

Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program



Islands Trust

2017 Nominee Profile

Laura Matthias, Salt Spring Island

- Category:** Individual
- Project:** Protecting, restoring and stewarding the natural environment
- Nominator(s):** Peter Ommundsen

Description:

For the past decade, Laura Matthias has taken a leadership role in environmental protection as a biologist with the Salt Spring Island Conservancy. Laura has been instrumental in the acquisition and restoration of natural ecosystems and has worked with private landowners to develop habitat protection initiatives for species at risk.

Laura has been a leader on Salt Spring by supporting community awareness and participation in the conservation of nature. Laura has involved landowners in conservation, restoration and habitat protection projects on private property. She has also engaged the public through educational events, hands-on workshops, working with students on restoration projects, volunteer recruitment, landowner visits, wildlife photography, educational articles and videos. In addition, Laura has invited local specialists to help inventory Salt Spring ecosystems. Her restoration projects have attracted hundreds of community volunteers to assist with establishment of a native plant nursery, native plantings, plant and animal surveys, site preparation, invasive plant removal, stream bank restoration and wetland creation.