

President's message

This has been another great year for Long Point Basin Land Trust (LPBLT). We have made major strides in protecting natural areas and wildlife through our nature reserve and species at risk programs. LPBLT now stewards five reserves, comprising 142 hectares (350 acres) of ecologically-diverse habitat in Norfolk County. The successful completion of our campaign to secure the Fisher's Glen Nature Reserve was particularly exciting.

LPBLT will not be resting easy now that we have acquired these natural treasures. As a responsible landowner, we recognize that work remains to be done to steward these lands in perpetuity. At the Shirley and George Pond Nature Reserve, we have begun the restoration of diverse natural habitats, helping to restore water quality and



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ravine and upland habitats. Our conservation work is active on many other fronts, including our flagship Conserving Carolinian Reptiles project which benefits from the participation of hundreds of volunteers and landowners.

LPBLT is proud to be part of the community and we are appreciative of your support. Helping LPBLT can be as simple as: reporting reptile sightings to our website; volunteering at an event; or, supporting programs financially. One of the easiest ways to support our efforts is by becoming a monthly donor – please see the back page for more information. Thank you very much for being part of LPBLT's conservation efforts.

Yours in conservation,

Peter J. Carson

LPBLT Reserves – Protecting and Restoring Nature



The protection and restoration of important natural habitats in the Carolinian Region is central to the mission of Long Point Basin Land Trust (LPBLT). Sometimes, this work is done in collaboration with local landowners or conservation partners, and other times it is through LPBLT's own growing nature reserve system. Collectively, these efforts are making steady progress in protecting vital natural areas and in helping native flora and fauna.

The last couple of years have seen much progress in the development of LPBLT's reserve system, both in terms of acquiring new conservation lands and also in restoring natural habitat in the Turkey Point watershed. With the generous support of donors from the community, landowners, charitable foundations, government partners and local conservation groups, LPBLT successfully completed a million dollar campaign to acquire two new reserves in southern Norfolk County. LPBLT is currently undertaking important short-term stewardship and restoration work at these properties and the Trust looks forward to making these properties available for walking and passive nature appreciation activities in the coming years.

LPBLT's campaign to acquire the 21 hectare (52acre) Fisher's Glen Nature Reserve was successfully completed in 2013. The spectacular reserve protects a diversity of habitats, including Carolinian forests, cool ravines, red

cedar savanna, species-at-risk habitat, sand bluffs and over 425 metres (1,400 feet) of Lake Erie shoreline. The reserve helps protect the lower reaches of the Fisher's Creek watershed, one of the most pristine coldwater stream systems on the north shore of the lake. The property also helps to create a protected and connected system of natural areas along Fisher's Creek, linking with several properties stewarded by other conservation organizations upstream.

Over the last year, LPBLT has also been very busy undertaking habitat restoration work at the 32ha (80 acre) Shirley and George Pond Nature Reserve (near Turkey Point). With the help of Long Point Region Conservation Authority and private donations, LPBLT was able to begin restoration work on 12 hectares (30 acres) at the reserve, restoring oak-pine savanna, Carolinian forest, wetland features and grassland habitats. Priorities identified in the property stewardship plan include re-establishing the woodland corridor along the reserve's streams and restoring a woodland corridor between the existing forest blocks to the east and west. The work undertaken to date, as well as planned future restoration efforts, will help create a larger mosaic of natural habitats which is vital to native wildlife. The restored woodland and wetland habitats will also help improve water quality in this Turkey Point watershed, benefiting fish and other aquatic life in Forestville Creek, the Turkey Point marshes and Long Point's Inner Bay. LPBLT is very pleased about the diversity of natural

habitats protected through its small network of reserves. LPBLT thanks the hundreds of supporters who have

contributed to the Trust's efforts to protect and restore these natural areas. Thank you!



Large-scale habitat restoration at the Shirley and George Pond Nature Reserve.
Photos (L to R): sapling White Oak; seeding the grassland habitat; planting the woodland and savanna.

Conserving Carolinian Reptiles Update

The Conserving Carolinian Reptiles project is now in its sixth year of helping imperiled turtles and snakes in the Long Point Basin. LPBLT is very encouraged about how the initiative has grown and about the number of people who are actively involved. By the end of 2013, 343 volunteers had participated by reporting reptile sighting – submitting over 4,400 turtle and snake observations over five years. In addition, dozens of landowners and partners are actively involved in LPBLT's on-the-ground habitat enhancements for species at risk, helping reptiles by protecting and restoring their habitats. This level of support is exciting to see and demonstrates how the community is rallying behind efforts to protect these species. The project remains critically important since six of seven turtle species and half of the dozen snake species in the Long Point Basin remain listed as species at risk.

Recently, LPBLT undertook an evaluation of the project's conservation efforts over the first five years, highlighting the initiative's accomplishments. The report documents many contributions of the project to reptile conservation, including: protection of hundreds of reptiles from vehicle strikes; over 80% reduction in road mortality at Long Point Provincial Park as a result of installing a seasonal wildlife barrier; construction of 60 reptile habitat features, with documented use by many species at risk; and, significantly increased participation by volunteers in conservation actions that help reptiles. More highlights can be found in the report, published separately, and available on the LPBLT website.

The success of the Conserving Carolinian Reptiles project in helping turtles and snakes is a testament to the hundreds of community volunteers and landowners who believe in the importance of protecting the diverse flora and fauna of our region. LPBLT thanks these many landowners, volunteers, partners and friends for helping our reptilian neighbours and species at risk!

Help LPBLT to help turtles and snakes. Please report your reptile sightings to: LongPointLandTrust.ca

Quick tips to help reptiles:

- Drive carefully and watch for wildlife on roads. Slow down near natural areas.
- Boat slowly near wetlands and in shallow water areas to avoid reptile collisions.
- Protect and restore natural habitats. Visit LongPointLandTrust.ca for ideas.
- Report suspected poaching of reptiles, or other illegal activities, to the OMNR TIPS line:
1-877-TIPS-MNR (1-877-847-7667)



Eastern Hog-nosed Snake



Snapping Turtle laying eggs

LPBLT Reserves – Helping Protect and Recover Species at Risk

LPBLT is committed to protecting the biological diversity (i.e. biodiversity) of native flora and fauna in the central Carolinian Region and to helping restore natural systems, such as healthy watersheds. Many species at risk, however, are in need of special attention due, in the great majority of cases, to the impact of people. The Carolinian Region has the largest human population in the country, and also contains among the Canada's highest biological diversity. It is not surprising, then, that the Carolinian Region is also home to over 160 species at risk – the highest concentration of species at risk nationally.

Fortunately, many people, groups and projects in the region are actively involved in recovery efforts, such as LPBLT's flagship Conserving Carolinian Reptiles initiative, now in its 6th year of helping imperiled turtles and snakes. LPBLT is actively involved in other efforts to help species at risk, too, often in collaboration with partners and landowners. One of the most important ways that the Trust helps protect species at risk is by acquiring and stewarding its own nature reserves. LPBLT currently owns five properties in Norfolk County, providing critical habitat for a diversity of species at risk. The following are just a few of the species at risk being protected at LPBLT nature reserves.



- Plants: American Chestnut, Butternut, Eastern Flowering Dogwood
- Mammals: American Badger, Little Brown Myotis (bat)
- Amphibians: Jefferson Salamander/Blue-spotted Salamander complex
- Reptiles: Blanding's Turtle, Snapping Turtle, Milksnake
- Birds: Acadian Flycatcher, Bald Eagle, Bobolink, Louisiana Waterthrush, Red-headed Woodpecker

LPBLT thanks its many supporters, volunteers and donors for helping to protect these and other species at risk! We look forward to providing more updates about interesting species in future issues.



Photos: (L) Red-headed Woodpecker; (R) Eastern Flowering Dogwood

LPBLT Supporters

Long Point Basin Land Trust thanks the following for their financial and/or in-kind support. We would also like to thank the many individuals who have supported our nature reserve acquisition, stewardship and species at risk efforts.

Conserving Carolinian Reptiles

This project was undertaken with the financial support of:

HIVA Environmental Fund

The John and Pat McCutcheon Charitable Foundation



Environment Canada

Environnement Canada



Ontario

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Nature Reserves and Stewardship

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Ducks Unlimited Canada

Government of Ontario

Norfolk Field Naturalists

The Echo Foundation

The McLean Foundation

Hamilton Naturalists' Club

Long Point Region Conservation Authority

The Ontario Land Trust Assistance Program, an initiative of the Ontario Land Trust Alliance, supported in partnership with Environment Canada.

LPBLT thanks the following businesses:



journey and destination, divine.



Fred Eaglesmith Charity Picnic

Steve Armstrong Excavating



Monthly Donation Form

Long Point Basin Land Trust welcomes monthly donors whose financial assistance provides invaluable ongoing support for the organization's charitable conservation programs. If you are interested in becoming a monthly donor, please complete and return this form to Long Point Basin Land Trust, along with a cheque marked "Void." If you require additional information, please contact us.

I (we) authorize Long Point Basin Land Trust to process a debit, electronic or other payment form in the amount \$ _____ from my (our) account on a monthly basis, beginning _____. I (we) understand that I (we) may change or cancel this monthly conservation contribution in future by providing written confirmation to Long Point Basin Land Trust. I (we) enclose a cheque marked "Void" from the account to be debited.

Signature of Donor(s) _____

Print name(s) _____

Address _____

City/town _____

Postal code _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Date _____

Please return this form with a "Void" cheque to:

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

The Long Point Basin Land Trust is a registered charitable non-governmental organization (Charitable Registration Number 89113 5493 RR0001). We respect your privacy – please see our privacy policy at LongPointLandTrust.ca

LPBLT VIEWPOINT

Mark your calendar for a fantastic day, evening or weekend of music and outdoor fun: **The Annual Fred Eaglesmith Charity Picnic** at Springwater Conservation Area near Aylmer. Info: www.fredeaglesmith.com Dates: August 15 to 17, 2014.

Join LPBLT for Autumn Eco-Fest & Hawkwatch weekend at Long Point Eco-Adventures (1730 Front Road, Norfolk County, near Turkey Point). Dates: September 27 to 28, 2014.

Found injured wildlife? Visit the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources' website and search "wildlife rehab" for a listing of authorized wildlife rehabilitators: www.omnr.gov.on.ca.

Visit LPBLT's website to check out our expanded video library and read factsheets about reptiles and species at risk. Or, order your copy of our biodiversity handbooks: "Gardening with Native Plants" and "Conserving Carolinian Reptiles" (a great field guide to all Ontario reptiles).

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Connect with Long Point Basin Land Trust online... Follow us on Twitter (@lpblt) or become a fan on Facebook. facebook.com/lpblt



Please support the Land Trust!
Contact us at:

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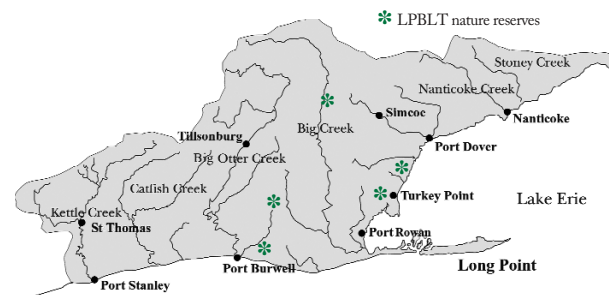


Design: V. John Lee
ViewPoint writer/editor: Gregor Beck
Photos: Gregor Beck, Mary Gartshore (p.1, top)

Photos (front): Fisher's Glen Nature Reserve and Orchard Oriole (Shirley and George Pond Nature Reserve)

Photos (back): Acadian Flycatcher and Tiger Swallowtail on Butterflyweed

cut along dotted line



The Long Point Basin