



RUBY LAKE
LAGOON
SOCIETY



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Final Report
Coastal Sand Summer Celebration
July 20-21, 2013

**Prepared for BC Parks on Behalf of The South Coast Conservation
Program and The Ruby Lake Lagoon Society**

By

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16th August 2013

Ruby Lake Lagoon Nature Reserve Society

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The South Coast Conservation Program and the Ruby Lake Lagoon Society are pleased to present the final report on our collaboration with BC Parks to help raise awareness of the importance of preventing the spread of invasive species, some of which are threatening the survival of our unique native habitats.

Description of the Event:

The **Coastal Sand Summer Celebration** took place on July 20 and 21, 2013.

Along the Sunshine Coast, you can find unique sand ecosystems that are rare in British Columbia. Coastal sand ecosystems are a combination of sand and plants – with the plants often scattered in patches on beaches, spits and dunes. Tides, storm surges and ocean spray help to build and maintain these ecosystems. The variety of plant communities that result support a wide range of rare and interesting animal life.

Coastal sand ecosystems are important as they contribute to BC's biodiversity, provide recreational benefits for outdoor enthusiasts and buffer inland areas from flooding or storm damage. However, these areas are fragile and vulnerable to human disturbances such as the spread of invasive plants like Scotch broom.

A well-known site with coastal sand on the Sunshine Coast is Buccaneer Bay Provincial Park located on the Southern end of North Thormanby Island. To raise awareness, the South Coast Conservation Program, in partnership with the Ruby Lake Lagoon Nature Reserve Society and sponsored by BC Parks, hosted a weekend event at Buccaneer Bay Provincial Park to celebrate the Sunshine Coast's sand ecosystems. The coordinators were Tamsin Baker and Lee-Ann Ennis.

The Family Festival Day was on July 20 from 11am to 4pm. There were two tents set up with displays from the South Coast Conservation Program, the Ruby Lake Lagoon Nature Reserve Centre and the Sunshine Coast Regional District. Another table specifically included information on coastal sand ecosystems, Scotch broom removal and a coastal sand steward program sign-up sheet for the locals. A third tent was set up as the food area next to the BBQ to serve water, lemonade, veggies, watermelon and hotdogs. There was a kids activity zone next to the tents. A biologist (Claudia Schaefer) shared information about the coastal sand ecosystem species and gave a guided walk. Pamela Zevit, SCCP Coordinator, provided additional information about the species at risk on the South Coast.

July 21 involved habitat restoration where volunteers helped to rid the park of invasive Scotch broom. The event was between 10am and 1pm and began with a talk about the coastal sand ecosystems and the best technique to remove broom. The broom in the park turned out to be relatively minimal. However, the broom was quite extensive on the southern property adjacent to the park and was posing a threat. Once the broom was removed within the park boundaries, permission was granted by the landowners to remove broom on their site. Four large piles of broom were created.

The community partners involved in this project were:

- BC Parks (funding, staff and broom removal, equipment support)
- Ruby Lake Lagoon Nature Reserve Society (admin support, summer staff support, equipment support such as tables, tents, BBQ equipment, drink dispenser etc.)
- Sunshine Coast Regional District (staff support, waste disposal support)
- Sunshine Coast Conservation Association (helped to promote the event)
- Coastal Invasive Species Council (provided information on broom removal techniques)
- South Coast Conservation Program (provided staffing and equipment support)
- Claytons Heritage Market (food sponsor)

Number of volunteers:

The volunteers were involved primarily in the broom removal day on June 21st. In total, 16 volunteers provided at least 31 hours of time removing Scotch broom that threatened the park. In addition to the volunteers, staff from BC Parks, the Ruby Lake Lagoon Nature Reserve Society and the Sunshine Coast Regional District provided in-kind assistance. This included four interns from the Ruby Lake Centre each providing one day, the Senior Park Ranger (Rod Dalziel) providing at least three days and one staff day from the SCR D staff.

General public participation:

Tracking exact numbers of the people who visited the event on July 20 was challenging, but it was estimated that at least 75 to 100 members of the general public were engaged. Included in these numbers are local residents from both the Vaucroft and Gill beach communities who will be contacted in the near future to partner on other sand stewardship activities.

On July 21, some members of the general public did walk by. Another 10 approximately were engaged.

Final Budget (including additional leveraged resources):

Expense	BC Parks contribution	Matching cash funds	Total	Description
Ruby Lake Lagoon Nature Reserve Society	500.00		500.00	10 % Administrative fee, includes rental of tents, tables, BBQ and other misc. supplies
Tamsin Baker - Coordinator	1653.75	1837.50	3491.25	Event coordinator - 9.5 days for organizing, implementing and wrap-up. Day rate: \$350/day plus GST
Lee-Ann Ennis – co-coordinator	940.00		940.00	Event co-coordinator - 4.7 days for organizing, implementing and wrap-up. Day rate: \$200/day
Claudia Schaefer - naturalist	708.54		708.54	Leading nature walks and providing biological info to event visitors. Invoice included time (day rate \$500/day plus GST), transportation, accommodation, meals and printing costs for interpretive materials
Pamela Zevit	100.00		100.00	Honorarium for SCCP coordinator to provide event visitors with info about coastal species and ecosystems at risk
Claytons Heritage Market	173.84	50.00	223.84	Food for BBQ and volunteers
Doodlebug Greetings	80.25		80.25	Poster design
Copying of poster, other signage and hand out materials	81.70	12.10	93.80	Printing and lamination materials
Accommodation	125.00	125.00	250.00	2 nights Sunshine Coast Accommodation for Tamsin and Pamela
Transportation - BC ferries	78.15		78.15	Transportation for Tamsin and Pamela
Transportation - Water taxi	518.70		518.70	Water taxi for July 20 and 21, transporting staff and volunteers
Misc. Supplies	23.63	157.85	181.48	Duct tape, garbage bags, drinking cups, extra loppers purchase in-kind
Additional Mileage	20.00		20.00	50 km at \$0.40 for transportation of tables, tents etc. on July 20
TOTAL	5003.56	2182.45	7186.01	

Photos – Coastal Sand Summer Celebration, July 20 & 21, 2013



