

Follow-up Report

ES441/ER411

Advanced Principles and Concepts in Ecological Restoration
August 17-25, 2014



Report prepared by Jenna Falk, September 2014
Photos by Jenna Falk and Kelly Toots

About the Course



This course was created and taught by School of Environmental Studies Professor Eric Higgs, with Jenna Falk as Teaching Assistant (TA).

Learning Objectives

- Develop field-specific skills in rapid restoration appraisal;
- Become familiar with integrated restoration design that incorporates an understanding of ecological drivers, landscape legacies, policies, local and wider cultural values, economic factors, political realities;
- Form a deeper understanding of emerging issues (invasive species, climate change) that are forcing a reconsideration of ecological restoration.

Learning and Engagement

Lecture Series and Guest Speakers

- Beginning each day with morning lectures by Eric Higgs worked very well, and allowed students to integrate each day's teachings into field and group activities
- 7 guest speakers contributed, mostly in the evenings after dinner
 - Gary Moore (Galiano/DL57 history), Darienne Lancaster (cancelled), Mike Keefer (mining restoration), Jane Wolverton (Galiano Food Program), Mike Hoebel (Galiano birds, Purple Martin restoration), Tara Martin (deer herbivory), John Volpe (entropy and restoration), Christine Lintott (DL57 design/use potential), Ken Millard (Aspa building)
- Keith Erickson provided an in-depth walking tour of the property, engaging students in the land's history, and the Conservancy's present and future plans



Individual Assignments

Two reading reflections were completed prior to the field course. A Legacies Description assignment required each student to research and present a human legacy on the property that interested them. These ranged from wire fence to deer bones to old roads and contribute to a growing database of human legacy features on the property. These were presented to the community at the Sunday evening banquet event.

Group Assignments

The first of two group assignments was the Legacies Transect Assignment. Beginning at the start of the course, groups mapped transect lines across the property, documenting human legacy features along their route. Using GPS units and compasses, each line ran due south to Trincomali Channel and began along Porlier Pass Rd.



Waypoints and descriptions were subsequently added to a growing GIS database of human features on the property. One student (Jaylene) took this on as a project to input and disseminate the data, as was the case in 2013 (Angie).

The Design Project was the core project of the course. Students completed these projects after the field component ended. Groups assembled based on interest in different design projects for DL57. Groups acted as consultants, offering restoration designs and guidance to the Conservancy. Initial ideas were presented to the community preceding the Sunday banquet. In 2014, the 14 students divided themselves into 4 groups. Projects focused on eco-forestry, food forest design and implementation, campground design and restoration, and a Reed Canary Grass control plan.

Adventures at Sea

A special thanks to the Wilkinsons for taking the students out rowing in longboats. This was a very unique and memorable experience for all involved and allowed for a new perspective of the Learning Centre land.

It takes a community...

Sincere thanks to the following people for their contributions to this course

University of Victoria School of Environmental Studies
Staff and Board of the Galiano Conservancy Association
Babes in the Woods Eatery
Keith Erickson
Loren and Mary-Ruth Wilkinson
Erik Wilkinson
Esther-Ruth Teel

Our wonderful guest speakers:

Tara Martin
Gary Moore
John Volpe
Mike Hoebel
Christine Lintott
Mike Keefer
Jane Wolverton
Ken Millard

