
Victoria BC V8W 2Y2

For more information on the Plan and its alternatives, contact Nancy Klenavic or Justine Stark at the POLIS Project - 472 4637, klenavic@uvic.ca

--by POLIS Project

CONTACT US

. . . . by phone **[250] 475-2024**

. . . . by e-mail **garry1oak@netscape.net**

. . . . on our website **www.garryoak.bc.ca**

MEMBERSHIP AND DONATIONS

Name _____

Address _____ **City** _____ **Prov** _____ **Postal Code** ____

E-Mail Address _____ **Telephone** _____

Membership Dues

☐ Individual $15

☐ Family $20

☐ Youth and Associate $6 [no newsletter]

☐ Donation $_____

Mail to Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society, A-954 Queens Avenue, Victoria V8T 1M6

GOMPS

The Garry Oak Leaflet

Official Newsletter of the
Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society

October, 2002 Vol. 9, No. 5

Heritage Oakling Takes Its Place at Government House

A young pedigreed Garry oak, donated by the Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society, was planted Sept. 10 at Government House in honour of Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee.

The seven-year-old oakling planted by Lieutenant-Governor Iona Campanola was grown from acorn by Dr. Pierre d'Estrube, GOMPS president. The little tree has a noble heritage--the acorn was off a magnificent heritage Garry oak on the grounds of the Royal Jubilee Hospital. The oak, designated by Saanich Council as a Significant Heritage Tree, witnessed the Diamond Jubilee of the Queen's great-great-grandmother, Queen Victoria, in 1897. The Jubilee hospital was named for the occasion.

Lt.-Governor Iona Campanola, shovel in hand, dedicates the Garry oaks.

Also planted was another Garry oak donated by Kimoff Wholesale Nursery. The Lieutenant Governor said that a return of the Garry oak meadow on Government House grounds is being encouraged by the removal of invasive species.

What's In a Name? Plenty When It Comes to Garry Oaks

Acronyms can be confusing. As biologist and board member *Hal Gibbard* points out in a recent article, GOMPS, GOERT, GORP and GEEK sound like utterances of lovelorn frogs.

Here he provides a course on Garry oak groups to help clear things up.

GOMPS—stands for the Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society formed in 1992 by local citizens concerned that woodland and meadows were rapidly disappearing as a result of development in the Capital Regional District. The society is dedicated to the preservation, protection and restoration of Garry oaks and their ecosystem. GOMPS engages in educational activities, lobbies governments and works on habitat restoration mainly by removing invasive alien plants. The society is authorized to hold conservation covenants.

Continued on Page 2

Urban Forests a Valuable Asset to Cities and Towns

The value of urban forests is of increasing concern not only to residents who live in cities and towns but to city officials. The value of urban trees is underlined by American Forests who describe themselves as a leader in planting trees for environmental restoration and a pioneer in the science and practice of urban forestry.

According to American Forests their Regional Ecosystem Analysis have been conducted for 10 years and have documented "a disturbing trend—urban areas are losing their trees at an alarming rate while impervious land covers like roads, have been increasing rapidly. Many city leaders don't realize this tree loss is costing them billions of dollars in ecological services like stormwater management."

As American Forests points out, there is hope of finding solutions to the problem of urban sprawl devouring our urban forests.

"When city managers measure the extent and value of their urban forests, they've taken the first important step. Communities can use this information to examine development and zoning requirements. Planners and builders can test design scenarios and measure the potential impact on trees, open space, the environment and ultimately their communities liveability." Check *www.americanforests.org.*

Acronyms—A Guide to Garry Oak Groups

Continued from Page 1

GOERT—is the Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team formed in 1999 following a resolution passed at a seminar held at the University of Victoria. The team consists of concerned scientists, land and resource managers and planners and others dedicated to producing a comprehensive recovery strategy. The strategy for saving the Garry oak ecosystem and helping species at risk survive has been written and in the process of being approved by government. GOERT has two permanent positions funded. Unlike GOMPS, this organization does not lobby on behalf of the trees.

GORP—is the Garry Oak Restoration Project, formed in 1999, as an initiative of the Municipality of Saanich. There are six people who form the core of this group, three are Saanich employees.

This program aims to educate residents of Saanich about the value of the Garry oak ecosystem. A "living laboratory " approach is used which has several demonstration sites selected for restoration. The sites are accessible to the public, and community and schools are encouraged to participate. There are now 10 sites and partnerships have been established with Camosun College, Royal Oak Middle School and Campus View Elementary. Invasive species are removed and restoration plans drafted.

GEEK—The Garry Oak Ecosystem Education Kit was launched in January, 2001 by the Municipality of Saanich. GEEK consists of a coalition of organizations and individuals who provide kits for educators of young people. While all the above organizations are involved, the Habitat Stewardship Program, the World Wildlife Fund and the Nature Conservancy of Canada, BC Region provided initial funding.

Asquith Street Block Party Celebrates the Garry Oak

Residents of the Oaklands area recently lost an important part of their natural heritage when a large Garry oak had to be felled. But those folks who live in the 2700-block of Asquith Street made sure the passing of the oak did not go unnoticed. And what's more—they held a block party to plant another tree.

One night at 10:30 a large Garry oak (133 rings counted) on the boulevard split three feet down the middle. It had been pruned in the typical V to avoid contact with electrical wires.

"As one part of it was hanging over a house and the other over the road, it was considered an emergency," says Pat Johnston, a native plant garden consultant, invited to attend the party and speak about her own garden and the Oaklands Greenway Project. Hydro and city crews were called out and neighbors watched as the tree came down.

As for the memorial celebration:
"What an event," says Pat, "They began with a ceremony. Everyone sat around the Garry oak stump." The group heard from Dave and Terry Robinson, the couple who lived on the block the longest—35 years. Most of the speakers stood on top of the stump including Jim Sereda whose house was nearly destroyed by the falling tree. Afterwards, one of the youngest residents, one-year-old Circe Campbell, ably assisted by her grandmother Carol Williams, planted a Garry oak seedling at the base of the stump.

Resident Ludo Bertsch explained how the celebration came about: "We thought, wouldn't it be nice to celebrate with a party. It's a shame the tree gave its life (for our comfort)." The occasion called for music by local musicians and a potluck dinner.

"I was sitting there with tears in my eyes," says Pat, "Here were neighbors who came together as a result of the death of a tree. That's what it's all about as far as I am concerned."

Ludo Bertsch says people on the street have other plans to restore the Garry oak ecosystem and they plan a count of the Garry oaks in the neighborhood. Their website is *http://blockparty.dnip.net*

Residents of the 2700-block Asquith honor the fallen Garry oak and dedicate a young oak to a green future for everyone in the Oaklands area. They celebrated the life of the old tree and the planting of a new one with a block party.

Retailers: CRD

Arbutus Grove Nursery Ltd.
9721 West Saanich Road
North Saanich, BC
Phone: 656-4162

Cannor Nurseries
4659 Elk Lake Drive
Victoria, BC
Phone: 658-5415

Pacific Ponds & Water Gardens
8370 E. Saanich Road
Saanichton, BC
Phone: 652-5028

Queenswood Nurseries
6458 Central Saanich Road
Central Saanich, BC
Phone: 652-1443

Russell Nursery
1370 Wain Road
North Saanich, BC V8L 5V1
Phone: 656-0384

Woodland Native Plant Nursery
4060 Happy Valley Road
Victoria, BC V9C 3X8
Phone: 812-5930

Other Sources

Streamside Native Plants
RR # 1, Site 160 Comp 27
Bowser, B.C.
V0R 1G0
Located at 3222 Grant Road in Courtenay, off Hwy. 19 exit 117.
Tel. (250) 338-7509

Wildside Nursery
1770 Corrigal Road
Denman Island BC V0R 1T0
(250) 335-1379

Fraser's Thimble Farm
175 Arbutus Road
Saltspring Island, BC V8K 1A3
Phone: (250) 537-5788

Natural Resource Native Plant Nursery
2466 Roome Road
Duncan BC V9L 4L2
(250) 748-0684

Woodgate Native Plant Services
Box 508, Duncan, BC V9L 3X8
Phone: (250) 748-2558

Linnaea Nurseries Ltd
3666 – 224th Street
Langley, BC V2Z 2G7
Phone: (604) 533-8281

Madrone Restoration Nursery
1877 Herd Road
Duncan, BC V9L 5W4
Phone (250) 746-0115

Yellow Point Propagation
13735 Quennell Rd. RR#3
Ladysmith, BC, V0R 2E0
Phone (250) 245-4635

Dawson Seed Company Ltd
17802 - 66th Ave, Bldg B
Surrey, BC V3S 7X1

Copperbush Seeds
Box 61
Port Alberni BC V9Y 7M6

Publication of this list is not an endorsement. More sources will be published as received.

Restoring a Biological Treasure: Living Among Garry Oaks

by M. D. Meagher, professional forester (ret.), forest geneticist/breeder and H. J. Gibbard, biologist

Garry oak (*Quercus garryana*), British Columbia's only oak species, occurs in a small area of rainshadow on the southern coast characterized by mild, wet, winters and warm, dry, summers. It's Canada's "Mediterranean coast" (where natural cactus grows!). In the south-eastern Georgia Strait area visitors find large oaks in pastures and throughout housing areas. The trees can last a long time: ring counts from stumps can exceed 400 years. Yet, big oaks can be surprisingly young. A tree with a stem diameter of 1.05 m. and Crown diameter of 30 m. (felled for a parking garage) was only 125 years old.

In unmodified areas of a Garry oak ecosystem, visitors will be dazzled by the profusion and variety of vernal blooms, lasting from February to June. The most famous of these is the indigo blue of Camas flowers, a legacy of First Nations' culture of periodic burning in late summer to maintain open meadows for easy collecting of its nutritious bulbs.

The deep soils of those meadows were converted to farms and settlements, leaving native plants mostly on rocky uplands and shorelines. Where they remained among houses, the oaks' associated species, about 90 of which are now rated "At risk", including several vertebrates and over 30 insects that rely only on Garry oak, were replaced by showy and familiar (and water-demanding) imported favorites and lawns. Currently, only about 1% of the original Garry oak ecosystem remains unmodified by settlement.

Many scientists and naturalists including those employed by the BC Government and the University of Victoria are looking for the solution. The more they look at the Garry oak ecosystem, the more surprises they find. There are rare plants (often with close affinity to Californian elements, where Garry oak occurs), plus rare insects, birds and reptiles. Since Garry oak is the keystone species to their habitat, lobbying to retain the trees began in the 1980s, with formation in 1992 of the Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society.

Since then, tree-protection bylaws have been passed by most municipal councils in the Greater Victoria area, but the minimal diameter of protected trees is generally 10 cm., meaning that regeneration to replace our current stands on private lands may never occur. With annual removal and natural mortality averaging about 2%, our current urban forest is on the way to near extinction.

Existing stands are under threat from a variety of introduced organisms including Scotch broom, gorse, Himalayan blackberry, ivy and meadow grasses. The introduced Eastern grey squirrel and starlings prey on native birds. Furthermore, several introduced insects are attacking the oaks: the oak leaf *phylloxeran*, the jumping gall wasp, and the gypsy moth; the latest threat may be "Sudden oak death" due to *Phytophthora ramorum*, which has devastated native oaks in California and Oregon.

The operative strategy to save Garry oak meadows includes both site securement and restoration, with emphasis on trials to test and refine practices. This will mean a lot of persuasion and persistence against current

Continued on the back page

CONTACT US

. . . . by phone **[250] 475-2024**

. . . . by e-mail garry1oak@netscape.net

. . . . on our website **www.garryoak.bc.ca**

MEMBERSHIP AND DONATIONS

Name _____

Address _____ **City** _____ **Prov** _____ **Postal Code** _____

E-Mail Address _____ **Telephone** _____

Membership Dues

☐ Individual $15

☐ Family $20

☐ Youth and Associate $6 [no newsletter]

☐ Donation $_____

Mail to Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society, A-954 Queens Avenue, Victoria V8T 1M6

Setting the Tone for Future Urban Forests

Continued from Page 5

practices on public lands, and owner's rights on private lands. Happily, some local authorities are willing to use zoning powers and covenants to designate lands in proposed housing areas for "environmental" purposes, and more people are willing to try native plants in their gardens, if only to reduce the need to irrigate.

If all goes well, Garry oaks may set the tone for future urban forests: ones featuring connected areas of natural habitat, including native trees of a variety of ages, some of them "wildlife trees" (dead trees left standing, perhaps topped to reduce risk), to other smaller habitats for the benefit of the many other species that require our trees for their survival – and our benefit. Other issues such as the supply of native plants must be addressed.

Our experience is that committed volunteers are needed to persuade local authorities of the need and benefits to be gained by regarding trees as important habitats, not just as sources of shade, and leaves to be raked.

GOMPS

The Garry Oak Leaflet

Official Newsletter of the
Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society

December, 2002 Vol. 9, No. 6

Residents and City Create Wilmer Green Park

The Wilmer Green/Maddison Lane Neighbourhood Stewardship Group has worked for six years to enhance the green space where they live and return it to the natural beauty that it was—a Garry oak meadow.

The project recently won the Greenways Achievement Award from the Provincial Capital Commission.

This fall Victoria Mayor Alan Lowe dedicated the Wilmer Green Park. There are actually two parks Wilmer Green and Margaret's Grove. These parks are connected by a narrow roadway referred to as Maddison Lane.

Victoria Mayor Alan Lowe digs in at Wilmer Green with neighbour Manu Ronse(right).

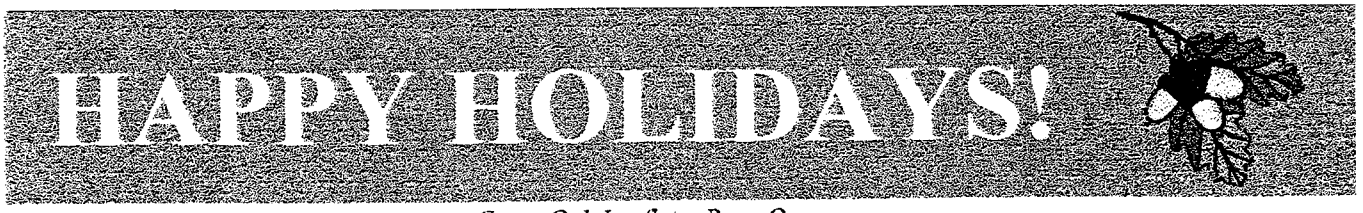
The City of Victoria created Wilmer Green Park when land at the corner of Maddison Lane and Wilmer Street was transformed from road allowance to park. Garry oak seedlings and other native plants such as wild roses and Snowberries were planted.

Margaret's Grove, located at the junction of Maddison Lane and Lawndale Ave is a Garry oak meadow boasting large Garry oaks

In 1996, local resident Mrs. Margaret Perry donated the land to the City of Victoria to create a park.

The city does the landscape maintenance of Wilmer Green, Margaret's Grove and Maddison Lane. The landscaping is managed to encourage native plants especially the wildflowers

(continued on Page 2)



De Vine Intervention—Getting Rid of English Ivy

If you are into ivy bashing you might as well do it right. An informative website posted by The Ivy Removal Project headquartered in Forest Park, Portland, Oregon offers information on why English ivy is bad stuff and it even provides how-to demonstrations of proper removal of this invasive species. In a piece on their website at www.noivyleague.com/Pages/ivy_removal.html they say:

"We remove it by hand in Forest Park because its waxy cuticle makes it virtually impervious to typical herbicide applications; the terrain of Forest Park makes mechanical removal impractical without other major damage Our goal is to restore the native habitat not just kill ivy.

"We have set aside areas to test how the native plants recover once ivy is removed. The native plants rebound with surprising speed. So ivy removal is also a restoration activity."

The website offers information on everything from Freeing Trees to What To Do with All That Ivy once you've pulled it. Motto of the project is "De Vine Intervention".

Here's a tip called The Lifesaver for removing ivy from a tree: "You start pulling up as much ivy as possible and as deep as possible around the base of the tree. Keep extending the pulled area around the base until the pulled area is at least six feet from the base all the way around. This is the tree's lifesaver."

Wilmer Green Group Eyes Another Possible Park

(continued from Page 1)

such as fawn lilies and blue camas. To protect the flowers, grass-cutting is delayed until early summer when the flowers have finished blooming.

The opportunity to create a third park area on Maddison Lane exists opposite Margaret's Grove. The lot at 943 Wilmer Street is home to a magnificient stand of mature Garry oaks and other native vegetation. The current owners of the property have plans to develop part of the lot and are working with the neighbourhood to explore options to protect the large oaks.

Members of the Wilmer Green/Maddison Lane Neighbourhood Stewardship Group see these small green spaces as a "jewel" in the East Fairfield/Gonzales area. Those who live around this green corridor have an affinity for the rural feel and natural beauty of the area and appreciate the Garry oaks, wildflowers and grasses that grow along the boulevards. Cyclist, walkers and runners use Maddison Lane as a corridor between Oak Bay Avenue and Fairfield.

The Stewardship Group has set a fine example of what citizens can accomplish to protect and restore the natural beauty of the Victoria area. In summary, they have not only created parks but they restricted parking, initiated the planting of 12 oak trees, promoted the growth of wildflowers and are now working to preserve a privately owned mature stand of six Garry oaks.

This article is an edited version of one written by Martha Barchyn with photos supplied by Amanda Harby.

Saanich Expands Mount Douglas Park

Mount Douglas Park has expanded, thanks to Saanich Municipality.

Mayor Frank Leonard and Saanich Council announced that the municipality acquired 4.75 acres of property on Blenkinsop Road to expand the park. The land was purchased for $62,500 per acre. Saanich has spent $2.1 million during the past 10 years to purchase over 17 acres of land next to the park.

With pockets of Arbutus and Garry oak, as well as a stand of Douglas fir, the most recently purchased property provides a more natural boundary for the western slope of Mount Douglas Park.

Saanich will retain this forested property in a natural state, thereby enhancing the municipality's commitment to and investment in natural area protection.

Council will fund the acquisition of the property from the Mount Douglas Transmitter Site revenue.

Time to Renew?

For a majority of GOMPS members it's time to check your address label and renew your membership. We expect a busy year, let's make it a happy one!

How Meaningful is the Name Garry Oak?

GOMPS vice-president Hal Gibbard passes along an opinion piece which appeared on BEN (Botanical Electronic News). The subject is the importance of the common name "Oregon white oak" as opposed to *Quercus garryana* or Garry oak. Hal prefers Garry oak but the point Darren Borgias makes is that the common name is more descriptive. What do you think?

Here's part of what Borgias has to say: "The Oregon white oak is just that. It is a white oak, with rounded leaf lobes, not a black oak, or a red oak or a cork oak, or an evergreen oak, or a huckleberry oak, or a tan oak. This is an important distinction about which "Garry" tells us little. Who was Garry, again?"

Garry was Nicholas Garry, deputy governor of the Hudson's Bay Company and for whom the city of Winnipeg was once named Fort Garry.

"It is not surprising," say Borgias, "That the preference for the use of 'Garry oak' appears somewhat provincial, expressed most strongly by Canadians and some USA citizens trained in or in close proximity to Canada. It must be somewhat galling that the predominant usage throughout the vast majority of the range of the plant fails to recognize an important icon of the British Empire and the Canadian historic experience."

CONTACT US

.... *by phone* **[250] 475-2024**

.... *by e-mail* **garry1oak@netscape.net**

.... *on our website* **www.garryoak.bc.ca**

GOMPS

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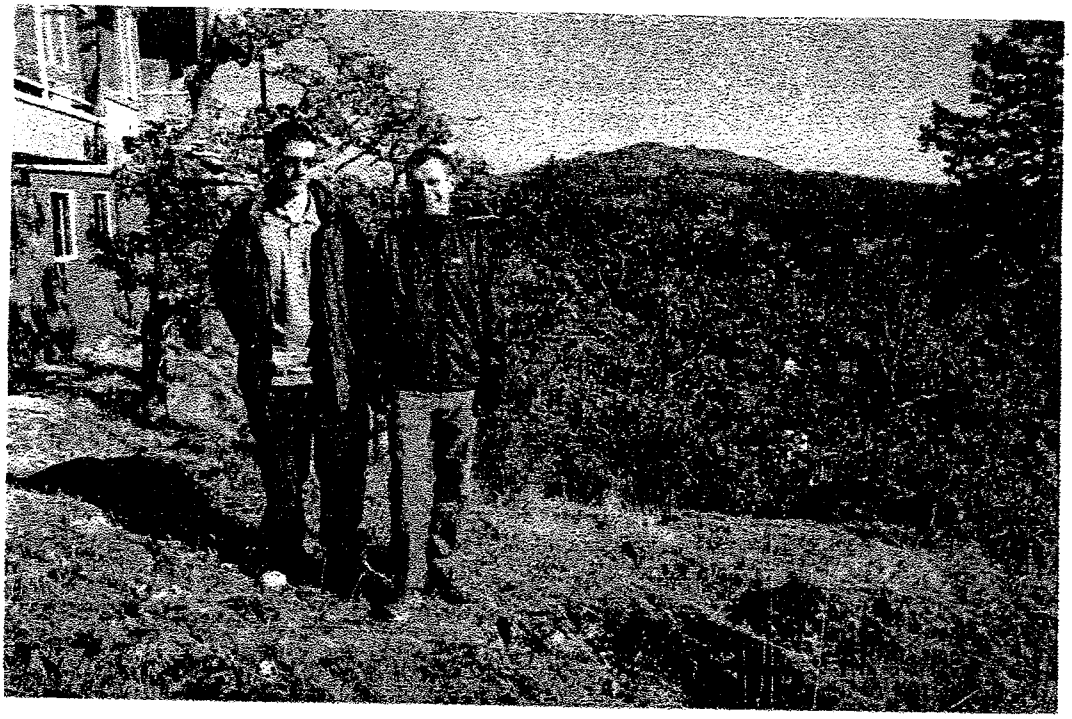
GOMPS

The Garry Oak Leaflet

Official Newsletter of the
Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society

February, 2003 **Vol. 10, No. 1**



James Cassels (left) and Greg McCallum at Greystone Estates in Broadmead where they have worked to recover a Garry oak ecosystem. *See story on Page 3.*

Achievement Awards to Highlight AGM

Three very special awards will be presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society March 30 at 1:30 p.m. at the Swan Lake Nature House.

Three groups who have put forth significant effort to recover and preserve Garry oak meadows in our area will be honoured. They are the Wilmer Green/Maddison Lane Neighbourhood Stewardship Group, Greystone Estates and Peacock Hill. Each will have the opportunity to talk about their projects and share their experience with those attending the annual meeting.

The last issue of the Leaflet featured an article on the Wilmer Green project. This issue explains the considerable efforts of the group at Greystone Estates as well as an article on Al Henley whose incredible efforts have worked magic at Peacock Hill.

So, if you are looking for inspiration, be sure to attend the AGM. Refreshments will be served.

Treatment for sudden oak death possible

A plant disease specialist at the University of California at Berkley has discovered a potential treatment for sudden oak death.

According to a news report in the Bay area *Mercury News*, Matteo Garbelotto told a conference on sudden oak death that an application of common fungicides known as phosphonates could spell the difference between life and death from sudden oak disease, especially if given before or just after the tree is infected.

It won't be a universal cure, he said, trees that are highly susceptible to the fungus disease will probably still die "and those that are very resistant would probably survive anyway." But for trees that fall in between, the fungicides could be effective, he said.

Sudden oak death has devastated trees in California and has cropped up in Oregon and in Europe. It has spread to 22 plant species including redwoods and Douglas-fir and most recently to salmonberry, poison oak, cascara and Western starflower.

Garbelotto's group has been testing potential treatments on young tanoaks and coast live oaks, two of the species hit hardest in California.

A research Colloquium sponsored by the Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team will be held Feb. 28 and March 1 at the Pacific Forestry Centre, 506 West Burnside Road. This is a free colloquium but pre-registration is required.

The GOERT Research colloquium is an opportunity to exchange progress, results, ideas and proposals and improve collaboration on current and future research relevant to Garry oak ecosystems and associated species at risk.

The colloquium will be followed by a social evening at the Cricket Club. On the following day a free field trip to a local Garry oak site will provide participants with an opportunity to learn firsthand about some of the research being conducted in Garry oak ecosystems.

To attend the colloquium and the field trip you must register by Feb. 21 by contacting Dr. M. Meagher at Pacific Forestry Centre--email mmeagher@pfc.forestry.ca. Fax: 250-363-0775. Presentations are being solicited. Please contact Dr. Meagher by Feb. 21.

Greystone Estates Recovers Garry Oak Ecosystem

Greystone Estates, located on a hilltop in south Broadmead at Maltwood Lane will receive a GOMPS award for its sponsorship of and support for the efforts of resident Greg McCallum, a school teacher, and Claremont student James Cassels.

"The result of their work is truly impressive," says GOMPS executive member Michael Meagher, "Young oaks have been released and native flowers are springing up where before only broom could be seen. The more the residents saw the benefits, the more they wanted cleared."

Meagher says some young Douglas-firs overtopping oaks were cut. Clearing along a Saanich trail through the complex was approved by the municipality.

"Greg has taken this energy to his job as teacher at Royal Oak Middle School where restoration by students and teachers of a small area of Garry oaks has begun. Guidance and support has been provided by Saanich's Garry Oak Restoration Project and Pat Johnston of GOMPS, a native plant garden consultant.

"Such local initiatives and dedication are the keys to recapturing BC's remarkable and endangered Garry oak ecosystems. Our warm congratulations and thanks to Greystone Estates," says Meagher.

Peacock Hill Blooms Again Thanks to Alan

Alan Henley's inspiration to recover a Garry oak meadow in Peacock Hill Park in Saanich came about 10 years ago. From a window in his home on Tolmie Avenue he could see beyond the 10-foot high blackberry bushes that were taking over the trees. He could see beyond the broom, the broken glass and the garbage that found its way into the park.

After years of hard work, Henley uncovered the treasure beneath all that—a Garry oak meadow. For his work in reviving this habitat, GOMPS will award Henley a Certificate of Achievement at the AGM March 30.

Henley began his labor of love by wearing protective clothing and a broad-brimmed hat to tackle the blackberry brambles that were killing plants.

"I cut big canes into short pieces and left them underfoot to compost on the spot. Eventually, grass and wildflowers started to come back. The camas came back very quickly and the oaks did well. There are probably a hundred oaks here. It's a wonderful spot," he says.

The park boasts huge outcroppings of rock typical of Garry oak meadow. Now, in February there are hundreds of snowdrops and many ferns, precursors to the wildflower display to come. And, says Henley, there are people in the park too.

Biology Co-op Student to Study Garry oaks

Felice Griffiths, a Co-op student in the Biology department, University of Victoria is working for a term at the Royal B.C. Museum doing research into Garry oaks. Felice will concentrate on two aspects: where the trees are and the soil conditions under which they are growing. She will be working under the supervision of Dr. Richard Hebda, Curator of Botany.

At its February meeting, the GOMPS board heard from Anne Parkinson, Co-op coordinator in the Biology Co-operaive Education Program at UVic. Anne spoke of the Service Learning Internship Program under which GOMPS received a grant from UVic to cover 75 per cent of Felice's work term salary with the museum covering the remaining portion.

We are looking forward to hearing from Felice about the project in a future newsletter

CONTACT US

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Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society

April, 2003 **Vol. 10, No.2**

Three GOMPS Awards Handed Out at AGM

From left to right, Sylvia von Schuckmann and Manu Ronse of the Wilmer Green/Maddison Lane Neighbourhood Stewardship Group receive an award from GOMPS president Pierre D'Estrube at the annual general meeting March 30 at Swan Lake Nature House. All three award winners told their stories. The Wilmer Green representatives emphasized the sense of community that developed in their endeavor. Alan Henley, who received his award for recovering the Garry oak ecosystem at Peacock Hill Park, spoke of the history of the park, and Greg McCallum and James Cassels talked about the considerable physical effort it took to uncover the Garry oak meadow at Greystone Estates and the enthusiastic support that developed over time among residents.

Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society Board of Directors

President: Hal Gibbard
Treasurer: Pierre D'Estrube
Secretary: Michael Meagher

Tom Gillespie
Pat Johnston
Sue Wilson and Jerri Lee

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GARRY OAK MEADOW PRESERVATION SOCIETY

President's Report 2002 – 2003

The Board of Directors of GOMPS has laboured extensively this past year pursuing our Society's mandate to stem, where possible, the devastating onslaught on what is left of a precious and unique Garry oak ecosystem that we are privileged to inhabit. The egocentric wants of our rapacious society seem virtually unlimited and unstoppable, especially when the rights of private property ownership are deemed sacrosanct. Despite this disheartening reality, there are signs that this past half century's stampeding destructiveness may be decelerating somewhat as a result of growing public environmental concerns fostered in part by the educational campaigns and rescuing activities of youthful groups and by societies such as ours. Since our pioneering inception in the 1990's, the proliferation of allied organizations joined in our common cause has been astounding. As a result most of our directors participate in other committees and bodies, such as the Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team (GOERT), the Garry Oak Restoration Project (GORP), and the Garry Oak Ecosystem Education Kit (GEEK), and the Significant Tree Committee of Saanich Council. Updates on each are presented monthly to our Board.

Frequently exhibiting our GOMPS info display panels, we have participated in, or supported, various research seminars and environmental festivities, the numbers and title of which would fill this page!

Our Board of Director's numbers have waxed and waned, with a net gain of three. We are always on the lookout for new Board candidates or interested GOMPS members to join us as auxiliaries at our monthly Board meeting. Our revitalizing energy resources include Sue Wilson (also working with The Land Conservancy – TLC), Jerri Lee (professional reporter and instructor and now editor of the Garry Oak Leaflet), and Pat Johnston (Native Plant Gardens Consultant).

Pat has been spending an inordinate amount of time in researching and processing applications for grants to fund the services of a part-time managing director for GOMPS to improve our ability to reach our goals. We suffer from insufficient man/woman power. So far her efforts have met with "near miss" frustrations, but she is still persevering.

Since one of our main functions is educating and communicating, we are fortunate to have acquired Jerri with her expertise in resurrecting our Garry Oak Leaflet. We have been sorely in need of reminding our membership of our relevance and need for greater participation.

The labours of Paul Gareau and his crew in GOMPS' early years with its oak tree inventory are gradually being appreciated as, so far, some municipalities and government agencies are showing interest in the data for their use.

Our secretary Mike Meagher has maintained his high energy output and standard of precisely drafted Board meeting minutes, replete with valuable data, (e-mail addresses, websites, etc.) while dealing with correspondence, writing letters to newspapers, visiting the remote mainland Garry oak sites at Sumas Mountain and Yale, where he has contacted the local First Nations people and petitioned the CNR and Highways

Department to protect these miniature stands. He has also been keeping growth ring records on felled oaks in a study of age versus girth variations.

Our website (www.garryoak.bc.ca) is being upgraded and our one year's experience with telephone voice mail (250 4752024) has been gratifying. Our Vice President, Hal Gibbard, has fielded over eighty calls so far. He has, in addition to his many other functions, kept tabs on the Gypsy moth monitoring program, and instigated the adoption of a logo for GOMPS. He is working on establishing and promoting the dollar value of oaks in enhancing the worth of real estate in this area.

Tom Gillespie, our Treasurer and a founding member of G.O.M.P.S. maintains his involvement and keeps a vigilant eye on its affairs- his report is attached.

We held a meeting with Anne Parkinson, Biology Co-op Coordinator at U.Vic. to work out a strategy in our role as an N.G.O. in the conveyance of monies for funding research projects to be done by U.Vic.students. We are currently co-sponsoring the work of Felice Griffiths under the direction of Dr. Richard Hebda on oak-related soil studies.

We have taken part in the meetings of the U.Vic Campus Development Committee and its counterpart POLIS, a mainly student-organized campus group engaged in championing the unique natural habitat of the campus and opposing the needlessly destructive options being considered. Threatened is an ecologically sensitive zone of woodlands and water catchment area flanking the west and south borders of the campus. GOMPS is particularly concerned about a patch of neglected Garry oak ecosystem, where restoration could be used as a teaching and research area. We have written letters to individual members of the Board of Governors urging them to consider the benefits of conservation to the University.

Further to the east, at Henderson and Cedar Hill Crossroad, following a meeting on-site with former President Dr. Howard Petch and former Chancellor Dr. William Gibson two years ago, we have been invited to consult on a pilot reclamation project of a Garry oak meadow being undertaken by the Department of Restoration of Natural Systems.

We have been monitoring land use and development plans throughout various neighborhoods. Where possible, we have tried to persuade owners and the authorities to choose least damaging solutions. To a considerable extent we have been successful. Saanich Municipality, to its credit, of all the core municipalities, has been our most enlightened and progressive ally, although frustrations are still being encountered (Breafoot Planning Area). Investigated sites include: the Commonwealth Health Center, Beam Crescent, EasterAvenue, Cridge Center, Conway Road, Pipeline Road, Richmond Road roundabout, to name a few. Mike has taken Colwood Municipality to task over its planting of exotic, non-Garry oaks (!) in their landscaping near Juan de Fuca recreation center. He sent them a list of nurseries growing Gary oaklings. At the invitation of its owner we visited Wolf Island (off Metchosin) to assess the significance of a small Garry oak meadow on the south end. We have distributed GOMPS brochures to municipalities and a large number to CRD Parks. In response to Community Connections for a "Call for Stories", we submitted a short essay on GOMPS' contributions to their "Quality of Life Challenge". By 2006 it is hoped one thousand stories will be shared over its website (www.qolchallenge.ca), through the media and at celebrations. Also, we submitted an article to an Urban Forests conference at Guelph last

Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society

Financial Statement for 2002

Income:

membership dues	$ 1,125.oo
donations---general	$ 485.oo
Hawk Home fund donations	$ 1,000.oo
interest on bank account	$ 406.37
rebate on General Sales Tax	$ 119.70
sales of tree posters	$ 145.oo
TERP grant for GOERT	$16,384.oo

total income: **$ 19,665.07**

Expenditures:

charitable donations	$ 4,500.oo
newsletter	$ 509.44
society annual registry fee	$ 25.00
Postage and office expenses	$ 55.10
Honorarium	$ 500.oo
GOERT Expenses	$ 24.oo
TERP Project	$36,384.oo
Telephone	$ 717.05
Travel expenses	$ 19.66
Support Initiatives	$ 115.oo

total expenses: **$ 42,849.25**

excess of expenses over income $ 23,184.18

This excess of expenses shows a carryover of $20,000. for the TERP Project from the 2001 Balance Sheet and also the closure of the Hawk Home Fund amounting to $4,000. by donation to Saanich Municipality to help pay for land purchased on Christmas Hill to add to the Swan Lake Nature Lands.

All accounts held by Pacific Coast Savings Credit Union

General Account Balance as of December 31 2002	$ 1,588.98
Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team	$ 454.32
One year term bond due Dec.1---2003	$ 6,000.oo
Net assets as of December 31 2002	**$ 8,043.30**

Shell Canada grant as liability—segregated bank entry --- $ 1,950.oo

Memberships as of December 31 2002
Regular Adult 35 Family 30
with 65 households representing 95 members Free Subscriptions 11

N. F. Ostrule President

T. N. Gillespie Treasurer

MARCH 5 2003 Date:

July. The excellent Photo of a Garry oak ecosystem supplied by Tim Ennis of the Nature Conservancy of Canada was the lead illustration!

Mike and I met with Ken Millard on Galiano Island to make our yearly covenant inspection visit of Retreat Island where we were pleasantly hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Riddington part owners and guardians of this precious nature preserve. They have done wonderful restorative work removing invasive species.

We continue our campaign against English ivy and we hope that upcoming by-law changes (at least in Saanich) will equip us with more effective backing when approaching private property owners.

When Rogers' Farm subdivision planning began in the mid-nineties, GOMPS was anxious to ensure that farmland designated in the Local Area Plan for addition to the Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary be acquired. A "seed money" fund was started named the Hawk Home Fund after a family of Red-tailed hawks nesting in a Garry oak meadow portion to be saved. Fortunately the newly formed Land Conservancy (TLC) and Saanich joined forces with us and took over the mammoth funding task of an even larger conservation area for the sanctuary, a project which is still ongoing. Having reached the limits of our financing efforts, we had a cordial meeting with Saanich's mayor to acquaint him with the aims and activities of GOMPS and the disposition of our Hawk Home Fund. Shortly after, at a meeting of Saanich Council your President explained GOMPS' mandate, then Sharron Waite, director and founder of the fund, turned over a cheque of $4000 for debt retirement of the land purchase. Katie Stewart, co-founder and ex-President of GOMPS, was also present. Thus was wrapped up an uncharacteristic venture for GOMPS!

On the 10th of September, 2002, Her Honour Lt. Governor Iona Campanola, commemorating Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee graciously officiated at the ceremony of transplanting two Garry oaklings at Government House. One was of pedigreed stock, donated by GOMPS. Eight years old, it had been grown from the acorn of a magnificent Garry oak on the Royal Jubilee Hospital grounds and had witnessed, in 1897, Queen Elizabeth's great-great-grandmother Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. The Hospital was named for that occasion. The mother tree, spared from destruction with the building of the new cancer clinic still stands, and its vigorous acorns are now sprouting yet a new generation at the Pacific Forestry Centre.

We were pleased with the invitation to join in the celebrations of the dedication of Wilmer Green Park. We are equally pleased that its toiling stewards will receive today, GOMPS' Achievement Recognition Award, along with representatives of Greystone Estates and Alan Henley of Peacock Hill Park.

To close, I am pleased to step aside (I hope) after four years as your President, having enjoyed the inspiring company and cooperative energy of a hard working Board of Directors. We are always looking for other enthusiasts to join us.

Respectfully submitted,

Pierre F. d'Estrubé

GOMPS

The Garry Oak Leaflet

Official Newsletter of the
Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society

June, 2003 **Vol. 10, No.3**

People and Trees

How Much are Urban Forests Really Worth?

The Garry oak ecosystem in Beacon Hill Park is not only beautiful but it provides oxygen to the many Victorians who live in the area.

People talk about the value of an unobstructed sea view but what about the value of having trees on your property or in city parks? Eighty percent of Canadians live in cities and many are beginning to recognize the value of urban forests.

An urban forest is defined by Dr. Andy Kenney of the Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto in his introduction *to Canada's Urban Forests: A Collection of Stories* published at the University of Guelph as "a single consolidated forest composed of flora and fauna within the urbanized area that facilitates the social, economic and ecological well-being of the community."

Canada's Urban Forests is a collection of stories featuring efforts made by people across Canada to save city forests.

The value of trees is measured by the oxygen they provide, as well as the shade and the absorption of runoff they offer. Kenney says when properly managed, urban forests reduce energy demands by creating shade and by indirectly cooling air through evaporation of water from leaf surfaces. In winter, trees provide a windbreak thus reducing heating demands.

The majority of urban forest lies in the front and back yards of a city's residents. In Victoria, much of the original forest has disappeared.

Continued on Page 2

Calculating the Value of Nature

Continued from Page 1

Urban forests can affect global warming by removing tons of carbon monoxide from the atmosphere. Trees absorb and process carbon dioxide converting potent greenhouse gas into oxygen.

American Forests reports that in its Regional Ecosystem Analysis for the Willamette/Lower Columbia Region of northwest Oregon and southwest Washington state they have been able to calculate the value of trees. The canopy cover in the area is currently 24 per cent. Using a model of 30 per cent would make a startling annual difference in the value of storm water runoff control. At the current 24 per cent the value is $140 million US while if the canopy were 30 per cent the value would increase to $256 million US annually.

Air pollution removal value at 24 per cent is $419 million US. If the canopy were 30 per cent, the value of pollution removal would be $568 million US annually. Total carbon stored . in tons at 24 per cent is 73 million while at 30 per cent it would be 123 million tons. Carbon sequestered annually at 24 per cent is 563,000 tons while at 30 per cent it would be 900,000 tons.

The study also revealed that in the city of Vancouver, Washington, storm water management by trees has an annual value of $2,296,882 US to the city and the value of air pollution removal is $1,218,291 US. The same report indicates tree cover in urban areas is down from 21 per cent in 1972 to 12 per cent in 2,000. It is obvious that related losses in value should generate public policy development.

"While tree cover is declining through the region," the study says, "the most prominent statistic is the gap between existing tree cover and the recommended tree cover needed to offset the ecological effects of increasing populations."

Tree Loss Costs Money says American Forests

American Forests is a world leader in planting trees for environmental restoration. For more than 10 years they have documented disturbing trends—that indicate urban areas are losing their trees at an alarming rate while "impervious land covers like roads have been increasing rapidly. Many city leaders don't realize this tree loss is costing them billions of dollars in ecological services like storm water management."

Washington State "Oak Folks" Visits

by Michael Meagher

GOMPS was invited to two Garry oak events in Washington State recently—a Garry Oak Conservation Workshop in Friday Harbor on May 31st, and a visit with oak workers in Sequim on June 7th.

Terry Domico (biosurvey@usa.com) of the San Juan Islands Native Plant Society organized the Friday Harbor event. Several speakers addressed topics covering the need to preserve the oaks, wildlife and insect values of Garry oaks, the use of fire in oak, ecosystems, oak seedling growth and transplanting, oak restoration plans for the San Juan Islands National Historic Park, and the option of trusts to preserve oak habitats. BC "oakers" were represented by Brian Reader of Parks Canada, also Chair of the Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery team (GOERT), Marilyn Fuchs and Chris Junck of GOERT, and Pierre d'Estrube and Mike Meagher of GOMPS. Mike outlined GOMPS' role in galvanizing citizen participation to press local governments to protect and restore oak habitats, and to engage schools in suitable activities. Brian reviewed GOERT's role as scientific authority and sponsor of restoration, plus research and education. He outlined plans and progress in establishing Canada's newest National Park in the Gulf Islands. Plenty of GOMPS and GOERT brochures and posters were distributed, as were GOERT Field Guides to Species at Risk and Invasive Species in Garry Oak Ecosystems. Field trip sites included phased removal of competing conifers and a visit to English Camp, where invasive conifers of considerable size were dead after being attacked a few years in succession by larvae of the native hemlock looper. Regrettably, "The usual suspects" species of invasive plants (broom, blackberry, Daphne and meadow grass) were in evidence. Our visit was in some doubt due to awkward ferry schedules until Terry's friend Jim Maya, a whale tours operator, offered a free trip both ways. The return cruise featured a route offering a view of a large pelagic cormorant rookery – with a peregrine falcon nest in the middle! The definition of peaceful coexistence.

The following Saturday GOMPS (Pierre d'Estrube, Mike Meagher, George Edwards and Patrick Daigle) were guests of Anita MacMillan, Wildlife Biologist, Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Port Angeles (aniam@olympus.net) to visit the Sequim Prairie, where DNR has recently purchased some land, and adjacent land supporting Garry oaks. These oaks are the most-westerly Garry oaks in the state. We also met Bob Steelquist, who has documented all local oaks and knows of several people interested in their protection. Local city law "protects" oaks, but is poorly enforced. Anita has funds to establish a drip irrigation system so that oaks planted there on the very sandy/gravelly outwash soils might survive planting. However, full use of these funds depends somewhat on obtaining volunteer workers. Bob has grown oaks from local sources, whereas some trees planted by Sequim came from "Canada". Some oaks occur on school land, so there is a good chance of engaging students at all levels in education and restoration. Oaks occur also on slopes above the Prairie, some needing release from Douglas-firs, which Anita is willing to try. Bob is interested in another visit, stating he "could fill several halls" with interested people.

Factors Limiting the Distribution of Garry oak in Southwestern British Columbia

by Felice Griffiths

This spring, with support from the Royal BC Museum, the Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society and the University of Victoria, I completed a four-month Co-op work term at the Royal BC Museum under the supervision of Richard Hebda, looking at the distribution of Garry oak in BC. Climate is thought to be a major limiting factor of Garry oak; the basis for this project was to get a better idea of factors in addition to climate that may limit the distribution of Garry oak. Factors considered were elevation, distance from the coast, aspect, climate, competition, soil type, geology and surficial geology. We obtained locational data for Garry oak sites from herbaria, site visits, Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory maps and contributions from local residents. This data was entered into an MS Access database along with substrate and ecological data for the site.

Garry oak sites were documented from just north of Courtenay, down Vancouver Islands east coast to Victoria and on the Gulf Islands. Western sites included a single tree at the Sooke Potholes and a stand at Skutz falls west of Duncan. To the east, there are two mainland populations, one at Sumas and the other near Yale

It was found that Garry oak was growing at sites up to 400 meters high and up to 23 km inland on Vancouver Island and 120 km inland on the mainland, suggesting that climate is not the primary factor restricting Garry oak range. Competition by faster growing conifers, which is influenced by climate, appears to be a major limiting factor. There are areas in the Sooke hills which lack the competition that restricts Garry oak, but Garry oak are absent. This indicates there may be other factors, such as substrate type, at work limiting Garry oak range. Further research to determine the soil chemistry on sites with and without Garry oak will shed light on whether Garry oak are limited by soil nutrient content and how this may be related to the geology of the site.

Felice Griffths is a fourth year student in the Biology Coop Program at the University of Victoria. She completed her second work term on the project described above and has now moved on to study marmots in Strathcona Park. For more information on the Biology Coop Program, please visit http://wwwcoop.uvic.ca/BioCoop/

Did you know that irregular fruiting does not necessarily mean an oak tree is in poor health or is under stress? It is a way the oaks have evolved to cope with predators. Irregular crops help to keep pest populations in check.

******

As global warming progresses, drought-tolerant Garry oak trees and other plants of the Garry oak ecosystem may become increasingly important within the local landscape. These species will colonize new habitats as they are created due to changing climate.

Sudden Oak Death Arrives in British Columbia

Sudden oak death has crossed the 49th parallel into British Columbia from Oregon, according to Dr. Eric Allen, a research scientist with the Canadian Forest Service at the Pacific Forestry Centre in Victoria. The European mating type of Phytophthora ramorum, the causal agent of Sudden Oak Death, was intercepted and positively identified by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) at a nursery in BC. This is the first confirmed record of this pathogen in Canada.

The USDA announced that the new infestation of the Sudden Oak Death pathogen was found on plants at a wholesale nursery in northern Oregon in May. Results of an analysis of the Phytophthora isolates done in early June revealed that, unlike previous finds in Oregon and California, Sudden Oak Death at the Oregon nursery was the European mating type.

Dr. Allen says that the Canada Food Inspection Agency conducted a "trace-forward" and identified three shipments of the nursery stock from the infested Oregon nursery that were shipped to BC prior to the identification. Two of the shipments were sent to a single BC nursery and the third to a regional parks board whose maple trees from the shipment have already been planted.

The CFIA continues to assess the situation and conduct traces both forward and back as well as extensive sampling to determine the extent of the SOD introductions. An interagency task force is being established with Dr. Allen as a member.

Plants prone to the disease include not only oaks but also rhododendrons, honeysuckle and camellias, among others.

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Sept., 2003 **Vol. 10, No. 4**

Native Plant Gardening Has Many Benefits

Native plant gardening is rewarding in many ways but first and foremost it is a way to recover our precious natural Garry oak ecosystem, one of the most endangered in Canada.

So, if you are interested in a native plant garden, Pat Johnston, a native plant garden consultant, says autumn is an ideal time to plant. Winter rains will help establish the new plants so that limited watering, will be required the following summer.

Johnston says native plant gardening is extremely low maintenance, and has many other benefits. By gardening with native plants, you help restore natural habitats such as the Garry oak ecosystems that may have been eliminated from the area. You conserve water because native plants are adapted to our climate. And, you eliminate the need for both fertilizers and pesticides.

"Native plants attract birds, butterflies and beneficial insects to our garden," says Johnston, "and they provide food for jams, pies and other delicacies. Plants such as Evergreen Huckleberry, Salmonberry and Saskatoons provide food. There's a lovely vine, Yerba buena which makes a nice tea."

Growing native plants also gives us a strong sense of our place and helps us appreciate our natural heritage and history.

To develop a native plant garden start with a small area in your yard and work out from there. Look at the conditions of the site. Does it get sun or shade? Is it dry or wet? Choose your plants accordingly.

To learn which plants suit what conditions go for a walk in the parks and wild areas around Greater Victoria. Observe what and how native plants are growing. Also, Pojar and MacKinnon's, *Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast* and Pettinger and Costanzo's, *Native Plants in the Coastal Garden* are great books to help you learn more about our flora and how to grow them.

Johnston also points out that rather than bagging up your Oak leaves for someone to take away, an annual mulch of shredded Oak leaves is an ideal method for enhancing your soil.

"Native plants are beautiful!", says Johnston. "Some shrubs like Mock Orange, Oceanspray, Indian Plum and Oregon Grape make wonderful specimen shrubs, or together create stunning thickets or hedgerows. And the wildflowers of this area are something else! Camas, Shooting Star, Chocolate Lily, Fawn Lily and Buttercup are some of the plants that make up the Garry oak ecosystem's meadows. All of these plants can be added to your garden."

Continued on Page 2

Where to Find Plants for Your Native Garden

(Continued from Page 1)

Some native plants can be purchased at local nurseries. The more uncommon ones may be obtained from Thimble Farm on Saltspring Island, phone (250) 537-5788 and the Natural Resource Native Plant Nursery in Duncan, phone (250) 748-0684.

Gardens that demonstrate what you can do with yours include: Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary, Oak Bay Native Plant Garden, Horticulture Centre of the Pacific and a residential demonstration garden at 1325 Kings Road.

Good native plant gardening!

Native Plant Garden Consultant, Pat Johnston, can be reached at 595-5600.

Volunteers Wanted

Help Restore Our Garry oak Ecosystem

Are you interested in helping to restore Garry oak ecosystems? Do you want to get your hands dirty removing invasive plants from important Garry oak sites? Or, maybe you want to be involved in educating others about Garry oak ecosystem species. With less than five per cent remaining of what was originally here, Garry oak ecosystems are one of the most endangered ecosystems in Canada. The Garry oak ecosystem is our native heritage. It is imperative that we work towards its protection and recovery.

The Garry Oak Restoration Project (GORP), sponsored by the Municipality of Saanich, Environment Canada, The Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society and The University of Victoria, Restoration of Natural Systems Program is one of the organizations working towards the conservation and protection of Garry oak ecosystems. Within the boundaries of Saanich Municipality, 10 Garry oak ecosystem sites are being restored.

Volunteers are invited to participate as Restoration Assistants, Site Stewards, Photopoint Monitoring Assistants, Photographers, Community Educators, Web Site Assistants, Historical Researchers and Data Entry Assistants.

Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team Research Colloquium 2003

by Micheal Meagher

GOERT held its first Research Colloquium Feb. 28th at the Pacific Forestry Centre, Victoria. Seventy-five attendees, including 28 presenters learned of current and planned research to support the recovery program in BC.

Topics ranged from the broadest to some very specific studies and included a description of GOERT and GEEK (the Garry oak Ecosystem Education Kit). Attendees included government and university staff and students, plus GOMPS members and others interested in fostering Garry oaks. General topics, such as history of the Garry oak from the last ice age to the present, its genetics and acorn production, insects present, especially butterflies, climate change impacts, soil biota, conservation planning for "At Risk" species, the impact of invasive species, such as broom, gorse, Daphne, gypsy moth and "Sudden oak death", and techniques for restoration of oak areas, including propagation of native plants, were covered.

Two topics, covering the range from general to very specific, are worthy of special mention: Dr. Richard Hebda of the Royal BC Museum (RHebda@royalbcmuseum) investigated cores from several Vancouver Island lakes and Saanich Inlet for the occurrence of pollen. Garry oak appeared 7000-8000 years ago, reaching its peak about 4000 to 6000 years ago. Sites beyond the current range produced little evidence of much oak, except for the Cowichan Valley, where it may have spread farther west. More recent pollen peaks may reflect an increase in oaks due to First Nations' cultivation practices.

At the other end of the scale, Wynne Miles (wynnemiles@shaw.ca) discussed rare mosses of the Garry oak ecosystem – one new to BC! What might appear as tiny, insignificant plant parts could be one of at least three rare species. Their appearance changes when placed in water. An expert is needed to identify them. They can make each Garry oak a separate ecosystem!

If you wish to obtain the proceedings by email contact Dr. Meagher at the following email address: mmeagher@pfc.forestry.ca.

Daphne's Toxic Threat a Possible Risk for Some

Daphne laureola (spurge laurel, laurel-leaved Daphne) is a rhododendron look-alike and an increasingly common invasive plant in shady sites with a serious impact on some people: those suffering from allergies to the toxic substance in all parts of the plant.

The small succulent fruits are spread by birds. Once established Daphne is hard to remove, since it sprouts from the stem base and root crown. Anyone cutting them should wear heavy gloves and avoid skin contact until they are sure they suffer no ill effects. More sensitive people may experience skin welts or even anaphylactic shock. Burning only releases the toxins more widely. The active ingredient may even cause cancer! GOMPS is pursuing the Capital Regional Health Office to declare daphne a health threat, since children may find the fruits attractive and eat them. So far, there's been no response to our recent submission. Internet address re Daphne toxins: http://museum.gov.ns.ca/poison/daphne.htm. Leads to other sites can be found there.

Impact on Forestry Possible

Invasive Species Invade Oak Sites

Oak sites are invaded heavily by a modern version of the Four Horsemen: Scotch broom, gorse, Daphne laureola and Himalayan blackberry, plus ivy! Research to develop techniques to suppress "The Four" has been curtailed by the Pacific Forestry Centre in Victoria due to identification of higher priorities. GOMPS is pressing to reinstate suitable support, since these species impact forest sites also and reduce the chance to meet species "At Risk" commitments of the Federal government.

Another "Horseman" is "Sudden oak death", which began killing oaks and associated species, including rhododendrons, in California about 10 years ago. Since most rhodos are imported, Canada has monitored imported plants and nurseries the past 3 years, finding it on some recent arrivals this spring in a Lower Mainland nursery.

The latest news is that no further infected stock have been found. The list of proven hosts is impressive, and a reason to be serious in preventing imports and controlling any found: maples, Arbutus, kinnikinnick, sumac, salmonberry. and raspberry, blueberries among native species, plus many ornamental plants.

Want Inspiration?

Annual Oregon White Oak Acorn Survey

By Dave Peter, Ecologist, Olympia Forestry Laboratory

Our efforts are beginning to pay off. There are some interesting patterns in acorn production emerging. For example, our most consistently productive sites are well-watered sites in otherwise hot, dry areas--Medford OR. and Goldendale, WA. The Medford site has a moderately high water table, but still allows sufficient well-drained rooting space. The Goldendale site is riparian.

The Puget Sound and Willamette Valley both show negative correlation with late winter/spring precipitation. This presumably creates poor pollination conditions. On the other hand eastern Columbia Gorge and vicinity populations that are not riparian show positive correlation with late winter/spring precipitation. Presumably, this is what is required to store enough moisture in the soil to carry a crop to maturity in these areas. This also suggests that west side populations tend to have sufficient soil water storage in most years to carry a crop so pollination conditions are more critical to success than soil water storage.

We still need more data from our Canadian sites before we can begin to see a pattern there. Southern Vancouver Island sites seem to be similar to Puget Sound sites, but something else is going on farther north. Perhaps this year's data will begin to clarify these patterns.

We also continue to investigate the effects of fire on acorn production. Ground fire that does not do too much damage to the canopy appears to enhance acorn production for a number of years following the fire. We are also looking into the response of oaks to release from conifer competition. Acorn production seems to be increasing even one year after release, even on fairly suppressed trees. This will perhaps become clearer this year.

We may see some unexpected results this year in the Puget Sound Region due to the dry summer. So far the May-July period has been the driest on record. Will this put a dent in the acorn crop similar to what happens in non-riparian east side sites in many years? We have done some partial root excavations of trees at Fort Lewis. The oaks have pretty much sucked the soil dry to 2 meters depth. Where the oak roots stopped, soil moisture picked up. It would appear that by mid-July this year the oaks had pulled most of the moisture available to them out of the soil. So how deep do Puget Sound oaks root? We are still trying to find out.

Clearly most of the roots are above 1.5 meters with a few going to 2 meters and deeper for trees with dbh of 30-60 cm. At the larger end it already seems clear that trees are rooting deeper than 2 meters which is about as deep as we can dig. Trees smaller than 30 cm. are almost totally rooted in the top 1 to 1.5 meters. These studies are ongoing and these results are very preliminary. www.fs.fed.us/pnw/olympia/silv/oaksurvey/oak.htm

In a Nutshell

GOMPS is excited about its recent involvement with the Cridge Centre for the Family. The Cridge is home to many majestic Garry oak trees, Camas, Shooting Star, Fawn Lily and other related species of the ecosystems. In fact, the Centre is considered one of the few significant sites remaining in the City of Victoria. We are working with the Centre to encourage them to restore some of their property through the removal of invasive species, leaving grassy areas uncut and protecting sensitive areas.

A bus full of school kids from Whitehorse, Yukon were toured around Pat Johnston's Native Plant Demonstration Garden, as well as the Holly Green Park Native Plant Demonstration Garden (a project of Oaklands Greenways Project) in May of this year. Students were interested in learning about Garry oak ecosystems and had fun identifying the many native plants of the ecosystems

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GOMPS

The Garry Oak Leaflet

Official Newsletter of the
Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society

November, 2003 **Vol. 10, No. 5**

Developers Miss the Point When They Take Down Trees

by H. J. Gibbard, biologist and GOMPS president

Tree and shrub evaluation began at the turn of the twentieth century when it was realized that such things had a monetary value as well as an esthetic or biological one.

Evaluation is predicated on the recognition that trees and landscape plants perform basic engineering, architectural and environmental functions. Appraisal methods vary somewhat depending on what function is being considered and the purpose of the evaluation.

A US Forest Service study showed that real estate appraisers estimated trees contributed as much as a 27 percent increase in dollar value for land that is 2/3 wooded as compared to land that has no plants.

As well as a straight monetary value, it is also recognized that shade trees have a strong effect on salability, and contribute to a higher quality of life for home owners as well as providing benefits to society (see our article, "How Much are Urban Forests Really Worth?" Garry Oak Leaflet Vol. 10, No. 3).

Dwyer et al (1992) is quoted in "Guide for Plant Appraisal", by the Council of Tree & Landscape Appraisers, as stating that "urban and community forests can strongly influence the physical/biological environment and mitigate many impacts of urban development by moderating climate, conserving energy, using carbon dioxide and water, improving air quality, controlling rainfall runoff and flooding, lowering noise levels, harboring wildlife and enhancing the attractiveness of cities." All of these benefits have actually been measured.

Species, condition, size and location, are four features used to help determine the value of landscape plants. For example, a 100 percent species rating could be given to Garry oaks because they are an indigenous, native plant tolerant of a site's environment. Also, the site value of a Garry oak would be very high because of its rarity, as would its species value.

As a specific example, a large mature Garry oak, using what is called the "Trunk Formula Method" of appraisal (see "Guide for Plant Appraisal"), could be worth as much as $5,000 to $20,000.

The International Society of Arboriculture says that in the urban environment contributing value of trees and vegetation can be in the range of ten to twenty percent of the property value. Hence, on a $400,000 house and property they would be worth $80,000.

We wish builders, developers, and real estate appraisers would keep these values in mind!

Weed Control in Natural Areas

A naturalist's approach encourages native vegetation

The following is an edited version of an article forwarded to GOMPS by UVIC's *Restoration News*

A method of weed control in natural areas, developed in Sydney, Australia by Joan Bradley and her sister, has been very successful. A summary of their methods is presented here in the hope that others may find it useful for weed control where such methods might be appropriate.

The Bradley method makes practical use of well-known ecological principles consisting of hand weeding (without replanting) selected small areas of vegetation in such a manner that after weeding, each area will be promptly re-inhabited and stabilized by the regeneration of native plants.

If the weeding is approached as a conventional gardening operation, in which large areas are cleared and burned or the debris carted away, the effort will fail because large exposed and disturbed areas will become re-colonized by new weeds. The Bradley method urges a naturalist's approach by encouraging the native vegetation to become re-established. The Bradleys used their method to successfully rid a forty-acre woodland reserve of weeds so that the reserve needed slight attention only once or twice a year, mainly in vulnerable spots such as creek banks, roadsides, and clearings, to be maintained weed-free. They summarize their activities as follows:

"We are regenerating bush with conspicuous success over a total area of about forty acres, and our results are plain to see, both in Ashton Park and on nearby Chowder Head. We have also taken care of the weeds induced by a six-acre, silviculture winter burn, and about four or five acres of other fires. We have not overworked. We are both over fifty, able-bodied but by no means Amazonian. My sister takes the dog for a walk on most mornings and I do the same in the afternoon. On these walks we might average, between the two of us, about three quarters of an hour spent actually pulling up weeds.

"Done in our way, the regeneration of weed-infested bush land is an easy and fascinating part-time occupation. We are still forging ahead, my sister mainly on a dry ridge, myself mainly in a damp gully, faster than we should have thought possible... We hope that this outline of our methods will encourage and help you to do the same."

Volunteers Wanted to Enhance Habitat for Sharp-tailed Snake on Saltspring

Habitat restoration and enhancement for the Sharp-tailed snake will occur at two locations on Saltspring Island in the Vesuvius area Nov. 29 and 30. Work to be done includes creation of dry-stack rock walls and an artificial snake hibernaculum and broom-pulling.. The Sharp-tailed snake is an elusive species. The only current populations known in Canada are around the southern Gulf Islands and Vancouver Island. This is a great opportunity to learn more about a rare snake and help restore valuable habitat. For more info call Laura Matthias at 250-382-0090 or email at lmatthias@shaw.ca.

Native Plant Gardening Tip

by Pat Johnstone, Native Plant Garden Consultant and Member GOMPS Board

Now's the time to start gathering leaves for your garden! Lay 4-6 inches of leaf mulch on the garden beds, at least once a year. It is one of the easiest and best ways to nourish soil, conserve moisture and suppress weeds.

Leaves of all tree varieties will do. If you want to create extra-rich soil, mix compost and/or manure with leaf mulch.

With Garry oak leaves, and others that break down more slowly, shred them first with your lawnmower or shredder. I have heard from some people that they place their leaves in a garbage container and shred them with a weedeater. Shredding, however, is not mandatory. Spread unshredded leaves to only 2 - 3 inches, and by mid-summer they will have disappeared.

Leaves can also be added to your compost, or saved for later use by storing them in plastic bags.

What to Watch for in the Native Garden Now

Be on the lookout for Licorice Fern (Polypodium glycyrrhiza) which pops up after being dormant over the summer months. Watch for the lime green fronds that poke their heads out from rocky outcrops and tree trunks, particularly Big Leaf Maple (Acer macrophyllum). Licorice Ferns create a lush, thick mat of fronds often covering a large area. It's called Licorice Fern because its rhizomes taste like licorice. Licorice Fern is a wonderful addition to rock gardens. It also makes a good edging plan for garden beds. In this time of year when most everything is looking less-than-fresh, the fresh green of Licorice Fern is a joy to see.

Garry oak brochure for homeowners will soon be available

GOMPS will soon have available an informative brochure for homeowners fortunate enough to have Garry oak trees on their property. Past President Pierre d'Estrube has written the brochure now off to the printer. It will be available for distribution to households before the end of the year. Production and design is by Frances Hunter of Beacon Hill Communicators Group Inc. with photos by Rob d'Estrube.

Watch for it!

Volunteers Needed to Plant Oaks

Geri Poisson, a UVic biology student needs help to plant 200 Garry oak seedlings this month in Metchosin, Swan Lake and the UVic campus. She is investigating the effects of mycorrhizal fungi on the growth of seedlings--her final project for a diploma in the Restoration of Natural Systems. Let Geri know if you would like to help on any of the following dates: Nov. 8-9, Nov. 15-16 and Nov. 29-30. Transportation and snacks provided! Call her at 389-0206 or email at geripoisson@yahoo.ca.

In a Nutshell

If you have oak stories we would like to hear from you. We want to know our members a little better so write and tell us who you are, what you do and what you would like GOMPS to concentrate it's efforts on. Maybe you would like to volunteer?? Let us know if you are interested.

Just phone or email us.

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GOMPS

The Garry Oak Leaflet

Official Newsletter of the
Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society

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GOMPS to distribute brochures to home-owners to help save Garry oaks on private property

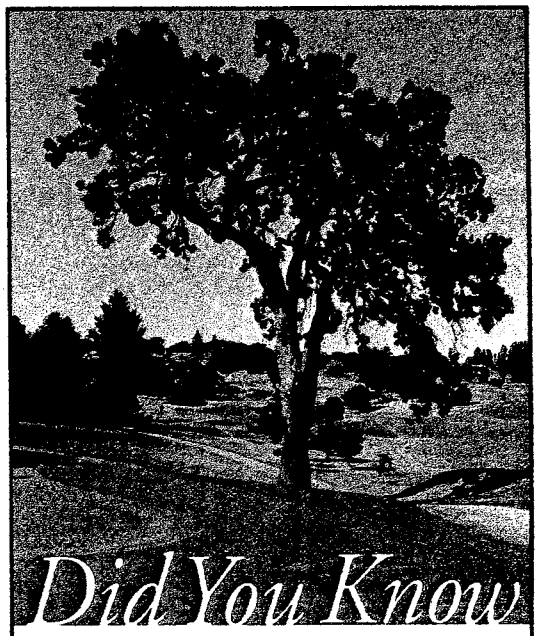
GOMPS will be enlisting volunteers to deliver its message to private property owners in the Victoria area. Pierre d'Estrube, past-president of GOMPS has produced a color brochure which will be distributed to home owners with Garry oaks on their property.

With the assistance of a grant from the Shell Environmental Fund GOMPS has published this information brochure stressing the significance of the endangered Garry oak ecosystem. The purpose is to encourage private property owners with Garry oaks on their property to help preserve them and their beautiful natural habitat for future generations.

Pierre says the handout will "alert property owners with Garry oaks on their land to the significance of this threatened natural rare treasure they are privileged to own.

"It will urge them to take responsible stewardship of this communal asset. It will give them simple principles to follow to preserve the Garry oaks. Their easiest and greatest contribution to rescuing our declining oak population is to allow at least one oakling to survive and grow somewhere on their property."

Our thanks to Shell!



that, as a

private property owner

of GARRY OAK trees,

you are one of a

privileged few?

Oregon Grape is drought resistant and evergreen

By Pat Johnston, Native Plant Gardening Consultant

Oregon Grape (Mahonia) is a wonderful plant to have in your garden. Not only is it drought-resistant, but it stays green all year. In the early spring, it presents a showy bright yellow flower which develops into an edible purple berry in the fall. And, the birds love them!

There are three different native Oregon Grape. Tall Oregon Grape (Mahonia spathulifolium) will get to six feet or higher. I cut mine back regularly which it seems to like. Plant tall Oregon Grape in a sunny thicket or hedgerow, or as a backdrop in a perennial bed. Give it lots of room because if it's happy, it likes to spread.

Short or dull Oregon Grape (Mahonia nervosa) stays low to the ground (12 -15 inches) and can create a pretty cover under large deciduous and coniferous trees. It grows naturally in the dry shade of the forest.

Creeping Oregon Grape (Mahonia repens) is also low growing but unlike the latter, it loves the heat of the sun. I have some growing on the edge of my property which is filling in nicely as a ground cover in a rocky, dry area.

Salvaging Native Plants a Good Thing (Continued from Page 3)
The Planning Dept. of the Municipality of Saanich operates the salvage program. Landowners and developers can participate by volunteering the opportunity for plant salvagers to rescue native plants species slated to be lost to development. For more information connect with the Saanich Native Plant Salvage Program on the web. Carolyn MacDonald is the Environmental Education Officer in charge of the program. She can be reached at macdonac@gov.saanich.bc.ca.

The Rockland group planted 15 different plants purchased from Valley View Nursery including Flowering Red Currant, Sword ferns, Garry oaks, Mock orange and Kinnikinik. The Franciscan fathers whose property borders the park are also participating, says Janet.

"They are studying *Native Plants in the Coastal Garden* and taking stewardship of the most eastern edge of the garden, preparing soil and planting and tending native plants."

Ecologist and botanist Dave Clark, a member of the Rockland association's board has been overseeing the work in the garden.

"We couldn't do it without him," says Simpson, "Not only does he know all about native plants and their requirements, but he has put in an enormous amount of muscle power."

The city of Victoria matches in money the labor the volunteers contribute. The Rockland group is an inspiration to everyone who wants to preserve our endangered and beautiful Garry oak ecosystem. Check them out on their website (www.rockland.bc.ca/).

Rockland residents rescue Garry oak ecosystem

Nothing like good news to nurture the spirit! That's what GOMPS board members got when they heard what the Rockland Neighbourhood Association is doing to protect a unique urban environment in the Rockland area of Victoria.

The Rockland Neighbourhood Association began four years ago to restore a Garry oak habitat just off Fort Street at the junction of Joan Crescent and Craigdarroch. Owned by the city, the small lot contains five Garry oaks that had been overwhelmed by invasive English ivy. Residents of the area are aware of the scarcity of parks in their neighbourhood. They wanted to create a park with some kind of garden. Some people wanted a show garden but Janet Simpson, a teacher living on Richardson and a member of GOMPS, persuaded residents that restoring the space to its natural habitat of a Garry oak ecosystem was the best possible way to go.

According to Simpson the group began by hiring Lynn Milnes to clean up the lot and rid the soil of weeds. Some parts of the lot were short on soil so the city delivered topsoil and volunteers hauled it into the shallow areas. Readers may be familiar with Lynn's calendar "In a Victoria Garden".

"Three of us are part of the Saanich Native Plant Salvage Program," says Simpson. They rescue native plants facing demolition because of construction. In mid-November, Janet and husband Bill Scott salvaged two carloads of licorice ferns and bulbs and planted them in the garden.

"That felt very rewarding," says Simpson enthusiastically. *Story cont'd on Page 2.*

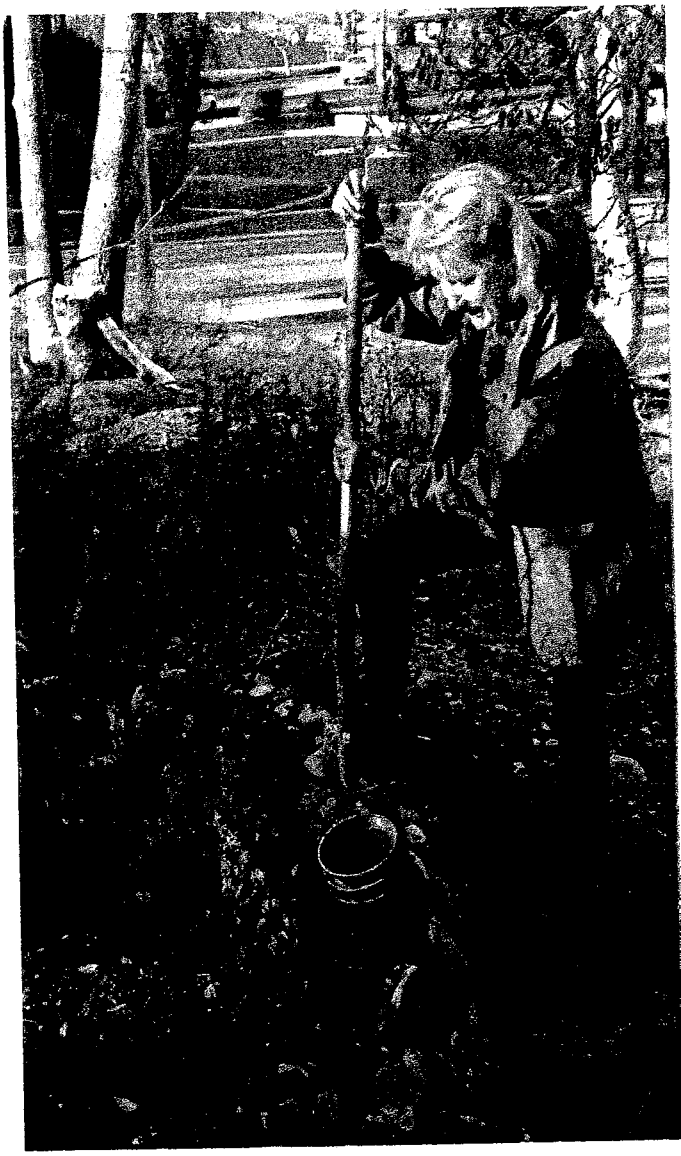


Photo right: Janet Simpson digs in native plants.

Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society Board of Directors Wishes everone a Healthy, Happy and Green New Year.

Make your New Year's Resolution to save our natural ecosystem, to salvage or buy native plants for your garden and protect what we have been fortunate enough to inherit!

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