

Northumberland Land Trust

Ontario, Canada

Preserving Northumberland County - one acre at a time

The Preserver, November 2014

A SUCCESSFUL DINNER AT DALEWOOD

Our annual dinner, held again at Dalewood Golf Club, was an interesting and profitable affair. We were fortunate to have not one, but two expert and engaging speakers who gave us many insights into the lives and difficulties of our bat populations. Dr. Brock Fenton, of the University of Western Ontario, spoke about the evolution, physiology, behaviour, ecology, echolocation abilities, and other aspects of these fascinating flying mammals. Dr. Christina Davy, from Trent University, focused on hibernation, migration, and dangers to bats, especially the effects of white-nose syndrome (see Figure 1).



Figure 1 - Since 2006, an emerging disease called white-nose syndrome has been causing population declines in Little Brown Myotis. The pathogen is a fungus, likely introduced from Europe, named for the characteristic white growth on the muzzles of affected bats. Photo credit: Lenny Shirose, Canadian Wildlife Health Centre

We enjoyed a delicious meal, and there was some lively bidding in the silent auction. The final tally showed a total of just under \$1000 in bids, which will be a welcome addition to our stewardship fund. Our thanks go out to all our sponsors and individuals who donated auction items, as well as to our enthusiastic bidders.

We should also thank everyone who purchased tickets for this event. Many were members who brought friends along, and we hope this introduced the Land Trust to some potential new supporters. All in all, this was a highly successful evening.

LECTURE SERIES

Our November lecture, a wide-ranging overview of the Rice Lake Plains presented by Kristina Hubert, was enjoyed by over 30 members and friends. The final two lectures will be held on **January 8** (Debbe Crandall, Policy Advisor with the Save the Oak Ridges Moraine (STORM) coalition: the importance of the moraine to Northumberland County) and **February 12** (Susan Willis Chan, Fleming College School of Environmental & Natural Resource Sciences: pollinators - they're vital to humans, and many are in trouble). Both will be at the Cobourg Community Centre, 750 D'Arcy Street. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. for light refreshments, and our speakers will begin at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free.

MEET A DIRECTOR - BILL CROWLEY



Bill has now been a Director of the NLT for several years. He was born in Manitoba, where he attended university to earn a B.Sc. in Math, Chemistry and Physics with a major in Economics. He worked as a meteorologist for Environment Canada for almost 30 years, and is now retired and living in Port Hope.

Bill has a strong interest in botany, and is a past president of the North American Gladiolus Council; he was awarded the gold medal of the Council in 1974. He has also served as president of The Field Botanists of Ontario and was a member of the Parks Canada Species at Risk Committee for the Trent Severn Waterway. At his home he has a small wildflower garden with over 40 species of wildflowers grown from seed; most are prairie or alvar species, and several are provincially rare because their habitat has been destroyed.

Bill is also a skilled and knowledgeable photographer and has run many courses and workshops on various aspects of photography. He is seen in the photo above documenting the recovery of our McEwen Property vegetation after last spring's prescribed burn. His photography skills are made use of each year at the Land Trust's annual dinner when he donates one of his pictures for our silent auction.

In addition to his work with us, Bill keeps busy as a member of at least a dozen botany, photography, art, entomology and naturalist clubs. On the NLT Board his organizational abilities are put to use as he works with Mary Bedford-Jones and Whitney Lake to put together our fall and winter lecture series. The NLT is fortunate to have a man with such wide knowledge and varied skills on our Board. Thanks, Bill!

COMMUNICATIONS: BY e-MAIL AND OTHERWISE

A couple of reminders about our e-mail messages:

- If you currently receive our e-mails but would prefer not to, please let John Geale (president@northumberlandlandtrust.ca) know.
- If you are not receiving e-mails from us but would like to do so, please let John know.

We should also remind everyone that you may opt to receive *The Preserver* by e-mail only; again, if this would be your choice, please let John Geale know. Although this does save us some postage and paper expenses, we understand that some folks find a paper copy easier to read, and we are happy to mail yours to you.

If you have recently changed your phone number, e-mail address or postal address, please let us know - we don't want to lose you! You may use the form on page 4 for this purpose.

Finally, have your say. We're always glad to hear from members - do you have an idea for

a speaker or newsletter article? Need more information about NLT? Have a suggestion for next year's dinner? Think NLT could improve how we do things? Let us know at 905-342-3851, or our e-mail addresses can be found at www.northumberlandlandtrust.ca

STEWARDSHIP NOTES

McEwen - we have cleaned out the nest boxes, done a little fence maintenance and sign resurrection, and worked in both directions on the trail. Lands & Forests Consulting has set the firebreak for next spring's prescribed burn on the north field, and we have had another morning devoted to removing Scots pines in the southwest corner.

LLOEC - in preparation for the expected loss of virtually all of the ash trees on this property, Mark has collaborated with Trees Ontario and the GRCA to have 1500 trees and many shrubs delivered next spring; there will be a major effort to plant them next May 23, and we will be looking for volunteers to help. We have also removed a good number of European buckthorn trees, which will be good for the native vegetation.

Pelton - a local hiking group walked in to the property in early October. We had to battle our way along muddy cornfield edges and through wet hedgerows. However, everyone seemed to enjoy the challenge! We noted that many of our white pine seedlings seemed to be doing well, but it was much harder to find the spruce trees amongst the tall weeds.

Leckey - a September morning was devoted to eliminating more Scots pines; we are making reasonable progress. Martin and Alison have kept the trails in excellent condition.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - A SALUTE TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

John Geale

As winter arrives, our Stewardship activities slow down significantly and our Lecture Series kicks into high gear. Winter is also a time for planning - next year's budget must be set, and detailed Stewardship plans must be drawn up for each property. And this seems like a good time to send out a "thank you" to some of our supporters who have helped make 2014 a productive year for our Land Trust. I would particularly like to thank:

- Tim Lawley, who shows up for nearly every Stewardship work party; his advice and enthusiasm are always welcome;
- Marlyne Warling, who provides cookies and other goodies to be enjoyed at each lecture;
- Eva Nichols, whose donations to the silent auction accounted for \$160 of our profits from that event
- All of our speakers have given their time free of charge, and we are grateful to Dr. Brock Fenton, Dr. Christina Davy, Kristina Hubert and, for our January lecture, Debbe Crandall.

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