



THE SMALL SPECIES SANCTUARY

"..to be an example of how humans can integrate into the environment in a way that helps rather than harms the habitat"



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THE SMALL SPECIES
SANCTUARY

INTRODUCTION

ABOUT THE SMALL SPECIES SANCTUARY

The Small Species Sanctuary is thirty acres of land that was logged in the mid 1990's. It was purchased in 2004 by the current caretaker, Lawrence Mayles.

During the first two years the scotch broom was removed and ponds were dug. This was done by hand so as to be minimally invasive.

The Small Species Sanctuary is a Sanctuary of serenity, stillness, silence and surrender to the sacred in all beings. The intention is to be an example of how humans can integrate into the environment in a way that helps rather than harms the habitat. We hope with this document, to outline as clearly as possible, the vision that we are working to create here at the Small Species Sanctuary.



OUR INTENTION

We intend to create light and hope for this land, this community and this world. We see a positive future based on strong community bonds and a deep understanding of our ecology and our place within it.

We intend to co-create with nature, for life to express itself in harmonious relationship with itself, through education, media, and most of all living practice.

We wish to give to the land and all its creatures, just as they give to us.

We wish to offer our example to the world in the hopes of inspiring others to connect with nature and create their own sanctuaries.





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THE VISION

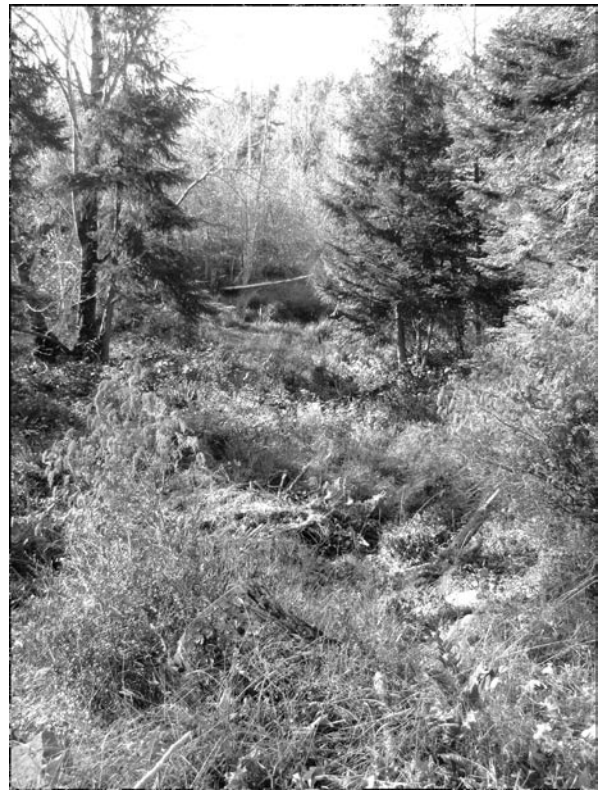
LIFE SYSTEM SUPPORT

The first and most central of the three modules of this vision, is the life systems support & maintenance module.

It is our rightful duty to serve this land, as it serves us, and so, right to the core of our operation, we must reflect that.

All of our facilities will be built with a keen sense of the relationship to the land and it's creatures and will be built with natural integration in mind.

This portion of our activities will center around keeping all of our waste, water, food and other such systems running smoothly, efficiently and complimentary to the ecology. This module is to be the primary living example that we wish to share in our educational material and our media.



Technologies and practices that may be possible options:

- Natural building techniques such as cob, rammed earth, or sandbag structures
- Permaculture gardening principles and practices
- Rain water collection and composting toilet systems and grey water recycling
- Solar and/or wind generated energy systems

CONSCIOUSNESS COLLEGE

Consciousness is what we are promoting through this entire vision. Consciousness of what we humans might serve best as in relation to all this, Consciousness of all those small details that sustain our lives collectively and individually, and most of all consciousness of our own actions, so that we may act in accordance with what each situation demands of us.

The Consciousness College module will host a wide variety of perspectives on the interconnectedness of all life, and our relationship to ourselves and each other as integral parts of that life.

Our workshops will manifest in a variety of ways some of which may include:

- Alternative physical and emotional healing techniques
- Wholistic nature meditation retreats
- Permaculture and other practical applications of our integrated lifestyle
- Integral/universal spirituality



MEDIA PRODUCTION

Strawberry Stars Story and Song Studio will function as our media outlet, they will create colorful media of all types for all ages to express the ideas and dreams of The Small Species Sanctuary. This will come in the form of magazines, books, audio CD's, videos, web sites and countless other forms to encompass the breadth of our message of hope for Humanity and the Earth.

This module will function as a creative outlet for our crew and it will also serve to provide additional income to help sustain the sanctuary financially.

The studio could be used for all types of collaborations and would very likely be the center of artistic and creative activity at the Small Species Sanctuary.





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IMPLICATIONS

OUR HOME

The implications of this project are huge. To live in balance with nature in this way, will benefit our home in countless ways. For one, the land will be safely protected from developments which could seriously compromise the integrity of the eco-system through careless and outdated practices.

Treating the land with love and respect, will result in prosperity for the plant life and the wildlife of which human life naturally reflects and intrinsically relies upon.

All life forms involved will experience a more healthy, integrated lifestyle, leading to healthier, happier and more productive inhabitants.

Additionally, through our consciousness college and our media production module, we will produce financial sustenance that will keep our operation running smoothly and efficiently into the future.



OUR COMMUNITY

The Small Species Sanctuary will first and foremost, be an example to our community. Through the Consciousness College, we will share our knowledge and skills. Gabriola Island has a wealth of teachers as well of students who may benefit in many ways from our presence.

The Consciousness College will also attract people from all around, providing Gabriola Island with tourism traffic which will serve to fuel the local economy. The type of tourist that would be attracted by the Consciousness College, could be beneficial in further sculpting island services of all types toward eco-consciousness and more responsible consumer choices.

We could also use our media production module to work with the local newspapers and web sites to strengthen Gabriola Island's eco-consciousness tourism industry.



OUR WORLD

Each of us are responsible for our actions. We've pledged to do our part at home, and in our community, but what can we do for the world at large? How can we make change on a larger scale?

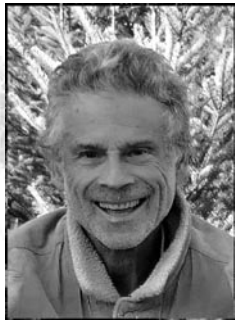
Our media production module's primary function is to do just this. Through our connection to nature and each other, we find a need to express this joy, this love for life - this is our message. We will strive to package our message in any way it can be recieved. We will create stories, songs, publications, merchandise - anything to express our message. Thanks to the internet, we can easily be recieved world wide through our website as well as through services such as youtube.com and social networking sites such as facebook.





SEND YOUR SUPPORT

If you are interested in supporting the Small Species Sanctuary, please contact our Senior Steward, Lawrence Mayles for details.



Lawrence Mayles
SENIOR STEWARD

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