



NEWS & VIEWS

Langford Legacy Campaign Successfully Completed!

Long Point Basin Land Trust secures its second Nature Reserve
By Gregor Beck

The Long Point Basin Land Trust has successfully completed its campaign to purchase and protect in perpetuity a 180-acre woodland and wetland property in western Norfolk County. The Land Trust had raised sufficient funds by mid-winter to proceed with the purchase and take title of this important site. By the end of June 2008, additional funds had been raised to address short and long-term stewardship needs, thus marking the successful completion of the Langford Legacy campaign. The property is being named in honour of founding Land Trust president, the late Dr. Arthur Langford.

The Langford property has exceptionally high conservation value and is largely forested with a high concentration of wetland habitats. This site, together with other properties in the area, represents a large contiguous block of natural habitat which is important for native wildlife. In addition, extensive woodland and wetland areas are vital for maintaining a healthy supply of water in local streams, rivers, and in the water table.

“We are delighted to have received generous support from people across our region,” said Land Trust president, Peter Carson. “We’ve also received contributions from across Canada – illustrating the national significance of protecting

A Note from the President

Welcome to the first edition of the Long Point Basin Land Trust’s occasional newsletter. This newsletter is one of several projects that we are undertaking through a special capacity-building initiative, highlighted in this issue. There is also a write-up on our newest securement project which honours the lifelong contributions made to conservation by the Trust’s founding president, Dr. Arthur Langford. Our inaugural issue contains a special feature on Wood Ducks, one of the most beautiful of our native birds and certainly one that is found in large numbers in the Jackson – Gunn Old Growth Forest nature reserve.

We have included some project reports to give you an idea of the diversity of our undertakings and successes. Most of the credit for this publication must be given to LPBLT’s first part-time staff person, Gregor Beck. Gregor has an impressive background in the conservation field and we feel very lucky that we have been able to entice him to work with us.

We hope you find our first attempt both informative and inspiring. As most of you will know the Land Trust is a charity which relies on donations for most of its operating funds. It is only through you, our supporters, that we are able to undertake our conservation efforts. Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to others who may be interested in supporting our efforts.

Yours in conservation,

Peter Carson

rare Carolinian forests and wetlands. The level of participation in the campaign is wonderful recognition of Arthur Langford's life-time commitment to conservation and community."

The campaign has also received generous support from field naturalists groups including the Hamilton Naturalists' Club, McIlwraith Field Naturalists of London, Peninsula Field Naturalists' Club, and Norfolk Field Naturalists, as well as contributions from the Ontario Greenlands Program and Ducks Unlimited Canada.

"The Arthur Langford Nature Reserve is a vitally-important natural area and an important refuge for a number of species at risk," noted Mary Gartshore, chair of the Land Trust's science committee. "Endangered American Chestnut and Butternut trees, once common in southern Ontario, can be found here, as well as Black Gum and Jefferson Salamander. The site also contains rare habitats like 'Buttonbush Organic Thicket Swamp' and 'Silky Dogwood Swamp' and protects headwaters of Venison Creek and South Otter Creek."

The extensive wetlands and woodlands are an essential part of the local water supply since natural areas act like sponges. These greenspaces hold back snow melt and

heavy rainfall, then gradually release water to local streams and underground aquifers in the weeks and months that follow. Wetlands and woodlands help to ensure good water supply year-round, and they also filter out pollutants.

The Long Point Basin Land Trust is very grateful to all the individuals and conservation groups and programs that contributed to this important project. With the successful completion of this campaign, the Land Trust now owns two nature reserves in the Carolinian Region, totaling 200 acres. A formal dedication ceremony will take place later in 2008 to officially name the property "The Arthur Langford Nature Reserve." Thanks to everyone who supported this campaign in Arthur Langford's honour.



Dr. Arthur N. Langford examining Leatherwood leaves. Arthur was founding president of the Long Point Basin Land Trust. *Photo: © Mary Gartshore*



Spring photography in one of the many wetlands of the Arthur Langford Nature Reserve. *Photo: © Peter Carson*

Project Profile

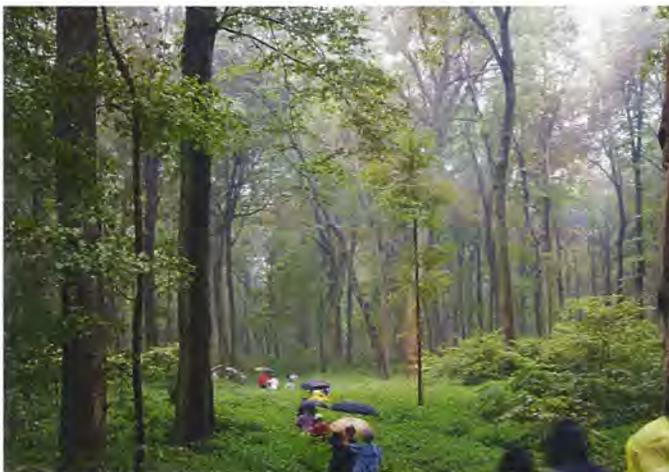
Building Conservation Capacity in the Carolinian Region

Long Point Basin Land Trust expands programs and reviews science priorities

By Gregor Beck

With the support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation, The EJLB Foundation and The McLean Foundation, the Long Point Basin Land Trust is in the midst of a major, two-year capacity-building initiative. The project, entitled “Building Conservation Capacity in the Heart of the Carolinian Region,” will lead to greater conservation effectiveness by the Land Trust and a greater public presence in the community.

The purpose of the project is to help the Long Point Basin Land Trust increase its capacity in three main areas: (1) greater organizational effectiveness and further volunteer and board training; (2) increased public outreach and awareness; and, (3) strategic planning to guide current and future conservation activities. This work will help the Land Trust to identify potential priority nature reserve properties, guide stewardship activities and planning, as well as providing resources to develop public outreach and educational materials. The grants will also help the



Nature enthusiasts enjoy a guided walk in Long Point Basin Land Trust's first nature reserve property, the Jackson – Gunn Old Growth Forest. *Photo: © David Agro*

Land Trust to coordinate its activities effectively with other conservation partners and provide more support to landowners.

The project is at the half-way mark and already there have been many accomplishments. The Land Trust has doubled its supporter base, undertaken training for its board members and volunteers, greatly expanded its public awareness and outreach activities, advanced its conservation science planning, and hired its first part-time staff person. This work has been recognized widely and constructively in the local media, with articles about the Long Point Basin Land Trust's work having appeared in the following news outlets: Simcoe Reformer, Brantford Expositor, CD98.9 radio, Port Dover Maple Leaf, Port Rowan Good News, Norfolk Hub, plus numerous electronic newsletters of conservation organizations.

Over the coming year, the Long Point Basin Land Trust will complete additional volunteer and board training and recruitment and continue to develop its overall organizational capacity. By 2009, the Land Trust will have completed its strategic review of priority areas for conservation action, providing a blueprint for securement and stewardship. The Land Trust will also continue to increase its public presence in the community, sharing with landowners, partners and the public important messages about conservation and environmental appreciation.

The Long Point Basin Land Trust remains a focused and lean local conservation organization, but continues to develop an active and strategic approach to its current and future endeavours. The Trust is appreciative of the assistance from its many supporters, and is very grateful also for the recent foundation support to help develop conservation capacity. The Long Point Basin area is one of the best locations in the ecologically-rich Carolinian Region to invest in conservation activities, and the Land Trust is proud to be playing and active and

increasingly significant role. The Long Point Basin Land Trust thanks the following charitable foundations for their support of the capacity-building project:

The EJLB Foundation
The McLean Foundation

**THE ONTARIO
TRILLIUM
FOUNDATION**



**LA FONDATION
TRILLIUM
DE L'ONTARIO**

The Ontario Trillium Foundation is an agency of the Government of Ontario. For 25 years, it has supported the growth and vitality of communities across the province. OTF continues to strengthen the capacity of the volunteer sector through investments in community-based initiatives.

A snapshot of activities and highlights from the last year reveals just how active and effective a small and young land trust can be...

- 56 volunteers took part in stewardship and outreach programs in the last year – about half of these being new volunteers with LPBLT
- Volunteers donated 1,000 hours of time, with a value of over \$15,000
- Conservation outreach and environmental training programs were undertaken with more than one dozen groups, including colleges, universities and naturalists
- Long Point Basin Land Trust website was launched and updated (www.lpblt.on.ca), including the development of a secure online donation partnership with CanadaHelps.org
- A visually-appealing and informative PowerPoint presentation was developed, as well as display panels, for presentation and display at multiple venues
- 80 people participated directly in LPBLT events in 2007, and more than 1,200 people benefited indirectly from new outreach activities
- A strategic review of conservation lands and priority natural areas was launched
- Stewardship activities were completed to control invasive species



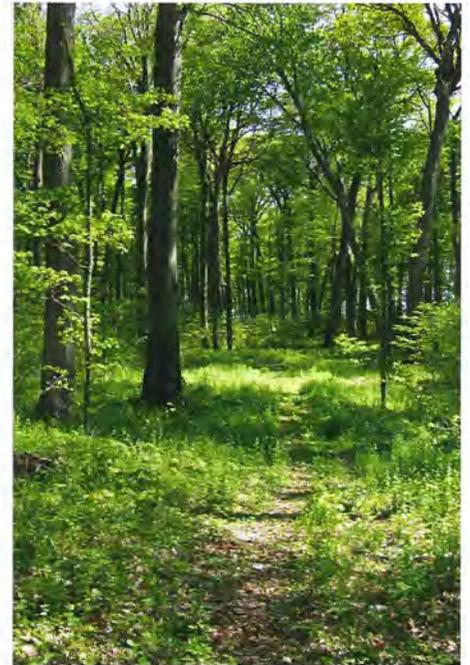
The Black Gum is a long-lived tree of the Carolinian Region of southern Ontario. Long Point Basin Land Trust has issued a book mark and fridge magnet using this strong and enduring image.

Photo: © Mary Gartshore

The Jackson – Gunn Old Growth Forest

The Jackson – Gunn Old Growth Forest is a bright feather in the cap of the LPBLT. We suspected this small woodlot was truly significant when we first saw it, and a number of old growth experts confirmed just that. Though relatively small at a little under 24 acres, this forest is now considered 'larger' for a patch of old growth in our region. The open nature of the forest and the distance up to the lower limbs is indicative of old growth forests. A core sample of one log, which was not from the butt and not complete, gave a ring count of 242 years. Bruce Kershner, who is well known for his work on the old growth forests of the eastern United States stated "this forest looks as it has for the last 600 years and I see no reason for it to look any different in another 600 years." Unfortunately, Bruce passed away in February 2007, but he had the satisfaction of knowing that he was instrumental in inspiring the LPBLT to acquire this magnificent property.

Many people contributed generously to campaign to protect the Jackson – Gunn Old Growth Forest. This support allowed the Trust to raise all the funds required to cover the costs of purchase and short term stewardship, as well as creating a small fund which will generate income to cover stewardship and maintenance expenses in years to come.



A gently winding path leads through the Jackson – Gunn Old Growth Forest, owned and stewarded by the Long Point Basin Land Trust.

Photo: © Peter Carson

Supporter Profile

Over the years, the Long Point Basin Land Trust has received a number of unsolicited donations. We would like to share a story associated with one of these donations. In 2000, the Trust was given a donation of BCE shares from a Ms. Patricia Edwards. Ms. Edwards made this donation in memory of her father Leo Henderson Yeargin. Ms. Edwards sent along the following biography of her father.

Leo H. Yeargin was born in Creedmore, North Carolina, September 21, 1907 into a family of three daughters and six sons. He immigrated to Canada in March, 1929 to work in the tobacco industry as a farm labourer and share cropper for Lake Erie Tobacco Company. In 1934 he married Bess McCann of Dabney, North Carolina, and they continued to grow tobacco for Lake Erie Tobacco Company on a farm near Glenn Meyer. His daughter Patricia Carol was born in 1939. In 1940 he was made the Field Manager of Lake Erie

Tobacco Company and was in charge of overseeing the operation of as many as twenty-four farms until his retirement in 1969. In 1943 he and his family moved into the house which he had built at 17 Albert Street in Langton and where he lived until his death June 21, 1996.

As some readers will be aware, LPBLT has been working with the Nature Conservancy of Canada on the purchase and restoration of a 400 acre tobacco farm in south Walsingham in Norfolk County. It just so happens that this farm was one that Leo Yeargin managed for 29 years until he retired. The working name of the project is Lake Erie Farm and the Trust has raised over \$125,000 towards this project. It is the generous support of people such as Ms. Edwards that allows the Trust to move conservation forward. Isn't it a small world?

Focus on Wildlife

The Wood Duck

At home on the water and in the forest

By David Agro

The Wood Duck is considered by many to be one of the most beautiful ducks in world. Native only to North America, it is widely distributed across the continent. If you are lucky, you can admire one of these beautiful ducks close up in one of the many natural areas in and around Norfolk County. This was not always the case, for at one time, the Wood Duck was thought to be on the edge of extinction.

Wood Ducks are perching ducks and they are as comfortable perching and walking in trees as they are swimming in water. They are also equally comfortable on land and can run over and through branches with apparent ease. Wood Ducks nest in natural cavities in trees, old woodpecker holes, artificial nest boxes, and sometimes in old nests of squirrels. They will nest over water, but also deep in the woods well away from any watercourse. Nests can be close to water or as high as 60 feet above the ground! When the young hatch, they either drop to the ground on their own, or are carried by their mothers in her beak or on her back to the closest water. Once they leave the nest, the female Wood Duck leads the young into wetland areas to forage for food. Often, she takes them far from the original nest hole.

The diet of young Wood Ducks, as well as that of adults during summer, consists mainly of invertebrates and the leaves and stems of aquatic plants (about 90% by weight). The species will also eat lesser amounts of small fish, frogs, snails, and salamanders. In fall and winter, they feed mainly on bulbs of aquatic plants, seeds, rice, and they are particularly fond of acorns and beechnuts. Formerly, American Chestnuts were also a favourite food but this food source has now been virtually eliminated due to the Chestnut blight. Their catholic tastes in food take Wood Ducks into a variety of habitats. They are mainly found in wetlands or ponds associated with woodlands or forest, but will also move into marshes or other more open areas, especially in summer and during

migration. The wide use of habitats by adults and young is an example of how many species need a number of different habitats in which to survive.

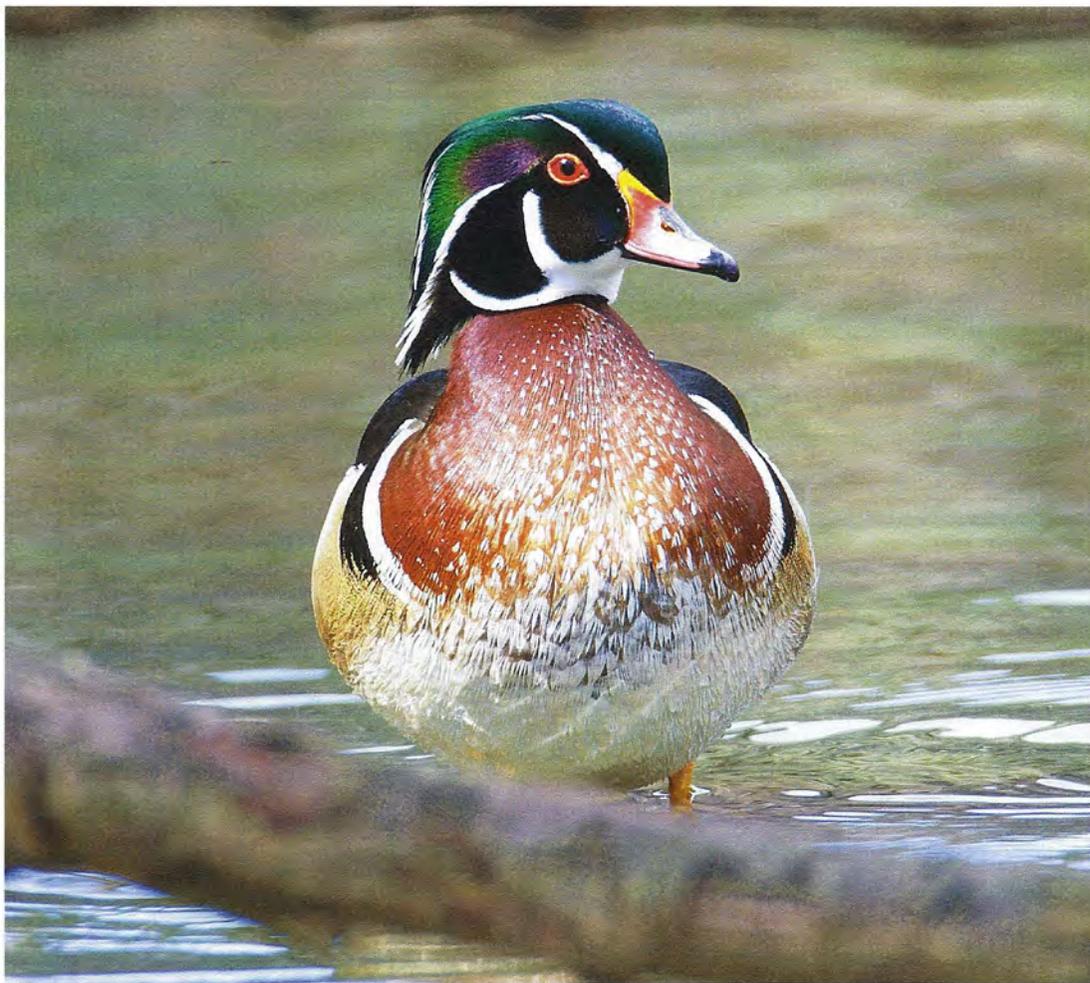
The multi-coloured male Wood Duck is one of the most strikingly-patterned and coloured of all ducks. The female, while much duller than the male, is also a striking bird and is more colourful than most other female ducks. Because of their beauty, Wood Ducks have always been a favourite amongst hunters, waterfowl fanciers, birders, and the general public. They are often pictured in nature and outdoors magazines, and have made their way into popular culture such as postage stamps dating back to the early 1900s. Suitably, the Wood Duck was a perfect poster-child for early conservation efforts.

Historically, the Wood Duck is thought to have been the most abundant species of waterfowl east of the Mississippi River. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, a combination of heavy hunting and habitat destruction led to a rapid decline in the number of Wood Ducks. Fortunately, hunters and early conservationists noticed the decline, and a concerted effort was made to protect the species. At the instigation of a number of private citizens and associations, the Wood Duck and some of its habitats were eventually given legal protection. Furthermore, a major campaign was launched to educate the public about the plight of the species and to provide nest boxes to replace their lost natural nest holes. With these measures, the species quickly recovered to the extent that limited hunting was re-established in 1941. Today, it is again one of the more common ducks in eastern North America.

The conservation of the Wood Duck is an often-overlooked example of the success that can be achieved when environmental problems are identified and suitably addressed by society. Concern for the Wood Duck

and other species helped galvanise the fledgling conservation movement in North America and led to the creation of legislation such as the Migratory Birds Convention Act and to the establishment of numerous reserves and protected areas across the continent. These efforts continue today to protect many other species and environmental features that are at risk.

The activities of the Long Point Basin Land Trust are part of a broader movement to address environmental issues at a local scale. For example, the Land Trust's Jackson – Gunn Old Growth Forest protects the best old growth forest remnants in the region. The nature reserve's old trees have numerous cavities and it is not uncommon to see many Wood Ducks perched on their great limbs.



Woods Ducks are one of North America's most striking waterfowl species. They utilize a variety of habitat types, from marshes, streams and ponds to woodlands, and are often seen perching in trees. Wood Ducks nest in natural tree cavities, old woodpecker holes, as well as artificial nest boxes – sometimes at a great distance from water. The recovery of this species represents a major conservation success over the last century. *Photo : © Larry Kirtley, courtesy of the photographer.* Please visit his webpage: www.larrykirtley.com

Please stay in touch! You can contact us at:

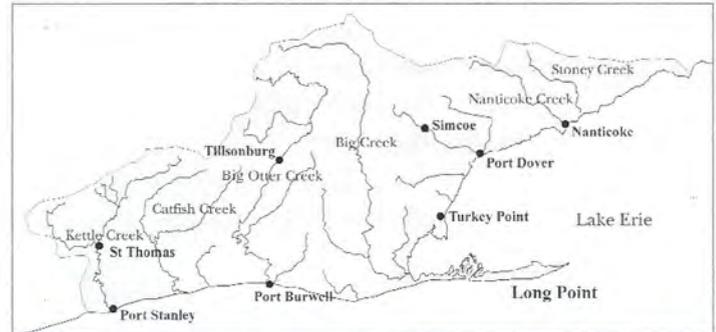
Long Point Basin Land Trust
P.O. Box 468
Port Rowan, Ontario
N0E 1M0

Phone: 519-586-8309
Email: general@lpblt.on.ca
Visit us online: www.lpblt.on.ca

News and upcoming events:

- **Join us for a fun stewardship work day** at one of our nature reserve properties this autumn. Date to be announced. Call 519-586-8309 for details.
- **Plan ahead... annual Mother's Day Wildflower Walk.** Join Long Point Basin Land Trust every spring for this special guided hike.
- **Help us grow.** We need your assistance in spreading the word about our conservation work. Please share this newsletter with family and friends – or forward the link to our website. If you prefer, we can send out a copy of the newsletter.
- **Help us cut costs, not trees!** Would you prefer to receive future newsletters by email? Please let us know. Newsletters will be distributed semi-annually.
- **Name the newsletter!** Got an interesting or creative name for our newsletter? Please send in your suggestions.
- **Corporate partnership opportunities.** Long Point Basin Land Trust is seeking corporate partners to help fund future issues of the newsletter. Support is also welcomed to help fund conservation projects and the website. If you know of a potential corporate sponsor, please call us at 519-586-8309. Thank you!

THE LONG POINT BASIN



Give a gift that lasts forever....

Looking for the perfect way to commemorate a birthday, anniversary, wedding or other special occasion for a family member or friend? Consider a gift to the Long Point Basin Land Trust in honour of the special person or event. Funds raised will support essential stewardship work on the Land Trust's nature reserves and help ensure these important natural areas are protected in perpetuity.

With donations of \$100 or more, the Long Point Basin Land Trust will:

- send an "Honorary Steward" certificate to the person named
- provide the donor with a charitable receipt for the contribution amount
- send the donor and certificate recipient a Long Point Basin Land Trust newsletter and fridge magnet

For each \$100 contributed, a symbolic acre of nature reserve lands will be stewarded. Wording on each certificate can be tailored to the individual, the event, and in reflection of the amount contributed. Contact us at 519-586-8309 or donate online with your credit card through CanadaHelps.org – just follow the links from our website, www.lpblt.on.ca.