

## ***Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program***



# Islands Trust

## **2014 Recipient Profile**

### **David Denning, Salt Spring Island**

- Category:** Individual
- Project:** **Inspiring people about Salt Spring Island's natural world**
- Nominator(s):** Jean Gelwicks, Salt Spring Island Conservancy
- Letters of Support:** Farley Cannon, Briony Penn, George Ehring,  
Nora Layard, Paul Burke

#### **Project Description:**

Since coming to Salt Spring Island over 20 years ago, David Denning has been educating and inspiring the community about the wonders of the natural environment in many volunteer roles. With a Masters Degree in Science Education, his life work has been developing films, videos, and multimedia programs to inspire understanding and protection of the natural world. On Salt Spring Island, he has focused on protecting, enhancing and restoring the natural environment, especially the marine environment.

David is committed to equipping everyone, especially young people, with the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to be good stewards of nature. His interpretive seashore walks are island-famous, promoting a sense of awe and wonder. An entire generation of Salt Spring Islanders sees a shoreline differently because of his work.

Recently, David designed and co-organized the very successful Transition Renewable Energy Conference and designed and wrote the Conservancy's Stewards in Training Nature Calendar, which highlights for local children what is happening with nature every month. He has been involved in many Conservancy projects including a key role in the Living with Nature Guide for newcomers that shows how to live with nature and limit one's ecological footprint. Through his extensive contacts in the BC naturalist community and through his enthusiasm, he has helped the Conservancy Education Committee bring over 100 naturalist speakers to island audiences.

David frequently teaches in all the school marine programs, serves on the conservancy scholarship committee and is a member of the Climate Action Council. A founding member of the Transition SS Community Energy Group, he is co-developer of the innovative GISS Solar Scholarship Project for renewable energy education. He is also currently working on a shoreline survey for Salt Spring Island.