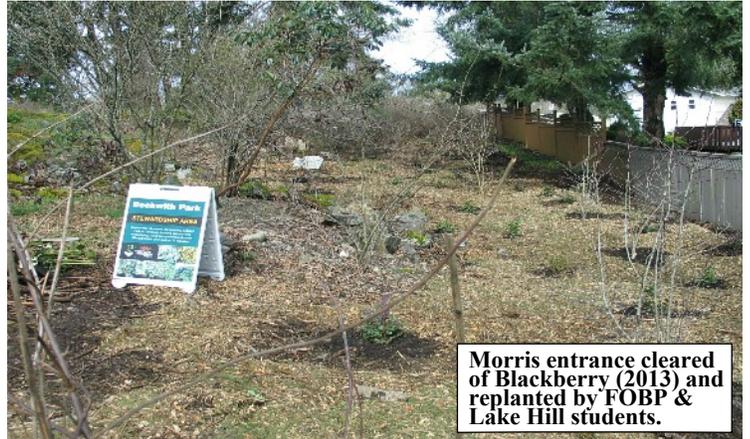


# Friends Of Beckwith Park *Keep Pulling Together!*

*A park that continues to flourish...*

There's been a lot happening in Beckwith Park these days! The volunteer group, Friends of Beckwith Park (FOBP), have been working hard regularly for the past 6 years to keep your park in great shape! In addition to eradicating Scotch Broom, our first target, FOBP continues to fight English Ivy, English Holly, Daphne, English Hawthorne and other invasive species. While touring the park, you may notice more obvious changes these days. In Feb, the Victoria Green Team and Saanich Parks assisted in removing Himalayan Blackberry near the Morris Drive entrance and replanted beautiful native species of trees and bushes. This huge effort will look fabulous as the plants mature. In progress, along the connecting section of the ponds, is an effort to remove encroaching blackberry from an

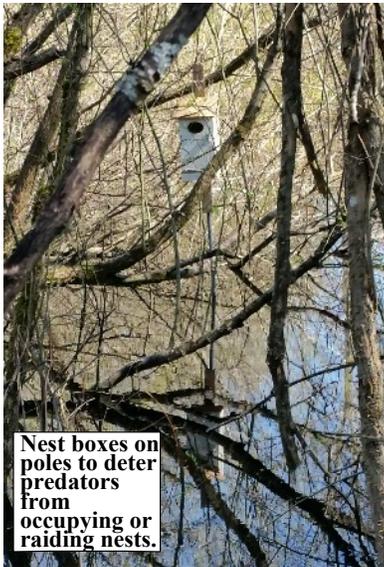


Morris entrance cleared of Blackberry (2013) and replanted by FOBP & Lake Hill students.

incredibly pristine park area. Over time, native roses will grow back while providing more space for the ducks.



Same area today flourishing with variety of shrubs.



Nest boxes on poles to deter predators from occupying or raiding nests.

Finally, the Wood Duck nest boxes

on trees were replaced with new yellow nest boxes on poles. They have been placed so that people may observe the boxes and ducks easily.

Beckwith Park has many areas with sensitive ecosystems and a mecca of native flowers: Camus, Fawn lilies, Chocolate lilies, Shooting Stars, and Satin flowers. With spring here, these flowers are coming into bloom. It is important that park visitors, children and pets respect them by not picking flowers and keeping to paths. Doing so allows the flowers to bloom for years to come.

Those concerned about their blackberry pies should note that while restoring key areas of native Garry oak ecosystems, we will always leave the favoured blackberry patches for neighbourhood picking. Also note, we're always looking for more volunteers! We meet every month on the 2nd and 4th Saturday at 9:30 am for 2 hours. Tools are provided, so come whenever it works for you! Contact Eylon Gilbart at [eylingilbart@hotmail.com](mailto:eylingilbart@hotmail.com) or

## *Other North Quadra Parks Needing Rehab...*

Hutchison Park, Gabo Creek and the Christmas Hill Corridor are ecological gems in dire need of a rehab or stewardship program resembling Beckwith Park's model. The key is volunteers, and most notably someone willing to stand as a group contact. Saanich's *Pulling Together Program* takes care of all the planning, risk assessment requirements, logistics and tools. Work parties could occur as "one-offs" such as the Hutchison Park 2014 event (which resulted in 10 huge truckloads of ivy removed!) or an ongoing program could be set up. Saanich's budget may be stretched but Park Staff are most supportive of volunteer efforts. Any effort, large or small, contributes a great deal to a park's ecological restoration. If you can lend a hand with invasive species removal and native species planting, please contact Jenny Eastman at *Saanich Pulling Together Volunteer Coordinator 250.744.1710* or [ferns1@telus.net](mailto:ferns1@telus.net)