

Galiano Natural History Group (?)

Minutes, April 19, 2004

Meeting began at 1:05 pm. Present were Giovanna Forlini-Loney, Dick Chase, Sheila Anderson, Kate Emmings, Jerry Azevedo, Cathy Holahan, Ken Millard, Keith Erickson, Pam Freir, Odin Scholtz, Brian Mitchell, Louise Decario and Cheryl Bastedo.

1. The group decided that it would be a good idea to form a group with the goal of:

Engage in a project/projects that foster increased awareness, appreciation, respect and understanding of natural areas and thereby lead to their protection.

2. The group reviewed several possible projects including:

- (a) Erecting signage near the ferry terminal and at beach accesses

- It would be necessary to work with other groups (eg. Parks & Rec., Galiano Club)
- Some people would prefer minimum signage on the island (perhaps add small signs to existing signs indicating natural attributes/sensitive areas)
- Signs could be used to draw attention to beautiful areas on the island that aren't overly sensitive

- (b) Provide a naturalist on BC Ferries

- Could be a potential job for a Summer Career Placement Student (eg. a university student)
- Could do puppet shows in the children's area
- Giovanna is interested in pursuing becoming a volunteer naturalist
- Giovanna could do a translation to Spanish, French, Italian
- We could approach existing tour groups and tour busses about this option on the ferry

- (c) "Passport to Galiano"

- this would be like an "eco-tourist" guide to the island for locals and visitors
- there could be numbered sites, like the art tour, with a description of the area and some information on the natural things found there
- Cathy will contact Annette Shaw to see if she would be interested in doing cartoon drawings for this
- If there were guided tours / nature walks they could profile locations in the guide
- Maybe we could come up with a name besides "passport"
- Giovanna could translate it into other languages, especially French

- (d) Webpage / online database

- There could be a webpage with places of interest and lists and descriptions of interesting species found on Galiano Island
- The page could link to other Galiano Sites or be a link on these sites (eg. the Chamber of Commerce, the Saltspring Is. homepage)
- It could have a printable species list and .pdf version of the "Passport to Galiano"
- Other ideas include a listserve/chatroom where people could list/describe the natural species/places that they saw on Galiano with dates
- This option will likely be labour intensive and require expertise as well as money

- (e) Nature Walks

- These could profile the sites in the “Passport to Galiano”
 - They could also reflect island expertise and be led by trained volunteers
 - This option might be easy to start with
 - Other options are coordinating volunteer opportunities (eg. trail maintenance & hummingbird banding are upcoming events requiring volunteers)
 - Giovanna will volunteer her time to do this if others would like to help
- (f) “Species of the Month”
- This could be done fairly easily through an Active Page article
 - It could be done like Brione Penn’s “A Year on the Wild Side” with drawings and an entertaining article
 - One idea is to involve the school kids in a drawing contest for one of the articles
 - Pam Freir is very interested in writing this kind of article, Sheila and Cathy will help with ideas and drawings
- (g) Eco-directory
- Galiano Island Recycling and Resources Society (GIRR) is doing something like this now. They are putting together a “re-directory” which will list recycling opportunities on the island, including people wanting to get rid of old stuff and those needing certain items
 - This could also be done through other groups (eg. commercial groups wanting to show that they are green). Perhaps this is a project for the Chamber of Commerce, not us.
- (h) Showcase local efforts
- Every month a different island resident or group who is doing something ecologically important could be profiled through an interview article in the Active Page. Their action could be big or small.
 - Eg. Sky Forest and his putting dryer lint in an onion bag outside for birds making nests in the spring or someone who has put a public trail through their property and has advice for others interested in doing the same or someone who has gone through the process of placing an ecological covenant on their land.
3. Areas of focus were decided as follows:
- Pam will research the “Species of the Month” article with Sheila and Cathy and will report back to the group at the next meeting
 - The “Passport to Galiano” will be discussed at the next meeting. Everyone will think of places that they would like to see numbered and organizations (eg. Galiano Club & Parks & Rec.) that should be contacted about this idea
 - Coordination of Nature Walks could be done fairly soon. Giovanna is interested in this, but would like some input/direction
 - Showcasing local people doing innovative eco-things could be done almost immediately. We will also talk about this at our next meeting
 - Jerry will put together an email list for emailing
4. There is interest in forming a new Natural History group that could be completely apolitical and have a fresh start. We will talk about this at the next meeting and may consider having future meetings outside or at the Activity Centre meeting room.
5. The next meeting will be Monday, May 10 at 1pm at the Conservancy office behind the bakery.