

Walk #3

Entwined Trees Trail (Berry Point Area)



What To Expect

Approx Time: 30-40 mins

Approx Distance: 2 km

Difficulty: moderate
(includes hills)

Begin: Berry Point Road at Haig
(Alternative: use the parking pullout on the east side of Berry Point Road just before Norwich Hill and start the walk from there).

This walk offers quiet roads, a forest trail, ocean views and a diverse range of trees.

Trailheads are marked with painted rocks (thanks to Gabriola's Grade 6/7 class!) and routes are marked with **green flagging tape**. Both will be removed in late March.

Trail Route and Tree Nominees



Walk up Haig Rd, turn right onto Chichester West then left up the unmarked road past the trailers. At the large water tank, turn right to skirt a pond fringed with horsetails and bigleaf maple. You are on one of 19 trails that cross private land and whose landholders allow public access through a contract with GaLTT. This particular licence was established in 2012—one of the first on Gabriola.*



Tom Whalley's nominee

Turn left and begin a moderate climb past sword ferns and cedars. At the base of the hill on your left, note the very large grand fir. A little further up are the beautifully entwined Douglas-fir and red cedar that **Tom Whalley** nominated.

All photos courtesy of Libby Gunn



Grand fir



Winter Walkabout 2022: Trees



Red alder



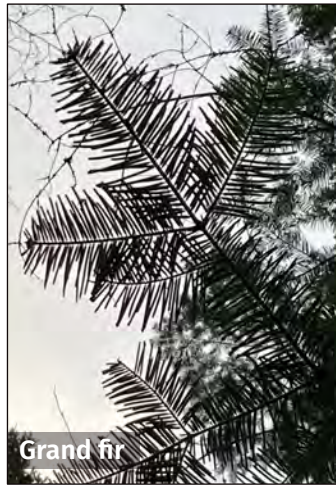
Hemlock tips

On this slope you'll also see the blotchy beige trunks of red alder, so-called because of the reddish colour of the interior wood when newly cut. These short-lived trees often grow in disturbed and/or wet areas.

Turn right onto Clarendon, a quiet, gently sloped road. Hemlock seedlings on the left side are easy to identify as they are only about five feet tall and you can see their characteristic droopy tops. The Douglas-fir seedlings, by contrast, are perky and straight.



Hemlock



Grand fir

Like grand fir, hemlock have flat needles of varying lengths, but the needles on hemlock are much shorter.

Cross Norwich and continue straight. There is a large grand fir on the right just before you turn right onto Rosislös. A large arbutus also graces this corner. Arbutus only live near the ocean and have bright red berries that often persist through winter and are important food for birds, such as the dark-eyed junco. Arbutus have been in decline in Washington and BC for some time, and many possible causes are under consideration, including specific fungi.

Watch for the large palm-shaped leaves of a native, moisture-loving plant called palmate coltsfoot beside the creek at the base of Rosislös. Unfortunately, you'll also see that the invasive Himalayan blackberry has



Shore pine

taken over most of the watercourse. At the end of Rosislös, follow a short trail that exits onto Berry Point Road across from "Wrinkly" beach—the name will make sense when you see the rock. Turn right and follow Berry Point along the shore back to Haig, or extend your walk with a detour to the public shore access at the end of Seagirt.



Shore pine

As you turn onto the last stretch of Berry Point Road, just before Surf Lodge, you'll see a large shore pine, recognizable by its small, hard, prickly seed cones and needles that grow in pairs. Some Douglas-fir along this stretch that are on marginal habitat and have been limbed, and buffeted by wind, are often mistaken for shore pine because of their contorted shape.

** Trails like this are vital to our trail network.
For more information on trail licences contact
info@galitt.ca or visit galitt.ca*