

DeBoville Wildlife Habitat Workparty

by David Mounteney

The morning of Sunday, March 19th dawned clear and bright, a wonderful day for a canoe. Seven of us, volunteers, Friends of DeBoville Slough and Burke Mountain Naturalists met at the gates of DeBoville Slough. Our task, to remove Scotch Broom and plant native plants on the Wildlife Habitat Setback that had been cut down by the blueberry farmer, halfway out the slough on the northside. Our biggest challenge, get from the dike to the setback. It is only 35 feet, unfortunately it is 35 feet of water.

We headed out the northside of the slough, Don's truck and my van loaded with plants, tools and my canoe. Dike users stepped aside with puzzled looks.



Canoe Crossing Photo by Myrna Mounteney

We planted 22 native plants including Cascara, Black Hawthorn, Black Twinberry and Pacific Crabapple. These plants will augment the plants that the Burke Mountain Naturalists and the City of Coquitlam planted a couple of years ago. The site is also regenerating on its own.

We ferried people back and on the last trip Charlene



Teamwork Photo by Myrna Mounteney

We reached our destination, what a gorgeous morning, the sky, so blue and the mountains, wow. We unloaded the plants and canoe. As we were getting ready we observed an American Dipper bobbing along the far edge of the ditch, an unusual sighting for DeBoville Slough. With a small amount of loping we were able to make an access point for the canoe, loaded Don, tools and a few plants and it was off to the other side. This process was repeated until the work crew was all on the other side of the water. Myrna stayed with the vehicles and educated all the curious passer bys.

On the other side we made quick work of the Scotch Broom, cutting it off at the base and piling it on site. Scotch Broom hasn't been a big problem at DeBoville Slough but there are now a number of development sites near the start of the slough with lots of broom



Worksite Photo by Myrna Mounteney

and I took a short paddle down the ditch, surprising a few ducks, guess they don't see too many canoes. We were packed and headed back to the gate when we spotted a very large Black bear, the first of the year for me. As we stood watching the bear a Red-tailed hawk and male Northern Harrier passed overhead. Thanks to Don, Elaine, Charlene, Zaid, Carole and Myrna for their hard work and enthusiasm. A good ending for the morning.