



JUNE 2025 NEWSLETTER

Spring growth is apparent everywhere on Galiano right now, even in our field team! We're thrilled to welcome a new cohort of seasonal staff and students who have joined our team for an exciting and busy season.

Our environmental education programs are in full swing too, with school groups arriving to explore, learn, and connect with nature.

We're also hosting two big events in June: this Saturday is Forest Fest—a family-friendly showcase of the inspiring forest restoration work underway at Quadra Hill Nature Reserve, and our Annual General Meeting is the following Saturday on June 14th.

We hope you'll join us as at these community events to learn more about what we've achieved this past year, and what we have planned in the busy seasons ahead.



Photo: Young students learning outdoor skills during a Galiano field trip with the GCA education team, by Ria Okuda



SUPPORT

We need the help of supporters like you to continue to preserve and restore coastal ecosystems where learning and a love of nature can flourish—thank you for your generosity!



VISIT

Discover Galiano's extraordinary places and trails! Come visit the Millard Learning Centre (MLC) and take a hike through diverse habitats in the Mid-Island Protected Areas Network!



LEARN

Explore the Galiano Conservancy's wide selection of immersive, hands-on, environmental learning programs for people of all ages, to deepen your connection to nature!

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MLC & TRAIL
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COME EXPLORE AND LEARN WITH US! QUADRA HILL FOREST FEST




Image: Forest stand at Quadra Hill, post-thinning

Please join us for a free, family-friendly event to learn about how our forests can be made more healthy and resilient to wildfire and climate change. The GCA and partners are excited to showcase the results of the forest restoration work completed at the recently established Quadra Hill Nature Reserve.

We will offer morning and afternoon guided walking tours of the mature forest, unrestored plantation forest, and restored plantation forest sites. We'll also be offering hands-on workshops on ecological thinning and assembled nurse logs. There will be fun activities for children, as well as snacks and hot drinks for all.

 Date & Time: Saturday June 7th, 10:00AM - 4:00PM

 Location: Meet at Millard Learning Centre (MLC), 10825 Porlier Pass Rd.
(Event activities are at Quadra Hill, but parking is only available at MLC)
Bus leaves MLC parking lot at 10:00AM and 1:00PM.

[More Info About Forest Fest](#)

RENEW YOUR GCA MEMBERSHIP & MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - JUNE 14

Now is the perfect time to join or renew membership in the Galiano Conservancy Association (GCA)—just in time for our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Saturday, June 14th at 1:30 PM at the Millard Learning Centre.

This year's AGM will feature a special presentation by Dr. Lori Daniels, UBC professor and Koerner Chair for Centre of Wildfire Coexistence, whose work focuses on applied conservation science, ecosystems, and climate change. The topic of Dr. Daniels' presentation will be Coexisting with Wildfire. It promises to be an inspiring afternoon of learning and connection.



Photo: Dr. Lori Daniels, featured speaker of the 2025 GCA Annual General Meeting

[AGM Event Details](#)

By becoming a GCA member or renewing your membership, you'll ensure you have voting rights at the AGM and a voice in shaping the future of conservation on Galiano. Membership also includes access to our nature-focused library, invitations to member-only events, and regular updates on our work to protect the island's forests, shorelines, and wildlife.

Interested in being more involved? Anyone who has been a member in good standing for at least three months prior to the AGM is eligible to run for election to the GCA Board of Directors. If you wish to know more about the role and responsibilities of board members and eligibility to

stand for election, please email Sheila Anderson, current GCA Board Chair (chair@galianoconservancy.ca) prior to June 14th.

More than a transaction, your membership is a statement: it shows that the GCA's work is backed by a strong, engaged community—something funders look for when supporting our programs. You can easily renew or join online, by e-transfer, by mail, or in person at any of our events. Thank you for standing with nature and supporting a thriving future for Galiano Island. 🌿❤️

Buy or Renew Your Membership

FRESH FACES AT THE GALIANO CONSERVANCY



*Photo of the GCA's 2025 Summer Crew, by Adam Huggins
From left to right: Top row: Shayne Poleyko, Lúthien Teel, Madeline Hart
Bottom row: Cassidy Kelly, Jamie Jacobs, Sylvie Hawkes, Tamara Bonsdorf*

We're excited to welcome our 2025 summer crew to the Galiano Conservancy Association! With the field season now in full swing, visitors to the Millard Learning Centre will notice plenty of fresh faces around the site. Our seasonal staff and students are already hard at work supporting restoration, conservation and sustainable food systems projects, educational programming, and day-to-day operations.

UNIQUE VOLUNTEER / CITIZEN SCIENCE OPPORTUNITY

HELP US STUDY DUNGENESS CRAB!



Photo: Dungeness crab megalopa, by Anna Smith

Do you love marine life? Curious about Dungeness crabs and creatures that live in the ocean? Join the Galiano Conservancy Association in an exciting citizen science project entitled *Sentinels of Change*, in partnership with the Hakai Institute.

From now until August, we are monitoring the population and dispersal of Dungeness crab larvae using a *light trap*—a special device that uses light to safely attract young marine animals. The trap enables us to collect valuable data while observing a diverse range of ocean life.

We're looking for community volunteers to help us check this trap. It's a fun and easy way to get involved in marine research. The trap is checked every other day, so there are lots of opportunities to get involved.

Here is a brief overview of what you would be doing:

- Spend about 30 minutes to 1 hour checking the trap and recording data.
- Help count and identify marine species—then safely release them back into the ocean.
- Spot a variety of sea life like octopuses, crabs, fish, and more—up close!
- Receive a beautiful *crab print* as a thank-you gift for your support.

No experience necessary—just an interest in the ocean and a willingness to lend a hand! Interested? Get in touch with us today and be part of something meaningful! Contact Sofia Silverman, GCA Conservation Coordinator, at: ocean@galianoconservancy.ca

LEARNING FROM LOCAL KNOWLEDGE-HOLDERS MAY 2025 MEDICINE WALK REPORT



Photo: Richard Jim leading the medicine walk in the Nuts'a'maat Forage Forest

Thank you to everyone who attended our recent Medicine Walk in the Nuts'a'maat Forage Forest! It was a beautiful day of sharing knowledge and love of plants, and we look forward to

offering more walks in the future. This walk marked the beginning of an ambitious journey through our new *Restoring the Balance project*, and celebrates our commitment to healing, unity, and the restoration within our communities and with the land.

We want to express deep gratitude to the Penelakut members who attended. Your generous sharing of knowledge, wisdom, and song in the Nuts'a'maat Forage Forest enriched this Medicine Walk, and your guidance helps us all to better understand and respect it. We raise our hands to Richard Jim for leading the walk, to Corey Charlie & Priscilla Johnny for opening the day with song, and to Augie Sylvester Jr. and Malley Joe for sharing the invitation to help support the planting of a sister medicine garden on Penelakut.

After the walk, Indigenous participants and GCA staff shared a delicious meal prepared by *Swallow Tail Culinary Adventures* chef Robin Kort, based around ingredients collected from the land and forest gardens at the Millard Learning Centre. We raise our hands to Robin and her team for the culinary artistry that brought a unique and meaningful touch to our Medicine Walk, perfectly reflecting the spirit of Restoring the Balance. Thank you, Robin, for nourishing us in such a beautiful way.

The Nuts'a'maat Forage Forest was planted in 2018 by youth from Galiano and Penelakut islands, under the leadership of elders Karen Charlie and Augie Sylvester and with support from the GCA and *Access to Media Education Society (AMES)*. It has now grown from a clear-cut into a forest garden that is home to more than 50 species of edible and medicinal native plants, a place of learning that holds deep cultural and ecological significance. It is open to the public year-round, and community members can volunteer to help maintain and harvest from it on the first Friday of every month.

This free, family-friendly event was made possible through support from the Gencon Foundation and the Ecclesiastical Insurance Canada Community Impact Grant. Thank you for making this good work possible!



Galiano
Conservancy
ASSOCIATION

See What We're Up To:



Galiano Conservancy | 10825 Porlier Pass Rd | Galiano Island, BC V0N 1P0 CA

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