

San Juan Island Update



Written on May 12, 2011 at 10:58 pm by [Ian Byington](#)

Soroptimists Work to Save the Island's Garry Oaks for Earth Day 2011

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Soroptimists in action on their Earth Day project....

For a second year, a Soroptimist work crew spent April 30 helping to improve the Garry Oak habitat on Cady Mountain.

Under the direction of San Juan County Land Bank arborist Doug McCutchen, the crew cleared away Douglas Fir that have been crowding out the stand of Garry Oaks in their meadow habitat. They also weeded around the oak seedlings and repaired protective cages. After lunch, Gary Slater from the Ecostudies Institute gave a presentation on the Western Bluebird Reintroduction Project. In addition to the beautiful island views from Cady Mountain, volunteers were rewarded with cookies from Harrison House Suites and \$20 gift certificates for Coho Restaurant.

Garry Oaks were once plentiful on the island, but years of converting land to agricultural, residential and industrial development has fragmented their habitats. Garry Oak ecosystems

support 75 to 80 species of animals and birds who are now facing a dwindling habitat. If anyone would like to participate in a work party, contact Doug McCutchen at 378-4402.