

Northumberland Land Trust

Ontario, Canada

Preserving Northumberland County - one acre at a time

The Preserver, August 2014

CURIOUS ABOUT BATS? SAVE THIS DATE!

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29



This is the date of our annual fund-raising dinner, and we have Canada's leading bat biologist, Dr. Brock Fenton, lined up for the evening to tell us all we ever wanted to know about echolocation, migration, hibernation, white-nose syndrome and other aspects of the ecology and biology of these little-known but ecologically important mammals.

The dinner will again be at Dalewood Golf Club, beginning with a silent auction at 5:30 p.m. Please write the date on your calendar, and plan to bring along a friend or two. Tickets, at \$65 each, may be obtained by contacting any Board member at 905-342-3851 or operations@northumberlandlandtrust.ca; an income tax receipt will be issued for \$40.

STEWARDSHIP NOTES

It has been a relatively quiet summer on our properties, but we should report these activities:

McEwen - David Geale completed the third and final of this year's bird surveys on June 30; Grasshopper Sparrows were seen, although they may not have nested there this year. The south field has greened up beautifully after the burn - see the photo to the right, which was taken on August 14.



LLOEC - Mark Rupke continues his program of transplanting native woodland plants from a woodlot slated for agriculture to the Centre. This long-term project is adding to the attractiveness of the ground cover of the Centre's forest; now if only we could eliminate that periwinkle!

Pelton - in late June, Russ Lake (the property's Steward) toured the property with NLT members Tony and Jenny Jackman and former NLT President Doug Galt. The trees we planted two and three springs ago are doing well.

Leckey - Weather and volunteer schedules prevented us from getting our planned work underway. We are now looking at dates in the fall for some trail maintenance and invasive species control.

WALLACE BIRDATHON REPORT

Once again, Roger Frost volunteered his expertise and 24 hours of his time to help us raise much-needed funds for NLT. Below is a summary of the highlights of his day; the full report can be obtained by requesting it from John Geale (905-342-851), or it can be seen on our website: <http://www.northumberlandlandtrust.ca/>.

Roger chose mid-day May 21 to mid-day May 22 for 2014 Wallace Birdathon. Highlights at the Wesleyville OPG property were Osprey, Clay-colored Sparrow, Eastern Bluebird and Sharp-shinned Hawk. Off Candlewick Woods, Lake Ontario had lots of Red-breasted Mergansers and Long-tailed Ducks, several Common Mergansers and a single Common Goldeneye. In the woods, he had a fabulous look at a Great Horned Owl.



At Brighton, the constructed wetland added Common Gallinule and Marsh Wren. Presqu'ile Provincial Park produced Purple Martin, American Bittern, Bufflehead, Blue-winged Teal, Brant and Golden-crowned Kinglet. In the Northumberland Forest he was able to hear Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, Nashville Warbler, Field Sparrow and Eastern Towhee, as well as 3 Common Nighthawks. At dark the first Whip-poor-will sang.

Back in the Forest shortly after 5:00 a.m., he heard Wilson's Snipe, American Bittern, Wild Turkey, Black-billed Cuckoo and Virginia Rail. The Alderville area had several warblers: Golden-winged, Blue-winged, Yellow-rumped, Tennessee, Black-throated Blue, Canada and Blackburnian. He ticked off Northern Goshawk at a nearby nest aggressively defended by an angry male.



A quick stop at the Lake Street marsh in Port Hope added more warblers (Blackpoll, Cape May and Wilson's), as well as Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, and on a final check of Candlewick Woods he found Philadelphia Vireo and still more warblers: Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted and Tennessee, as well as American Redstart and Northern Parula.



Roger's total was 146 species - very good indeed. Many thanks to Roger for yet another great effort on our behalf, and to all those who sponsored him in this year's Wallace Birdathon. Sponsorships so far total about \$1330; it is not too late to add to this total - if you would like to make a contribution in recognition of Roger's work, please contact John Geale at president@northumberlandlandtrust.ca or 905-342-3851. These donations will be used to support our stewardship work on Land Trust properties.

LECTURE SERIES, 2014-15

Thanks to Bill Crowley and his committee (Mary Bedford-Jones and Whitney Lake), our lecture series for the coming season is shaping up nicely. We begin with Kristina Hubert on **Thursday, November 13**. Kristina is an expert on prairie restoration, having worked in this field with the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Alderville Black Oak Savanna, and Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources. Her topic is "The Rice Lake Plains: Past Present, and Future". There is no charge for the evening.

We hope to avoid the overcrowding we experienced last year by making use of a new location for our presentations: the Cobourg Community Centre at 750 D'Arcy Street. There is lots of parking, and the facility is pleasant and functional. As always, we will offer light refreshments at 7:00 p.m., with our speaker beginning at 7:30.

Our other dates are also Thursdays: January 8 and February 12. By the time of our November newsletter we should be able to let you know the speakers and their topics. In the meantime, please join us on November 13 for an interesting evening.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Too small? Not at all!

John Geale



Having spent most of the summer driving to the Yukon, canoeing and hiking there, ferrying down the inside passage as far as Prince Rupert, and driving home, I often felt overwhelmed by the sheer vastness, beauty and majesty of so many parts of our country. Many large and spectacular areas have some measure of protection from development and exploitation: Ontario's Lake Superior Provincial Park, Manitoba's Riding Mountain National Park and Yukon's Tombstone Territorial Park are good examples. Northumberland is only slightly larger than Lake Superior PP, and the entire County would easily fit into either Riding Mountain or Tombstone. It might be tempting to dismiss our conservation efforts as too small to be of any real significance.

This would be a mistake, in my opinion. While it is true that our four properties are relatively small, they exist in a region where there is a great deal of intense industrialization and agriculture; in Northumberland it can be a challenge to find a spot where man's influence is not obvious and dominant. But our properties offer chances to escape into natural surroundings for a short time at least, and such an escape can prove truly refreshing to our souls. Moreover, our County contains parts of two highly significant natural features: the Oak Ridges Moraine and the Rice Lake Plains, portions of which we help to protect.

Without the protection we provide, our properties could all too easily succumb to human domination. This is why I believe so strongly in our work to protect natural spaces, and judging by the support we receive from our members, they must feel the same way. So I am glad to have this chance to say "Thank you" to all our supporters, and to urge you to join us in our various activities during the coming year. I hope to see you at some of these events soon.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

YOU HAVE PROBABLY ALREADY RENEWED YOUR LAND TRUST MEMBERSHIP. BUT IF YOU HAVE A CHANCE PLEASE PASS THIS FORM ON TO A FRIEND WHO IS NOT YET A MEMBER BUT WHO MAY SHARE OUR GOALS. OR, OF COURSE, IT CAN ALWAYS BE USED TO MAKE A DONATION

We depend on memberships and donations for our stewardship activities and for potential future acquisitions. If you prefer, you may now submit your membership or make a donation by using Canada Helps: please go to

<http://www.northumberlandlandtrust.ca/index.htm>, click on the blue "Donate Now through Canada Helps" button and then select the membership category you desire from the "Please choose a fund" drop-down menu; this will allow you to use your credit card.

Otherwise:

Please fill out the form below. Make cheques payable to
"Northumberland Land Trust", and mail to:
Northumberland Land Trust, P. O. Box 1153, Cobourg, ON, K9A 5A4

✂ -----

Dr. Mr. Mrs. Ms. Other: _____

Last name _____ First name(s) _____

Address _____
Number and Street City/town Postal code

Telephone _____ e-mail _____

Individual: \$25 Family: \$40 Supporting: \$50 Corporate: \$100

Donation: \$250 \$500 Other _____

Gifts of Publicly-traded Securities

*Some of our supporters are turning their **appreciated stocks, bonds and mutual fund units** into gifts for the Northumberland Land Trust. A new tax break introduced in the 2006 Federal Budget **exempts donor individuals from capital gains taxes**, making this the least expensive way to give. In addition, donors of securities **will receive a tax receipt for tax purposes** for the full market value of the shares **at the date of the transfer**. Please contact us if you wish to take advantage of this tax break.*

Members of the Board or Stewardship Team can be contacted by phone at 905-342-3851 or by e-mail - see our website for their names and addresses:

<http://www.northumberlandlandtrust.ca/> and select "about us".