

Conservation in their Genes

On a clear day in October I joined twenty TLC Members for a Mushroom ID Walk through TLC's Barer and Kinghorn Covenants with local experts Kem Luther and Rich Mably. One of TLC's 2018 Passport to Nature events, the hike lead us through second growth Douglas-fir forest with regionally and provincially significant habitat.

Kem and Rich showed us how to find and identify species, the parts of the mushrooms' fruiting body, and the role of fungi in the forest.

Three participants were sure to register early for our hike: Denise, Philip and Steven grew up exploring this forest. Had it not been for their father, Ralph Barer, these lands would not be protected today. An avid hiker, Ralph saw the importance of protecting this ecologically-sensitive parcel. In 2004, after Ralph's passing, his five children worked with TLC to ensure that the 160 acre parcel was acquired through partial donation and direct purchase to ensure the forest was protected.

Of course the Barer Covenant is accessible to those who couldn't make it to our fall event: the land is now included in Mount Work Regional Park, owned by the Capital Regional District, and covenanted by TLC.

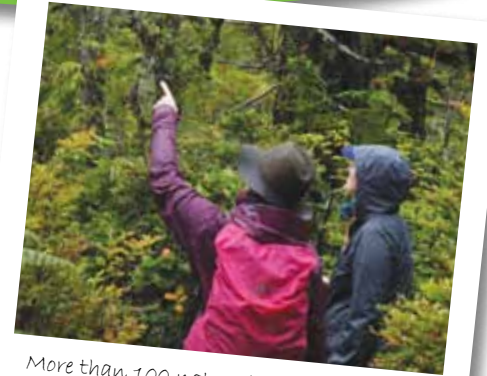
In December TLC's conservation covenant portfolio grew 1.4 acres larger with the addition of the Pugh Covenant, co-held with the District of Central Saanich. Another family with strong ties to their local parks, Frances, Winona, Gillian and

Geraldine wanted to be sure their parents' legacies remained intact, and so would their land. Lorna and Alan Pugh instilled this love of wildlife and the outdoors in their four daughters.

"Our parents enjoyed watching the many animals and birds that increasingly used the wildlife corridor and sanctuary that the protected creek and forest area, rich in native flora, provides," said Frances Pugh, Central Saanich grower and TLC Board Member.

In this edition of the LANDmark you will read about how your contributions, both financial and participatory, are making a difference locally and globally. From fighting climate change to enabling learning opportunities for budding naturalists, TLC Members, donors and partners make our work possible.

After last year's success and participant feedback, our 2019 Passport



More than 100 nature lovers learned about species identification, restoration techniques, and the ecosystems we work to protect through our Passport last year.

to Nature has expanded to include 13 FREE events. From a **Lichen Walk with Juliet Pendray on March 17th** to a **Moss Walk on December 7th**, you can register for all of our events online at www.conservancy.bc.ca or calling TLC.

I've already picked out the Passport to Nature events I don't want to miss: I will be at the **Clearwater Community Day on May 11th** and **Wreath Making at Abkhazi Garden on November 22nd**. Be sure to register for your favourites before they fill up; three of our Passport to Nature events were fully registered last year!

Cathy Armstrong
Executive Director



Three of Ralph Barer's children joined us for our Passport to Nature: Mushroom ID Walk through TLC's Barer and Kinghorn Covenants.
Photos Karen Iwachow



TLC's Passport to Nature was created to get members, donors and the public out to explore the lands we protect - and it did just that! Three of our events were full!

Partnering to Protect New Lands

TLC's network grows to further our programming across the province

By Torrey Archer
Biologist & Land Manager

Protecting land is not a one-person-show. Effective conservation is generated through partnership, with collective actions and support for a shared vision. TLC is only one of the many conservation-minded entities in B.C. working tirelessly to protect nature. Non-profits, universities and community groups working in concert is so important; we can achieve so much more together than apart.

Connectivity is a buzz-word in the conservation realm and rightfully so; protected parcels have greater ecological function and integrity if they are contiguous. The same is true for the people who work to protect the land: if they are connected, they can identify the linkages and possible cross-pollination of ideas. With greater connection, we find synergy. The effects are contagious and the momentum results in the whole truly being greater than the sum of its parts.

Recent examples of TLC partnerships include participating in the Sidney Summit, where a meeting with a member of Nature Sketch, a Bateman Foundation initiative, has resulted in a **Nature Sketch event for the whole family in our 2019 Passport to Nature Program on July 6th**. The continued restoration of the Fort Shepherd Conservancy Area in Trail, where TLC is working with members of the Trail Wildlife Association and local First Nations, is

bringing partners together to mitigate forest fire risk and other threats. Another example is knowing the people in your community and showcasing their talents, like my dear friend Ian Cruickshank, an incredible naturalist and birder who will be leading a **Passport to Nature Bird Walk event in Sooke on March 23rd**.

A very uplifting partnership that is making a big difference is the work of members of the Friends of Cortes Island who have engaged with TLC to protect a wildlife corridor across the entire island of Cortes, specifically for large carnivores like wolves, black bears and cougars. Possibly the most exciting example is the Deertrails Naturalist Program launching this May to connect seasoned and burgeoning naturalists at TLC's recently acquired land in Clearwater, introducing young minds to some of our province's best naturalists like Briony Penn, Andy MacKinnon, Trevor Goward and Lyn Baldwin.

In order to protect and conserve land, you must have an intimate relationship with that land. This can be hard to achieve in our increasingly digital world, but connection can come via partnership with those who already know the land. You just have to connect with them. It is said that if you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together. At TLC, we hope to go very far, with many. ■



TLC's covenants on Cortes Island protect more than 379 acres of wildlife corridor used by wolves, as documented by wildlife cameras. Photo Sabina Leader Mense



The Pugh Covenant, protecting 1.4 acres of Coastal Douglas-fir in Saanich, was signed in December in partnership with the District of Central Saanich. Photo Andrew MacKinnon



Torrey Archer is TLC's Biologist & Land Manager. To get involved with the Covenant Program connect with Torrey at (250) 479-8053 or covenants@conservancy.bc.ca.

8 Items an Aspiring Naturalist Brings to Clearwater

In early May TLC is offering its first Deertrails Program for budding naturalists at our Clearwater Wetland & Wildlife Corridor. For those interested in participating in our week-long program but not sure what to bring, Deputy Executive Director Dianna Stenberg lists her eight must-pack items for a week in Clearwater.

- 1. Thermos and Water Bottle** – My mornings always start with a cup of tea. I love my YETI mug, but use with caution: this model works so well I always have to check the temp before taking my first sip!
- 2. Cell Phone or Camera** – while serious photographers may scoff, I find my cell phone is a great tool for taking photos and video of species or vistas, and of course it's excellent in an emergency. However, it does have limits; TLC's Clearwater Wetland & Wildlife Corridor doesn't have cell coverage, so don't expect updates from the field.

- 3. Hat or Toque** – I can usually be spotted sporting my Cubs baseball cap, but my colleague Torrey has a fantastic water repelling fedora that serves her well in any weather. A toque is a must for chilly mornings or evenings around the campfire.
- 4. Hiking Boots** – patched from an encounter with an enthusiastic puppy years ago, my old boots hold up to a myriad of conditions; from hiking the Redwoods of California to the countryside of Scotland, I know they'll keep me dry and comfortable.
- 5. Favourite Snack** – I'm a sucker for sweets, so I usually have something in my pack. While meals are included in the program fee, if you can't live without your must-have snack bring some with you. Word to the wise: bring extra to share!
- 6. Sleeping Bag and Pillow** – sleeping in 3-person bunkhouses, you cannot forget your bedroll! You're more than welcome to bring your own tent should you prefer.

- 7. Light Rain Coat** – Dressing for changing weather is a must, so I like to incorporate light layers in case I get warm while hiking. My light rain coat easily folds to fit in my pack.
- 8. Notebook and Writing Implements** – whether you're more comfortable with watercolours, pen or pencil, be sure to have your quill and field journal at the ready!

You can learn about the Deertrails Program and TLC's **Clearwater Community Day on May 11th** at www.conservancy.bc.ca. ■



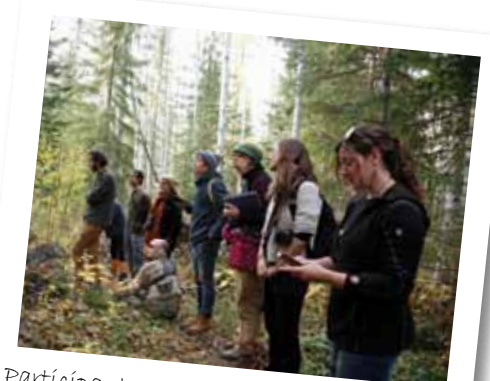
Dianna Stenberg is TLC's Deputy Executive Director. Get in touch with Dianna about the Clearwater Educational Program via (250) 479-8053 or dstenberg@conservancy.bc.ca.



With expert naturalists Lyn Baldwin, Trevor Goward and Briony Penn, the week-long course is sure to inspire. Photo Cathy Armstrong



The Clearwater wetland and Wildlife Corridor, expanded last year by TLC donors, is an ideal location for sharing naturalist knowledge. Photo Cathy Armstrong



Participants will study native species in the Interior Cedar-Hemlock, Moist Warm Variant (ICHmw3) biogeoclimatic zone. Photo Karen Iwachow

MAR
23
Bird Walk
Join local naturalist Ian Cruickshank to learn about and see a wide suite of birds found in the forests and shores of Ayum Creek, and get a crash course in birding by ear. We'll also identify plants and discuss natural history along the way. **Bring your binoculars and hiking boots!**

MAY
11
Clearwater Community Day
TLC's Clearwater Wetland and Wildlife Corridor protects more than 46 hectares of the Interior Cedar-Hemlock, Moist Warm Variant (ICHmw3) biogeoclimatic zone. Join naturalists for an inspiring forest walk and talk.

JUNE
1
Edible Plant Walk and Nursery Tour
Join Nanaimo & Area Land Trust (NALT) and TLC for a guided walk at NALT's Native Plant Nursery. Experts will focus on native plant recognition, discussing their historic and indigenous uses, and will lead a gathering demonstration.

JUNE
8
Tax Talk and Forest Walk
Join TLC at Mary Lake Nature Sanctuary to learn how you can save on taxes while contributing to worthy causes. Followed by a guided walk through beautiful trails. **Please note: registration is required for all Passport events.**

Members Remain TLC's Backbone

Is the news about the state of our planet and climate change overwhelming you? Do you want to take action but you're not sure where to start? Consider becoming a TLC Member!

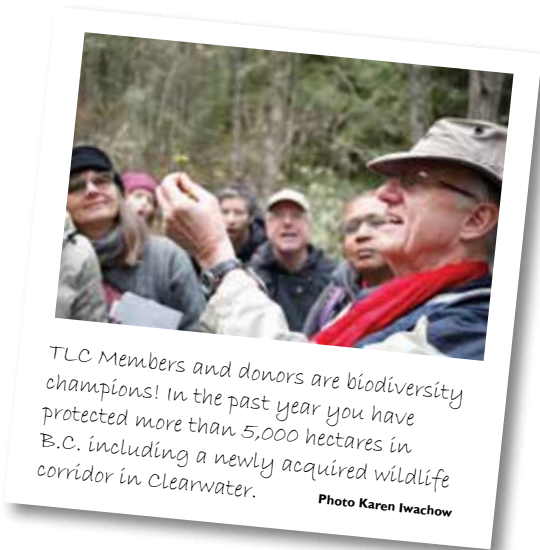
When you join TLC you become part of a team of like-minded people taking action to protect vital habitat and endangered species throughout British Columbia.

Our members are the backbone of TLC and share our bright vision of hope; working together to mitigate climate change and ensure that the biological diversity of B.C. is protected now, and for future generations.

When you join TLC you become part of a team whose mission aligns with Canada's Target 1 initiative. Scientists with the Target 1 initiative believe that by halting the loss of natural systems and by promoting their restoration there is the potential to reach at least one-third of the climate change mitigation targets by 2030.

One of the ways TLC members are helping to reach these targets is through projects like the expansion of the Clearwater Wetland and Wildlife Corridor. This conserved wildlife corridor safeguards a critical wetland system while offering safe passage to seasonal migrations of large mammals like bear, cougar, moose, and caribou.

When you become a TLC member you not only help to save wild places you also



TLC Members and donors are biodiversity champions! In the past year you have protected more than 5,000 hectares in B.C. including a newly acquired wildlife corridor in Clearwater. Photo Karen Iwachow

have a vote and a say in the direction of our organization. You can get involved as little or as much as you like, sharing insights and expertise, volunteering at restoration events, or even serving on TLC's Board of Directors!

We wouldn't be here without our members. TLC members add strength to our voice and expand our influence, allowing our work to have a greater impact.

P.S. I will be hosting a **Tax Talk and Forest Walk at Mary Lake Nature Sanctuary on June 8th**. Find out how you can support the causes you believe in while saving tax dollars. Sign up for this FREE Passport to Nature event on our website. Hope to see you there!



Lisa Cross, TLC's Member and Donor Care Manager, loves exploring the great outdoors surrounding her home on Vancouver Island. Get in touch with Lisa at (250) 479-8044 or membership@conservancy.bc.ca.

TLC is honoured to be the recipient of donations in memory of:

Robin W. Edwards, Margaret (Peggy) Konkin, Alan Littler & Carol Stenberg
To remember your loved one with a special gift call 1-877-485-2422

Board of Directors

Mel Lehan ■ Fred Newhouse ■ Briony Penn ■ Francis Pugh ■ Lori Roter
Fran Sloan Sainas ■ Marika Smith ■ Andrew Stewart ■ Jeff Ward ■ Tom Watson



The Passport to Nature was created with you in mind – those who want to explore the wild outdoors, experience new things & meet like-minded people. To make the most of your Passport, here are *five* steps to plan your next adventure & get involved in the work of TLC.

- 1 PLAN** your next adventure. Read the Passport to Nature booklet - available online and in print - for event information.



- 2 REGISTER** online asap. Popular events may fill up.

- 3 ATTEND!** Don't forget a water bottle and good shoes.



- 4 SHARE** your experience with friends and include the hashtag #PassportToNature in your social media updates.



- 5 SIGN UP** as a Member to get more involved with The Land Conservancy of British Columbia.