

Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program



Islands Trust

2015 Recipient Profile

Michael Dunn, Mayne Island

Category:	Individual
Project:	Fostering ecological and community sustainability for 20 years
Nominator(s):	Executive Committee, Mayne Island Conservancy Society

Project Description:

Michael Dunn has launched and coordinated many initiatives in the past two decades that enhance both the environment and economic sustainability of Mayne Island.

As the founder and coordinator of the Gulf Islands Centre for Ecological Learning since 2000, Michael has been educating children and teens, both on and off-island, about ecological values and increasing the island's 'resiliency' through summer and day camps, leadership training and programs.

Other significant volunteer roles include:

- Organizer of Oceans Day events since mid 90's
- Weigh-in master of annual Beach Cleanup since 2008 (90 volunteers on 16 beaches)
- Initiator of on-going Henderson Hill Restoration Project since 2008
- Regional Coordinator of Active Pass Bird Area and organizer of annual bird counts
- Coordinator of Food and Agriculture Strategy for Economic Development Commission - 2014

Since 2013, Michael Dunn has volunteered for at least 24 hours per week as the Executive Director of the Mayne Island Conservancy Society, promoting the Society's mandate to foster harmony between nature and community and raising funds to support this work.

Michael started a Walkabout program in 2010 in which volunteers walk with landowners (50 properties so far) to identify native and invasive plant species and find conservation solutions. Michael has dedicated a portion of his own property for the Native Plants Nursery of the Conservancy and is growing 23 species of plants resistant to fallow deer and drought.

Michael's newest project is Festival Active Pass which promotes economic activity by celebrating the natural beauty and wildlife of the Salish Sea region, its unique communities and the art it inspires.