



**GARRY OAK MEADOW
PRESERVATION SOCIETY**

Welcome to our E-news

The Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society (GOMPS) formed in 1992 because local citizens were concerned that woodlands and meadows were rapidly disappearing as a result of expanding human habitation in the Capital Regional District. Our society is dedicated to the preservation, protection and restoration of Garry oak (*Quercus garryana*) stands and their natural habitats.

We are 100% volunteer run, we don't have an office but we are passionate - we are a grassroots group helping to make a difference! **Will you join us?**



Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society (GOMPS) 2022-23 Annual General Meeting (AGM)



GOMPS 2022-23 AGM will be held:

DATE: Sunday, October 22, 2023

TIME: 3:00 to 5:00pm

LOCATION: Douglas Fir Room, Saanich Commonwealth Place, 4636 Elk Lake Drive.

Our meeting will include:

- Presentation of various reports – President, Nursery, Treasurer & Volunteer
- Election of officers, and
- An open discussion about Garry oak issues with focus on future directions

As per GOMPS bylaws, there are 7 board members' positions including:

- President,
- Vice-President,
- Secretary,
- Treasurer, and
- 3 Directors at Large.

5 Director positions are up for election this year as 2 Directors continue in their 2-year terms. Please consider joining our board or nominate someone for a board position, by sending nominations to: Judith Carder, (Secretary) at judeathome@shaw.ca; **by Friday, October 20 5:00 pm.**

In order to vote at meetings and to run for election to the board, you **must have a current GOMPS membership.**

Opportunity to purchase or renew your membership will be available at the AGM.

Your attendance & input during the discussion period at our meeting will be greatly welcomed and appreciated!

GARRY OAK ACORN COLLECTION FALL 2023



This year brought us a bumper crop of acorns. We are no longer accepting acorns for 2023, but please follow instructions contained in our document **“Acorn Collecting Information Handout”** at the link below for next year and check out a recent event below!

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GARRY OAK ACORN COMMUNITY COLLECTION EVENT



The Rockland Neighbourhood Association (RNA) in collaboration with the Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society (GOMPS) hosted a community acorn collection event at the Woodland Gardens at Government House.

Ryan Senechal, arborist, urban forester, and President of GOMPS presented on tips and strategies on how to grow your own trees! Included was a tree rubbing art project for RNA biodiversity mapping. Special thanks to GOMPS Director Susan Grant for the artful idea.

The acorn donations will help continue the local genetic population of oaks.



INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

We'd love to hear from all interested volunteers!

Garry Oak Nursery work parties

We are hosting weekly Garry Oak Nursery work parties on Sunday mornings from 10am to 1pm to keep our oaks growing and healthy. **Plus come help us pot the many distinct community donations we received for 2023.**

The Nursery work area is outdoors and structured so volunteers can safely join Board members on site. Tools and gloves are sanitized between volunteer events and masks are encouraged. Learn more about [volunteering here!](#)

*Please note there are certain areas within our premises where children may inadvertently put themselves at risk. Our activities may involve planting and transplanting seedlings. Considering the nature of the tools we utilize, our volunteer work requires care and attention to process.



The GOMPS Volunteer Garry Oak Nursery has been in operation since 2017 to meet the challenge of producing local Garry oaks (*Quercus garryana*). The Nursery project is run by a task force drawn from members of GOMPS and addresses the rapid loss of Greater Victoria, Southeastern Vancouver Island & Gulf Island's native flagship tree - the Garry oak.

Garry oak ecosystems are among the most endangered ecosystems in Canada with only three percent remaining in a natural state. In Canada, they are only found in British Columbia, on the southeastern tip of Vancouver Island, some of the Gulf Islands and a few spots on the mainland. We are looking for more volunteers to help at the nursery. Please connect with us and help grow the oaks!

Volunteering at the Garry Oak Nursery

What you can do at home

Help us collect acorns

Become a Member or Donate

NEWS



Caroline Josefsson, a VIU Biology Professor, left, and VIU student Megan Kollman work in the Garry oak ecosystem restoration plot at the Nanaimo campus. Vancouver Island University Photo

The Garry oak ecosystem is home to many species at risk in British Columbia.

<https://news.viu.ca/viu-biology-professor-restoring-one-canadas-most-threatened-ecosystems-nanaimo-campus>

May 1, 2023 One of Canada's most threatened ecosystems – the Garry oak – is coming to life on VIU's Nanaimo campus. VIU employees, students and community volunteers have maintained a Garry oak ecosystem restoration plot since 2021. The 500-square-metre plot is located west of Building 470 near the top of campus. Dr. Caroline Josefsson, a VIU Biology Professor and botanist, oversees the project.

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It's raining acorns: Garry oak 'mast year' a boon for city nursery replanting the native species

<https://www.timescolonist.com/local-news/its-raining-acorns-garry-oak-mast-year-a-boon-for-city-nursery-replanting-the-native-species-7591565>

[download reader version \(.pdf\)](#)

September 24, 2023 A team of urban foresters is in the process of regenerating drought-tolerant Garry oaks around the city, where they provide much-needed shade and other

cooling effects as temperatures ramp up.

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Ryan Senechal, email message to Darron Kloster, Times Colonist

Garry oak mast years

September 13, 2023 I received your inquiry about Garry oak acorn masts and am responding through my position as President of Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society, and as a Sessional Lecturer/Program Coordinator at UBC's Faculty of Forestry.

Garry oak is a masting species as you've suggested, although there would be no shortage of disagreement among the experts on Garry oaks whether this year's is a typical crop of acorns or an exceptional one. I would gravitate to the former from the many trees I've observed in the last month. The UBC Centre for Forest Conservation Genetics provides some context of what we can expect as far as masting from *Quercus garryana*: "Seed crops are heavy but irregular; two to three years apart" (Banerjee et al. 2001). In 2021 I recall an exceptional crop, and in 2022 we had a landscape level acorn crop failure across the Vancouver Island and Gulf Island Garry oak populations.

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Photo by Ryan Senechal. Camas meadow at Playfair Park, Saanich, BC.

OAK and Garry Oak Ecosystem (GOE) Facts

- Čanēłč or Kwetlal (not camas) is the lə́kʷəŋən word for Garry oak ecosystem
- SENĆOŦEN word for Garry oak: ČEN̓, IŁĆ or pronounced Chung-ae-th-ch
- HUL'Q'UMI'NUM word is p'hwulhp
- Garry oak ecosystems shaped by Indigenous agroecological management over thousands of years. (Beckwith, 2005; Barlow et al, 2021; Fuchs, 2001)
- This population of oaks connects lə́kʷəŋən and W̓SÁNEĆ people with their lands, traditions, foods, medicines, cultural practices, and ancestors.
- Of the family Fagaceae, and the genus Quercus
- Inflorescence of inconspicuous male flowers (catkins) and female flowers that are separate but on the same tree and pollinated by wind
- The largest urban oak in the region is on Falkland Rd. near Beach Dr in Oak bay
- Garry oak ecosystems (GOE) arrived after the glacial retreat approximately 10,000 years ago
- Garry oak ecosystems in Canada are some of the rarest, and the area they occupy is declining in large part due to development (Fuchs, 2001)
- At least 1,645 organisms (plants, insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, etc.) have co-evolved with GOE.

Connect with us!



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