



Technical Workshop Cast of Characters

February 1, 2025 Thank you so much for sharing your expertise today.



Alan Whitehead is an avid naturalist and retired environmental scientist. He is a long-time director of the Bowen Nature Club, a founding member of the Bowen Island Conservancy, and has been volunteer warden of the Bowen Island Ecological Reserve since 1994.



Alejandro Frid is an ecologist with experience in terrestrial and marine ecosystems. Since 2013 he's been working collaboratively with Coastal First Nations on marine conservation and fisheries management, pairing Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Western Science (alejandrofridecology.weebly.com/).



Ben Keen grew up in the UK, moving to BC in the 1990's where he studied Philosophy and Music at UVic. He works in software development at Microsoft Canada. In his 30's he discovered birding, moved to Bowen around 10 years ago and became more of a general naturalist, cataloguing all he could find across the island. In recent years he's been focusing on moths, seeing over 500 species here on Bowen. He travels extensively.



Bob Turner is a long-time resident of Bowen Island, its former mayor, a retired federal geoscientist, and a filmmaker with over 50 short movies on his Bob Turner YouTube channel about wildlife and wild places around the Salish Sea. He was part of the team that achieved the UNESCO Biosphere Region designation for Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound in 2021, and currently leads the Bowen Island Conservancy's Caring for Nature initiative.



Bonnie Brokenshire is an environmental professional with 25+ years' experience. Her career has led her to remote areas of BC and abroad where she took part in an array of conservation projects. For the past 15 years, Bonny has pursued environmental protection through her work with local governments where she strives to include nature's voice at decision making tables.



Chantal Underdown recently completed a Masters of Science in Conservation Ecology at Oxford Brookes University in England. She's just gotten back to Canada and is excited to help where she can on local conservation efforts.



Claudia Schaefer is a Bowen Island biologist, artist and publisher. She developed the baseline study of the flora and fauna in the Wild Coast Nature Refuge.



Erica Olsen is an ecologist, and currently a PhD student at University of Victoria in the Marine Ethnoecology Research Group. She is the Governance and Monitoring Lead with the Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound Marine Stewardship Initiative. Erica has worked with Indigenous nations and coastal communities to support environmental stewardship initiatives for over a decade.



Jay Matsushiba is a spatial data scientist, with a particular interest in elevating environmental science and ecology with cutting-edge tech. I work with a wide range of tools across GIS, software engineering, robotics, web development, and big data.



Jeff Matheson is a professional biologist dedicated to the stewardship and sustainable management of British Columbia's diverse biological resources. He is a member of BIM's Environment and Climate Action Advisory Committee and served on the board of the Bowen Island Conservancy..



John Dowler is a multi-media designer who has worked on Bowen Island environmental projects since 2002. He works in photography, web strategy & design, GIS map design, graphics, writing, video, music and other media. He developed several new maps of Bowen Island for this project, which appear on the maps page of bowenislandconservancy.org.



John Reid is a real estate developer. He has been practising conservation development on Bowen for the last 25 years.



Kyra Rolfe is an MSc student at SFU examining the complex relationship between wind energy expansion, caribou conservation, and upholding Indigenous rights.



Len Gilday spent many years producing, directing, and photographing documentary films about science and natural history subjects for Canadian and international broadcasters. Len is a member of the creative team behind two books published by the Bowen Island Conservancy: *The Marine Atlas of Nuxwlélexwm/Bowen Island* and *Discovering Kwilakm*.



Louise Loik is a journalist, author and environmental communicator. She was one of the first foreign journalists allowed into Siberia to write about environmental issues and she continues to write about all things wild and wonderful, most recently with the book, *The Beasts of Nuxwlélexwm/Bowen Island – A Discovery Guide to Amphibians and Reptiles*. Louise is the director of communications for the Bowen Island Conservancy.



With almost two decades of experience in journalism, **Manusha Janakiram** thrives on doing meaningful work. She holds an MA in Executive Leadership and is currently an Executive Producer at Canada's public broadcaster. Her work has been recognized by The Canadian Journalism Foundation, RTDNAs, New York Festival Awards, and the Jack Webster Foundation.



Mark Edmonds is the Operations Lead of the Wild Coast Nature Refuge at Cape Roger Curtis.



Maya Persram is an MSc student at SFU researching the intersection of renewable energy development and caribou habitat restoration.



Micaeal Florendo, a resident of Bowen Island since 2005, is a Registered Professional Biologist in good standing in both British Columbia and Alberta. She has over 30 years of environmental consulting experience in British Columbia, Alberta, and southern California. She is currently on the Environment Climate Action Advisory Committee and organizes the annual Christmas Bird Count on Bowen Island.



Michael Tylo is an undergraduate student in Biology at SFU. He's interested in ecology and conservation science. Michael is doing a research apprenticeship in support of the Bowen Biodiversity project this semester.



Murray Journeyay is a former researcher with Natural Resources Canada. He's explored how communities interact with nature through resource management, disaster risk reduction and sustainable land use planning. He's a director of the Squamish Environment Society and works in collaboration with the Átl'ka7tsem / Howe Sound UNESCO Biosphere Region on biodiversity assessment and wildlife connectivity.



Sheree Johnson enjoyed a broad 40+ year career in marketing, sales, finance, leadership, and strategy development. She has been a well-known speaker, author, consultant, and business owner. Sheree brings her expertise to many of the island's municipal and charitable committees and organizations.



Sue Ellen Fast was elected to Bowen municipal council and Islands Trust in 2014 after much volunteering, including a stint as chair of the Bowen Island Conservancy. Her career spans wildlife biology, writing, television, and thousands of hours connecting children and families to nature outdoors in parks and nature centres.



Tom Sisk is an ecologist working on entwined science and policy challenges underlying conservation efforts during this period of rapid environmental change. He combines scientific and participatory processes to advance landscape design, improve forest and grassland management, and minimize the effects of human land use on wildlife and wild places. Tom is an Emeritus Professor at Northern Arizona University and Adjunct at Simon Fraser University.



Tom Swann is a land securement and land conservation strategist. He previously worked with the Nature Conservancy of Canada as Senior Director, Strategic Initiatives and Director of Land Securement. He has lived on Collins Farm, Bowen Island, since 1985.



Valerie Kwok is a spatial analyst at SFU interested in environmental conservation and wildfire ecology. Currently working on the tradeoffs between biodiversity conservation and renewable energy development in BC.



Wendy Palen is a Professor of Ecology and Conservation Biology at Simon Fraser University. She devotes her professional and personal time leveraging science to support groups tackling complex environmental decisions. Wendy and her research teams have worked on organisms ranging from frogs to salmon to caribou, and ecosystems including wetlands, rivers, and high mountain lakes.



Will Husby is an avid naturalist and nature photographer. He is currently co-chair of the Bowen Nature Club and chair of Bowen Island Municipality's Environment and Climate Action Advisory Committee. He runs his heritage interpretation and science community consulting business from his home on Bowen Island.