

June 4, 2012

## FROM JOANNE SALES, BROOMBUSTERS

**Hello Broombusters,**

**What a great year so far!** Over 35 people showed up last Saturday to clear Island Highway in Parksville! Half the people were from Qualicum Beach and half from Parksville – with the slight edge going to Parksville. It was awesome! This may be your last week to cut the broom of your road or community before the seedpods form. Remember, go after those single plants and light infestation. Forget the dense areas for now; stop the spread.

If you are cutting on your own, please email me to let me know where. And if you have tools, please just remind me. No hurry to get them back, however. Thanks all!

**CUTS THIS WEEK:** Looks like rain. If it is pouring rain, we will postpone. A little rain is ok... if you're not sure, email Joanne.

**Errington: Alberni Highway                      Tuesday, June 5                      10 am to noon**

Start at the Welcome to Arrowsmith sign, across from Pet-Mania at Bellevue. If you can't come at that time, you can cut anywhere you want on Alberni.

**Qualicum Beach/Hilliers/Coombs                      Wednesday, June 6                      10 am to noon**

Intersection of Hwy 4 and Hwy 4 A at Coombs Country Junction. Where the road to Port Alberni and roads to Qualicum Beach and Parksville meet. We worked there previous years and it needs another cut.

**Parksville    Saturday, June 9                      9.30 am to 11.30 am**

Interchange #51; second Parksville exit off of Highway 19 - Alberni Highway. Let's finish the two triangles of land beside Highway 19. It is possible! You can park at the Train station or along Alberni Highway on the Errington side of Highway 19 or on the underpass. PARK SAFELY.

### **DO YOU HAVE TIME?**

- Can anyone go back to Kaye Road area by the weigh station? (Exit 46) It would be great to finish the bank between the weigh station and Highway 19, the top of the hill and the sparse sections of the far hill.
- Alberni Highway from the interchange down towards Parksville and the ocean.
- Anywhere on Alberni Highway
- Qualicum Beach – cut anywhere you see broom! Rupert, Hilliers, Crystal Terrace, the interchange.

**We're looking forward to hearing from you! Please contact:**

Joanne Sales, Director

250-752-4816

[info@broombuters.org](mailto:info@broombuters.org)

[www.broombusters.org](http://www.broombusters.org)

**Thanks all!**

### **CUT WHERE YOU LIVE!**

- First seed pod spotted – on a broom plant on the side of the road. So we need to cut the broom beside the roads this week! Hot asphalt, traffic, and southern exposure make the broom go to seed more quickly. We have another couple weeks in parks and larger green spaces.
- Remember cut anytime roads. If you have signed a waiver form, you can return and cut in any area where we have cut before. Almost anywhere in Qualicum Beach and Parksville (email me), and along central major roads in the RDN. This year we're focusing on Alberni Highway and the far end of Grafton. More details below. Just email [info@broombusters.org](mailto:info@broombusters.org)

Remember the strategy – go after the small infestations of broom! Stop the car and cut down that group of 5 or 6 plants. Stop the spread. Especially in the country and near the mountain.

### **CUT ANYTIME AREAS**

FIRST, before you cut, you must sign an Adopt-a-Highway form and ask out about chip up. This can be done at a community cut, or by email. Anywhere that we have had a community cut, you can continue to cut. Please do!

- In Qualicum Beach: anywhere. But especially on Rupert Road, Village Way, traintracks, Qualicum Road at Rupert and at the landfill, behind the dog park on Garden Road.
- In Parksville: many places! Ask about the areas where you want to cut.
- Errington, Coombs, Hilliers, RDN. If you cut on public land, we can give you a free pass to dump the broom. You can leave condensed piles of road broom off the shoulder of the main roads: Alberni, Grafton, Errington, Hilliers, Middlegate, Shawn, etc. We won't have chip up available for piles too far away from the main roads, so email me first. Private land broom can be taken to the dump or composted.
- Bowser, Horne Lake area.... how's it going this year?
- Nanaimo and Courtenay. There are many opportunities to cut besides the weekly community cut. Email [info@broombusters.org](mailto:info@broombusters.org), and I'll connect you to the local folks.

### **Cut the Bloomin' Broom**

Scotch broom is an invasive alien plant taking over huge areas of the Pacific Northwest. Broom spreads rapidly and densely, chokes out native species. It is a fire hazard and toxic to animals and the soil. Broom can prevent reforestation, and takes over fields and pastures. It is a tripping hazard, and causes serious allergic reactions. Scotch broom is bad news for our beautiful Islands.

### **To Remove Scotch Broom - Cut Broom in Bloom**

- Use a long handled lopper. Cut broom at ground level. It will die in the summer's dry heat. If the broom is too big, cut off the manageable branches, including the low stems in the grass. Big broom dies easily. Pull out very young broom. To cut on the road, contact Broombusters first for details.
- Do not disturb the soil, as disturbance causes more seeds to sprout. Just cut in the spring.
- Go after the advancing edge and light infestations first. Work towards the denser areas. A single plant can produce 3,000 seeds that last more than 30 years! Don't let new infestations start. Stop the spread.
- To dispose of broom: In many places, there is chip up or pick up for broom cut from public land. Check with Broombusters. On private land, take to the dump, compost, or burn. After the green seed pods form in June, do not move. Pile in infested area to burn in the fall or let compost.