

The Preserver, February 2016

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: FLEMING COLLEGE C4P PROJECT

John Geale

The Ecosystem Management Technology program at Fleming College offers an applied projects course called "Credit for Product" (C4P). It allows organizations such as NLT to have valuable work done by skilled and knowledgeable students at nominal cost.

We have engaged a team of four highly qualified and enthusiastic students with a genuine interest in conservation to help us develop a management plan for the Chub Point Nature Reserve. They will be somewhat limited by the fact that their course runs through the winter, but they feel confident that they will be able to produce:

- an annotated list of any species-at-risk that may occur on the property;
- a map showing the location of any invasive plant species they can locate, including European buckthorn, dog-strangling vine and *Phragmites*;
- a list of all the dominant tree species;
- a draft management plan that will help us maintain this property in a condition suitable for the amphibians we know are there and for any other significant species.



The team (pictured at right) consists of:

Melissa Risto - BSc. (Honours), University of Guelph;

Meghan Hill - BSc. (Honours) in Marine and Freshwater Biology, University of Guelph;

Jesse Snider - BSc. (Honours Biology and minor in Psychology), Queen's University;

Carly White - Ecosystem Management Technician, Fleming College.

All of these young scientists have impressive resumés full of practical work and volunteer experience. The project is a wonderful opportunity for both us and their team. We get a lot of useful information and a draft management plan at very little cost, and they get real-life work experience and a college credit to boot!

NLT is proud to support Fleming's C4P program. I offer congratulations to Fleming College (and to coordinator Sara Kelly, who also provides coordination services to the Lone Pine Marsh Sanctuary) for developing this program that engages students actively and productively with many communities, with many mutual benefits. We look forward to working with the team and to the presentation they will give us in April.

MEMBERSHIP

Whether you receive this issue of *The Preserver* electronically or in the mail, you will find a membership renewal form separate from the newsletter. We hope this will make it easier for you to renew, as it should avoid the temptation to set the newsletter aside in hopes of remembering to "do it later". Several members have already renewed, and we thank you for being so prompt! But if you are not one of these, please do it today; every membership is valuable.

Of course, you can always renew online by going to NLTrust.ca and clicking on the "HOW YOU CAN HELP" button. This allows you to use a credit card.

We should remind everyone of the benefits of membership:

- you will receive an income tax receipt for the full amount of your membership and any additional donation;
- you have the right to vote at the AGM;
- you will receive newsletters and invitations to events such as our dinner, hikes, stewardship events and lectures;
- most importantly, you will be helping to ensure that your great-great-grandchildrens' great-great-grandchildren will have natural spaces to enjoy.

SAVE THESE DATES!

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18 - we are coordinating with the Lone Pine Marsh Sanctuary to present our third speaker event of the season. Two presenters will team up to inform us about invasive plants in this area: Ken Towle, a terrestrial ecologist with the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority, and our own Board member Bill Newell, who has extensive experience in controlling these unwelcome intruders. Refreshments will be available at 7:00 p.m., and the presentations will begin at 7:30. Please join us at the Cobourg Community Centre, and feel free to bring a friend or two - there is no charge for this event.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20 - the Stewardship Team will visit the Chub Point Nature Reserve to remove European buckthorn trees and install our signs around the perimeter of the property. Observers and helpers are welcome.

SATURDAY, MARCH 26 - we will hike to the McEwen Nature Reserve to make sure the nest boxes are cleaned out and ready for the Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows that will arrive in the next few weeks. All are welcome to join us.

APRIL, DAY TBA - a small controlled burn is planned on the old agricultural field

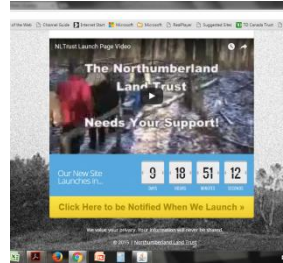
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at the Pelton Nature Reserve. We will protect the best of the trees we have planted so as to achieve a grassland with scattered trees. Observers welcome.

TUESDAY, JUNE 14 - this is the date for our Annual General Meeting. More detailed information will be in the *May Preserver*, but you might like to put the date on your calendar now. We are considering a new location - stay tuned!

☞ For more information on any of these events, please contact us at 905-342-3851 or operations@nltrust.ca, or visit NLTrust.ca.

OUR NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHES!



By the time you read this, our new web site should be up and running - please check it out at NLTrust.ca and let us know what you think.

Our new address is much simpler than the old one: NLTrust.ca - we think this will make things easier for everyone. The new site will allow us to do most of the updating ourselves, rather than have to pay someone else for this. It is also more interactive, which should lead to greater involvement by our members and other visitors. Thanks to George Gordon and Whitney Lake for getting this set up, and to Dale Bateman of "Let's Get Social" for helping us through the process.

BATS, BIRDS, AND "SNAKE BOARDS"

One of our most interesting projects this spring is the search for species at risk (SAR) at three properties. The presence of SAR not only tells us what stewardship actions are necessary to help protect these species, but it also opens the doors to significant funding from various government and other organizations.

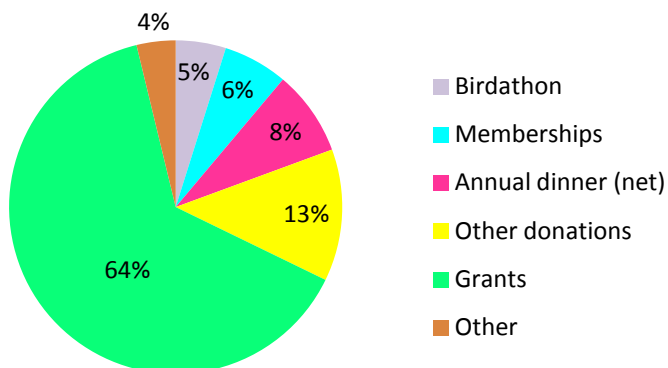
For bats, we hope to use some high-tech equipment to record and identify species at the McEwen Nature reserve. Birds, on the other hand, are very low-tech: playing songs may elicit a response from territorial birds, but mostly it will involve listening for singing males in suitable habitat. Snakes are somewhere in between - with the help of a herpetologist, we have set out about 40 "coverboards" (just old pieces of plywood and sheet metal) in locations that may attract snakes. They are in spots that should have morning sun and evening shade, and snakes (particularly Hog-nosed, we hope) may seek them out to use for temperature regulation and shelter.

If opportunities arise to help with or observe these activities, we'll let you know by e-mail.



HOW DID NLT PUT YOUR MONEY TO WORK LAST YEAR?

Funds we received:

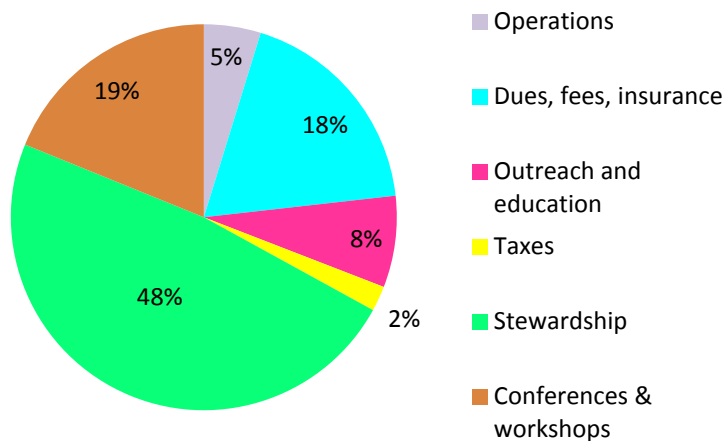


Total income: \$38,526

Notes:

1. We were very fortunate last year to have received significant grants from several sources - the Northumberland Stewardship Council, the Ontario Land Trust Alliance, and TransCanada Corporation.
2. The importance of "other donations" is clear! Many of these came in along with memberships, as supporters decided to add a little, or sometimes a lot, to their basic memberships.

Our expenses:



Total expenses: \$29,843

Notes:

1. Almost half of our expenses are in Stewardship. We take good care of our properties!
2. Almost all of the "Conferences and workshops" money was used for one strategic planning workshop. We received one grant that was given specifically for this, so the net cost to us was zero.
3. "Outreach and education" includes our newsletter and Speaker Series expenses.

We should note that our excess of income over expenses was largely due to the unexpected gift from the Northumberland Stewardship Council as it disbanded and disbursed its assets. This excess will be put to good use: in order to maintain the grassland and prairie habitat at the McEwen Nature Reserve we need to allow for regular prescribed burns there at a cost of about \$20,000 every three years. We are also hoping to acquire at least one more property in 2016, which will involve significant expense. Many thanks to all our donors, who have kept us in sound financial shape.