

the TaTTler

a newsletter of the

Thames Talbot Land Trust

Working together to leave a legacy of healthy landscapes

Meadowlily Nature Preserve — Turf to Trees

Julian Reiche

Catholic Central Secondary School, Environmental Leadership Programme

Students from Catholic Central High School's Environmental Leadership Program (ELP) were given the opportunity to visit Meadowlily Woods, one of London's Environmentally Significant Areas this past spring. We identified plant species and mapped how effective three different treatment methods were in rehabilitating the upper meadow area in the Turf to Trees project at Meadowlily Nature Preserve.

We also invited area elementary school children to the site to share the importance of conservation in our (mostly urban) environment. Grade Four students from two schools were guided through the woods and learned to identify native species.

Two Lepidopterologists (someone who studies butterflies) came from the University of Western Ontario and identified some native species of butterflies and talked about the butterflies contribution to our ecosystem.

Ecologically based activities and games were used with the grade 4 and 5 students to outline the role of natural areas. Students planted native wildflowers in the butterfly meadow. It was a great opportunity to share some of what we had learned during our biology and resource management courses and from our field studies with TTLT volunteers with the younger kids, who will pass this information onto their friends and families.



On the Wing

Heidi Keller, UWO Biology

Students visited me in small groups in between their games and flower planting in the lower meadow at Meadowlily Nature Preserve. We talked about the research I was doing for the summer and I explained how we found out how long the butterflies lived. They thought it was interesting that we put a code on each butterfly's wing and gave a unique "name" and then tried to recapture them. We talked about how the butterflies must be caught with the nets, using swift but gentle sweeps. I showed them the two common kinds of butterflies that we are studying: the Inornate Ringlet and the Cabbage White butterflies. We talked about how they have different lifestyles, the Ringlets staying in the meadow grasses and the Whites going from wildflower patch to patch, often escaping high up into the trees. We discussed how the butterflies use solar energy to warm their wings enough to fly. We looked at how the Viceroy imitated the poisonous Monarch. Later, the kids told me what sort of butterflies they thought they had seen that day while looking at the butterfly sign in the middle of the meadow.



find out what they've been up to—see Five Points, p 5

Another Jewel in TTLT's Conservation Crown

Stan Caveney

Tiedje Woods

On Saturday 17 October, a group of citizens who care deeply about our natural heritage gathered in a deciduous woodland along the Ausable River Valley near Arkona. It is here that the Ausable River Valley separates the townships of North Middlesex and Lambton Shores. The Ausable River Valley is provincially-designated as a Life Sciences Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) and is one of the most scenic natural areas within an hour's drive of London. The autumn coloration of the dense forest along the gorge in the valley were spectacular that sunny Saturday.

The assembled group included conservationists, naturalists, hikers, birders, politicians, local farmers, land trust members and donors' family and guests. All were there to celebrate the dedication of Tiedje Woods donated to the land trust by John and Dorothy Tiedje of Sarnia in April 2009. Tiedje Woods, which lies 1 km north of the Hungry Hollow bridge over the Ausable River is TTLT's second conservation property in the Ausable River Valley. In anchoring the south end of the forested Ausable River Valley, Tiedje Woods is the perfect counterpoint to TTLT's Joany's Woods, located at the north end near the village of Sylvan. Tiedje Woods, is a "large" 15 acres of mature Carolinian forest (so-called because its steeply-sloped wooded ravine and stoney creek makes its apparent area greater than described in surveys, and longer to walk the land). John and Dorothy Tiedje had bought the property for conservation purposes in 1987. For their exemplary stewardship, the Tiedje's recently received a Woodlot Management Award from the Ontario Woodlot Association. Their love and care is evident in the quality of the forest and its understorey.



Stan Caveney addresses the group of about 70 at the Tiedje Dedication

The dedication took place in a clearing under a cathedral-like canopy of trees towering along a tributary creek of the Ausable River. The ceremony began with a rousing 70-guest-strong rendition of "O Canada" led by our vocally-gifted VP, Quintin Lang. Two local politicians, Bev Shipley (MP Lambton-Kent-Middlesex) and Maria Van Bommel (MPP Lambton-Kent-Middlesex), both from farming families, eloquently expressed their governments' commitment, as well as their personal support, for the role the Land Trust is playing in protecting regional natural and agricultural heritage. TTLT Past-President Muriel Andreae explained how personal interactions, mutual trust and respect help make opportunities like this magnificent donation happen. Dorothy Tiedje, on behalf of the Tiedje family, sincerely thanked the Land Trust for giving her family the peace of mind that their beloved woods will be cared for in perpetuity. Following refreshments, elegantly catered by Karen Staring and TTLT's Shirley Dortmanns of Strathroy, many guests enjoyed a leisurely walk on the property. The Tiedjes have specified that Tiedje Woods be open to the general public during daytime for hiking, nature appreciation and other passive recreational pursuits. A pedestrian access gate has recently been built into the new fence along Sylvan Road. I feel privileged to have witnessed such a significant conservation event.

Contributors to this issue

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the TaTTLer
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Thames Talbot Land Trust
PO Box 25054
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TTLT Board of Directors 2009 / 2010

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Executive Director
Don Gordon

Reconstituting the World

Margo Ritchie



On October 27, Paul Hawken, the author of *Blessed Unrest*, *How the Largest Social Movement in History is Restoring Grace, Justice and Beauty to the World*, came to London.

His talk was part of a larger series called, *Beyond Tinkering: Growing an Inclusive Economy* sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph in collaboration with many partners, including the Thames Talbot Land Trust. The goal of the series is to explore how the financial and economic crisis can become stepping stones toward an inclusive economy that is both green and equitable and to create change that matters in the life of people and the environment.

The inception of Paul's book is a very human, naturally evolving process. He was used to giving talks on the environment and the links between movements for economic equality and environmental sustainability. His talks attracted energy. At the end of the talks in various parts of the world, people would hand him articles to read, ideas to further integrate and business cards for groups they represented; diverse and wide-ranging groups that cared about our planet and our place in it. After many years of saving these cards and storing them in knapsacks and then shoe boxes and then large drawers, he began to know that there are so many in our world who are about creating and making visible an alternate future that we could live into. In fact, it was clear to him that if we did not have a "picture" or concrete expression of what was possible, we would rest in the realm of ideas alone. I believe that Thames Talbot Land Trust has moved beyond the realm of ideas to create a better future.



His book chronicles the lives of these groups, the "grace" that moves through their desire for a world that we can actually live in and the intersection of ideas about justice, poverty, ecology and economy. He even coins new language to describe the "intertwining" of these groups, this underground rising of newness.

Practically speaking, in response to the question of whether politics had a role to play, he said, "Yes, but in a upside down, inside out way." He called attention to our tendency to focus on the larger political arenas as most significant. However, he placed hope in the municipal level for creating change in how we make new relationships between ourselves. Simply put, our children go to school together; we feel viscerally that which affects our communities; we can experience more readily our power to create change.

Perhaps the poet Adrienne Rich (*Natural Resources: The Dream of a Common Language: poems 1974-1977*) best expresses the energy of so many of us.

My heart is moved by all I cannot save:
So much has been destroyed.
I have cast my lot with those
who age after age, perversely,
With no extraordinary power,
Reconstitute the world.

On January 14, 2010 there will be a panel at Brescia College at 7:30 p.m. to take the ideas of the lecture series and to try to come up with three practical ideas that might take root in our London community. Please join us and add your voice in "reconstituting the world."



Panorama at Five Points Forest

Ontario Land Trust Alliance Gathering 2009

Andy Kroeker

The Ontario Land Trust Alliance (OLTA) held their annual conference at the Kempenfelt resort near Barrie from October 29 to 31. The conference theme was Solid Foundations: Together We Can! This marked the first OLTA gathering with new executive director Ian Macnab who replaced Kathy Allan over the summer. Representing the Thames Talbot Land Trust (TTLT) were Don Gordon, Executive Director, Stan Caveney, President, and Andy Kroeker, Board Director.

At a pre-conference session, Peter Forbes presented the Whole Communities initiative, www.wholecommunities.org. He emphasized the importance of storytelling to help connect people through a common vision and shared values. He outlined the importance of creating relationships both between people and by linking people with the land. This approach makes it more difficult for land trusts to measure success beyond the usual “acres and dollars” approach, which has led to the development of Whole Measures. This involves partnering with others in the community to help achieve Healthy Ecosystems, along with Social Justice and Fairness, Community Building, and Economic Vitality. Finally, he recommended that organizations regularly reinvent themselves and be forward looking.

That evening, the Honourable Donna Cansfield, Minister of Natural Resources attended the event and informed the group that announcements will soon be made on the Greenlands and OLTAP initiatives (see photo).

The next day started with Howard Clifford’s inspirational story of how he worked with the Mississippi Madawaska

Land Trust Conservancy to protect 1 250 acres in the Lanark Highlands in eastern Ontario (www.albawilderness.com). He described how much we have to learn from nature, and told of the healing powers of the land using stories about a First Nations group and a woman battling a terminal illness.

At a session on Questing, many ideas were offered to increase public engagement with protected properties. Questing is a low-tech “treasure hunt” where people use a map to explore a property, www.kensingtonconservancy.org. Other initiatives employed to both raise funds and build awareness included an Amazing Race and bicycle tour between properties.

At the conference, the Ontario Farmland Trust (www.ontariofarmlandtrust.ca) announced the protection of their first two farms. One of the properties, the Hindmarsh farm, is located just south of Goderich.

As part of the agenda, Don Gordon co-presented on how to explain the federal Ecological Gifts Program (EGP) to donors and their advisers, including lawyers and financial planners. Don also offered his fund-raising expertise to other Land Trusts in One-on-One clinics.

At the OLTA Annual General Meeting, Don was elected to the OLTA Board of Governors. This represents an opportunity for the TTLT to build on the work previously accomplished when Bernie VanDenBelt was on the provincial body. Overall, this should be another great year for OLTA, with their next gathering to be held in 2010 in Peterborough.



The Ontario Land Trust Assistance Program (OLTAP) provides land trusts with financial grants towards the costs of land securement transactions to help conserve Ontario’s biodiversity. To date, the OLTAP grants of over \$630,000 have helped land trusts protect 9,421 acres of land with an appraised value of \$24.3 million.

Locally, the OLTAP grants assisted the Thames Talbot Land Trust with the recent acquisition of Tiedje Woods near the hamlet of Hungry Hollow in North Middlesex (see story page 2).

TTLT celebrates OLTAP grant with Minister of Natural Resources, Donna Cansfield.

L to R: Stan Caveney, Minister Cansfield, Don Gordon and Andy Kroeker

Five Points Forest Driedger Tract

Cathy Quinlan, Chair, Land Securement Committee

Thames Talbot Land Trust announces its newest acquisition

Five Points Forest is a 74 acre (30 ha) forest/wetland property located near Putnam in the Municipality of Thames Centre, Middlesex County. This property is part of a provincially significant wetland complex called the Five Points Woods Wetland, so named as it is located at the point where three roads (Clarke Rd, Five Points Rd and Thomas Rd) intersect Robinson Road to form a star pattern. The Ontario Heritage Trust owns the wetland to the west, so together, this wetland complex is in good hands.



This site is truly a shining star within the TTLT holdings. The property is a gift from Al and Lilianne Driedger. Transplants from Saskatchewan, they fell in love with the beauty of their southern Ontario forest. Now retired, they want to enjoy the woods but ensure its protection for all time.

The property is roughly rectangular with a necktie-shaped building envelope that contains the Driedger home (designed and built in the woods by the Driedgers themselves). Al and Lilianne will continue to live in this beautiful setting and remain active in its stewardship of the Five Points Forest Driedger Tract.

The dedication ceremony for this site will be held in the spring of 2010 and a TTLT sign will be erected in a meadow on Robinson Road. Controlled public access will be allowed from this point and a walking trail is planned

The property contains a large mix of habitat types, from young to old, and from dry to moist to wet. There are extensive areas of planted Scots Pine and Red Pine, but these are now dying and being replaced by Trembling Aspen, ash, hawthorn, apple and cedar. Jane Bowles noted the real gem of the site is a White Cedar Swamp that has developed in seepage areas and represents a northern or



boreal element. The understory contains Cinnamon Fern, Skunk Cabbage, and many boreal plants that are uncommon in Middlesex County. Also uncommon for Middlesex, is a large marsh dominated by sedges. Treats here include Swamp Loosestrife and a family of Wood Ducks on a small pond. There is also a large Blue Ash tree on the property that COSEWIC ranks as “Special Concern”.

In consultation with the present owners, the Land Trust’s Property Management Committee will develop a long-term strategic management plan for the property. Al and Lilianne Driedger will be key members of the stewardship committee that will have members of the immediate community and naturalists. The control of buckthorn and other non-native plants is a priority, to preserve the site’s unique plant life. Dr. Al Driedger has already completed extensive removal of buckthorn plants.

We thank the Driedgers for their most wonderful gift of this lovely natural area and dedicate ourselves to its continued protection and management.



Land Stewardship Fund

Don Gordon, Executive Director

Donations to Land Stewardship Fund are Eligible for Matching Dollars

Thanks to a recent partnership with Community Foundations of Canada, donations to Thames Talbot Land Trust Fund at London Community Foundation will be matched dollar for dollar, up to a maximum of \$20,000.

One year ago this month, Thames Talbot Land Trust (TTLT) established an endowment at London Community Foundation as part of a strategy to produce annual income to fund stewardship activities for lands under its care. Stewardship activities include maintaining trails, planting trees, controlling erosion or conducting ecological appraisals.

This fund helps support the eight environmentally significant areas under our care. The promise to match \$20,000 worth of new donations is an incentive for anyone who supports land conservation and the environment.

“Land Trusts across Ontario have more than 60,000 acres of land under care; this new partnership aids existing efforts in producing a sustainable income for the ongoing maintenance and preservation of special lands, like the Bruce Trail, for generations to come,” said Ian Macnab, Executive Director of the Ontario Land Trust Alliance.

Funding for this initiative comes from the Ontario Trillium Foundation’s \$2 M Future Fund, allocated in 2008 to help organizations build the capacity of the environment sector and encourage greater collaboration among environmental organizations.

Individuals wishing to make a donation to the Thames Talbot Land Trust Fund can do so online at www.lcf.on.ca or by calling London Community Foundation. Community Foundations of Canada will match donations in 2011 once the minimum of \$20,000 in total new gifts has been reached.

About the Foundation: London Community Foundation is a public foundation serving London and Middlesex County since 1954. The Foundation holds 267 endowed funds and in 2008 granted \$2.9M to the local community on behalf of donors. Endowment funds are created in perpetuity and the capital of the donation never spent. The investment earned from the capital is granted each year to organizations that meet the strategic philanthropic goal of the donor and to meet the greatest needs of the London community.

TTLT Speaks!!

Would your group or organization like to have a slide presentation about the Thames Talbot Land Trust?



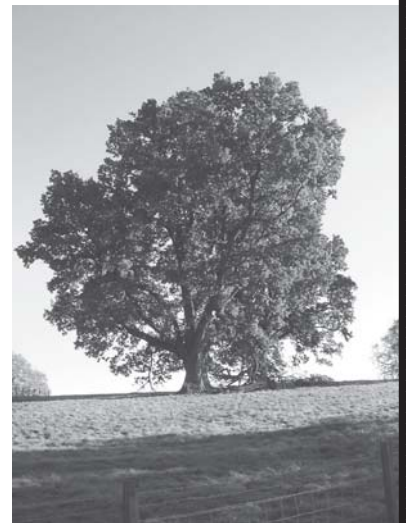
Call (519) 858-3442.

If you love the future, Trust in the land.

The Opportunities Fund of the Thames Talbot Land Trust was established through a founding gift of \$1 million from Beryl and Richard Ivey. Your planned gift of cash or securities to the Opportunities Fund will support the acquisition of natural lands to be protected in perpetuity.

Nothing outlasts land.

The Thames Talbot Land Trust is a certified recipient of Ecological Gifts under the Income Tax Act and can accept gifts of natural, agricultural and cultural significance. To learn more about us, please call: **(519) 858-3442** or visit: **www.ttlit.ca**

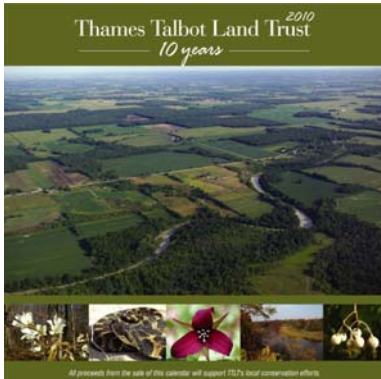


Thames Talbot Land Trust

Working together to leave a legacy of healthy landscapes

10th Anniversary Calendar

Canaries in a Coalmine



Thames Talbot Land Trust is celebrating its tenth anniversary in 2010. To keep the celebration going all year, we have introduced a beautiful nature calendar.

The calendar is available for purchase (\$19.95) from our retail partners who are donating their time and space to sell the calendars. All proceeds from the sale of the calendar will go to the Land Trust to support our programs.

Visit any of these fine establishments to purchase your 2010 Calendar:

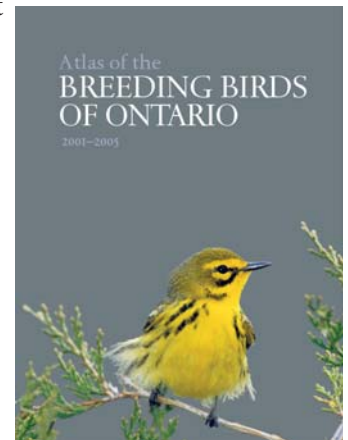
- Arva Flour Mills, Arva
- B.J.'s Country Market, Delaware
- Featherfield's - Bird & Garden Store, Wortley
- Featherfield's - Bird & Garden Store, Hyde Park
- Nova Craft Canoe, London
- Novacks, London
- Remark Markets, London
- Rivertown Galleries, London
- McNaughton's, Newbury
- MacPherson Arts & Crafts, St. Marys
- Canadale Nurseries, St. Thomas
- Gentle Rain, Stratford
- Picard's Peanuts, Talbotville



Mike Cadman, Songbird Biologist with the Canadian Wildlife Service, spoke to a rapt audience in November at TTLT's fifth public lecture at London Central Library.

Mike has devoted 8 years as the staff lead on The Atlas of Breeding Birds of Ontario (2001-2005).

Without doubt, the second Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas, ranks among the most successful, important and exciting bird research and conservation projects ever undertaken in the Western Hemisphere. The Atlas database is an incredibly powerful foundation not only for the book itself, but for innumerable bird research and environmental management applications for many years to come.



"The Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario (2001-2005) is a monumental achievement. Not only is it a stirring example of co-operative research, but the detailed results of that research have been presented with a remarkable clarity and style.

Margaret Atwood & Graeme Gibson

Nature in the City

A free sixpart series of illustrated talks

Tuesdays, January 19 - February 23, 2010 7:30 - 8:30 pm

Central Library of London Public Library, 251 Dundas Street, in the Wolf Performance Hall

Everyone is invited to attend a free six-part series of illustrated talks on nature within the City of London. Families (with children 10 and up) are welcome.

- January 19 Soaring with Raptors - Steve Bucciarelli
- January 26 On the Trail of Wild Mammals - Alistair MacKenzie
- February 2 Monarch Migration - Jeremy McNeil
- February 9 Wetland Wildflowers - Jane Bowles
- February 16 London's Amazing Tree Quest - Ivan Listar
- February 23 "The Coves" of London - Jaelyn Goodwillie

Co-sponsored by the London Public Library and McIlwraith Field Naturalists.

Membership in TTLT

Charitable receipts are issued for all contributions
(#86745 7475 RR0001)

Membership Donations

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Youth/Student (under 18): | \$25 |
| Individual Member (18 and older): | \$50 |
| Affiliate/Group/Corporate: | \$100 |

Supporters' Circle

| | |
|-----------|--------------------|
| Advocate | \$240 (\$20/month) |
| Protector | \$480 (\$40/month) |

Donations

Donation amount: \$ _____

Membership information

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Payment Options

- Cheque payable to Thames Talbot Land Trust, or
- Direct bank debit (automatic monthly payments)

I (We) authorize the Thames Talbot Land Trust to process a debit, in paper, electronic or other form in the amount of \$ _____ on my (our) account on the first day of each month beginning 1, _____, 201____.

I (We) acknowledge that I (we) have read, understood and accepted all the provisions set out in the Terms and Conditions <www.ttlc.ca>

I (We) enclose a cheque made payable to Thames Talbot Land Trust marked "VOID"

Signature(s) of Donor(s):

Date: _____

Please mail the completed application form and cheque to:

Thames Talbot Land Trust
PO Box 25054, London ON N6C 6A8

Privacy Policy

Thames Talbot Land Trust respects your privacy and will not share your personal information. From time to time we may contact you with information about the Land Trust and its activities which we believe are of interest to our members and supporters. For more information about our privacy policy visit www.ttlc.ca

Time to Renew Membership

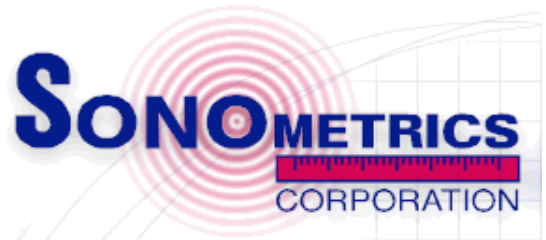
TTLT memberships expire on December 31st. In 2010 we celebrate our tenth anniversary. We hope that all of our current members will renew and that many new members will join us. Current members will have received a renewal notice along with this issue of Tattler, with the exception of monthly donors whose memberships are "evergreen".

Not a member yet? Please join and help us to create natural legacies. Fewer than 2% of Canadian donors support conservation causes so if you won't do it who will? It is easy, just complete the membership form and mail us your cheque, or go online and donate through our website.

Monthly giving is a simple option that allows your gift to have a bigger impact. You can cancel your gift at anytime you wish but otherwise it is automatic, and painless.

An increasing number of our supporters have let us know that they have included TTLT in their estate plans through their will, which is a great way to reach across to future generations by protecting the land your love.

Sonometrics Stewardship Fund



Wayne Smith and Ruth Renaud have been avid sponsors of TTLT through their company, Sonometrics Corporation. Like many donors, they were concerned about a piecemeal approach to giving and wanted to do something more strategic. In consultation with Bill DeYoung, a long time TTLT volunteer and one of our founding Directors, they developed the Sonometrics Stewardship Fund. Beginning in 2008 Sonometrics will contribute \$5,000 annually for five years. What makes the gift so unique is their direction for the allocation of those funds: 40% to be used to acquire new property (Opportunities Fund), 30% to steward existing properties, 20% for educational programs (such as the Mike Cadman lecture this year), and finally, 10% for administration in recognition of the fact that all charities have legitimate operating costs.