



LONG POINT BASIN
LAND TRUST
VIEWPOINT

FALL NEWSLETTER 2017

President's Message



AS MANY OF YOU MAY KNOW, Long Point Basin Land Trust is a very small volunteer driven organization that relies heavily on board members and engaged friends to deliver its mandate. That however isn't

the whole story. These volunteers are organized and lead by a dedicated team composed of 1.5 staff people.

Lyndsay, our full time Stewardship Coordinator, coordinates most of the boots on the ground projects and is the person most of our volunteers know. Through the Conserving Carolinian Reptile and Nurturing Nature Projects she has overseen the upkeep and improvements on our seven nature reserves. She is often seen lugging shovels, pruners and garbage bags as she directs groups of engaged people both young and old in trail trimming, litter clean up and exotic removal. Another part of Lyndsay's job has been the organizing of educational events. Hikes, talks and our first ever BioBlitz were all her doing this year. Some of the many activities she organized featured mushrooms, birds and butterflies on our reserves and she even ventured into classrooms to engage some of our younger supporters. I would like to join all the

people she worked with this year in thanking Lyndsay for her enthusiasm and effort that she put into this part of LPBLT activities.

Another side of LPBLT is the administration and fundraising. Kristyn Richardson, LPBLT's Projects Coordinator is the 0.5 part of the staff team. Kristyn does get a little time in the limelight when giving presentations or talks to such groups as Rotary but for the most part she is tied to the office computer. The search for funding, the great drive for all LPBLT does, falls squarely on Kristyn's shoulders. She works closely with the Board to organize and implement fundraising applications and plans for acquisitions, projects such as Nurturing Nature and Conserving Carolinian Reptiles and to just keep the doors open and lights on. Just to make sure she doesn't have any spare time, she is also Lyndsay's supervisor as well as board secretary.

The strength of any organization is in the people who do the day to day work of the organization. LPBLT is fortunate to have had a strong 1.5 staff this year and I think the success of their efforts reflects their dedication and ability. Thank you to them on behalf of our Supporters and Board.

The strength of any organization is in the people who do the day to day work ... Thank you to them

IT ISN'T JUST BIRDS THAT FLY

Peter Carson

MY PARTNER, MARY, and I have always been interested in moths but in the last few years this interest has become a bit of an obsession (especially for Mary). Up to all hours watching the many species attracted to a mercury vapour light. Then up, (but not too early), in the morning to inspect the catch in the live traps and then the recording of them made by way of photography. As I suggested this is not a new interest, just a new addiction. Both of us did this as kids, but sadly, over the years we have witnessed marked changes. We have seen declines in the numbers of many of the large silk moths; species that we remember as being common just do not seem to be around now. One in particular, the Luna (*Actias luna*), is noticeably reduced. This large moth with apple green, purple/pink edged fore wings that are 75-105 mm wide and a plump white body was a childhood favourite. The caterpillars feed on a wide range of trees alder, beech, cherry, hazel, hickory and willow which are all still common and the species does not seem to require pristine habitat. So why is there a decline? Habitat loss, light pollution or climate change, perhaps, but more likely the introduction of a European Tachinid fly (*Compsilura concinnata*) in 1909 to control Gypsy Moth (*Lymantria dispar*). This exotic fly is known to feed on more than 200 of our native species of moths including our larger silk moths. The female fly seeks out the caterpillars and lays eggs in them. The eggs hatch and the larvae grow inside feeding on the caterpillars. The fly winters over inside the cocoon that the host spins. In the spring it is only the Tachinid fly that emerges, the host having been consumed. The search is always on for a host specific biological control but in this case the results were wide of the mark. Tachinid flies need to winter over in the host's cocoons but the Gypsy Moth winters over as eggs. Oops!

While we can not do anything about these pesky flies other than hope they become fodder for a parasite of their own, we can do something about habitat loss. LPBLT acquires or creates biodiverse rich habitats to help support not just these wonderful silk moths but also the whole amazing web of life. For many species, habitat loss is a life or death battle. You can help too! Do your landscaping with native species, reduce or eliminate your lawn and support our efforts to set aside natural habitats.



Above: Freshly emerged adult Luna.

Right: Luna caterpillars on American Plum.

M.E. Gartshore

*We can do something
about habitat loss ...*

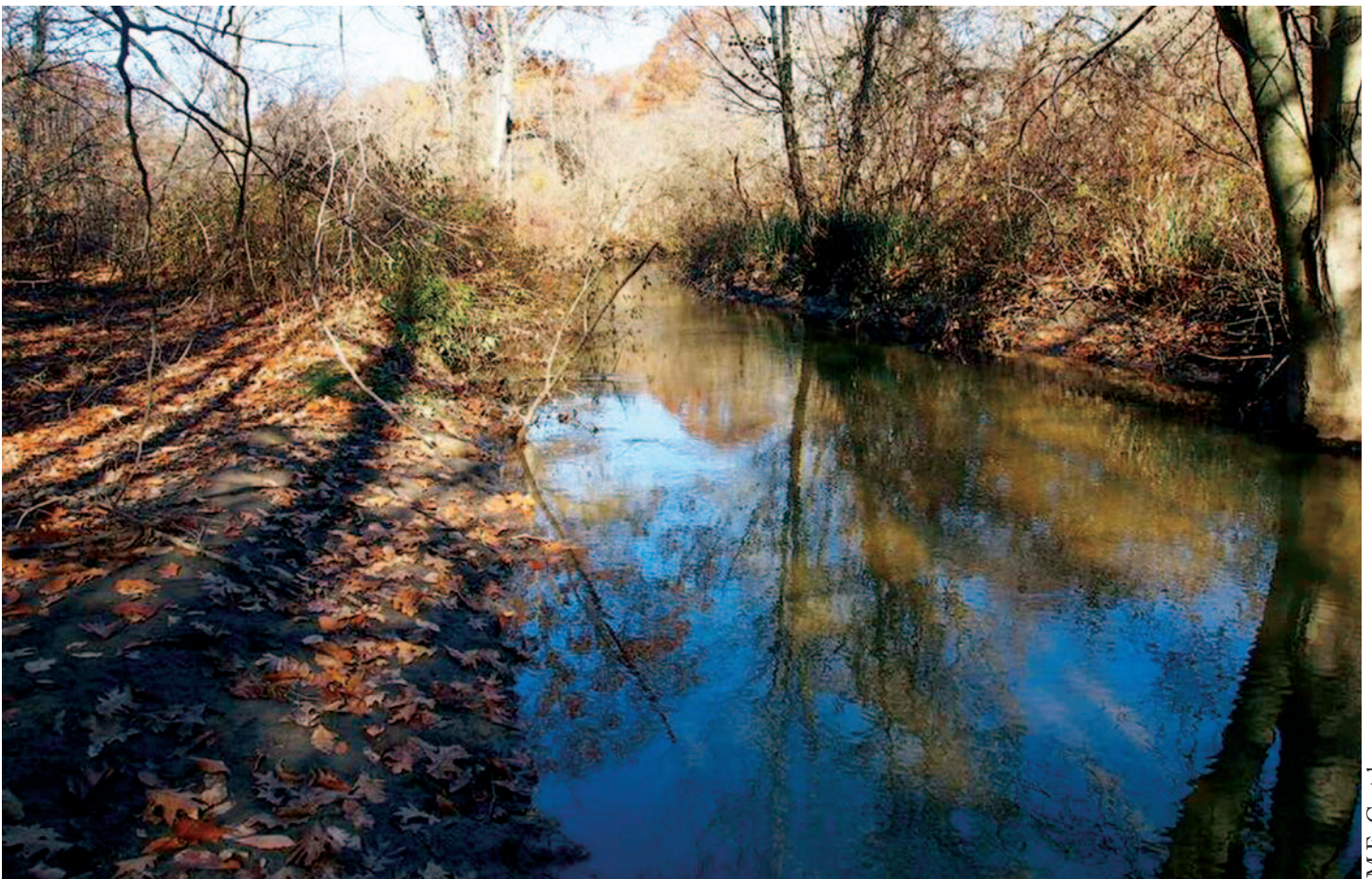
VENISON CREEK WATERSHED RESERVE CAMPAIGN

Kristyn Richardson

THE VENISON CREEK WATERSHED has been identified through strategic planning by LPBLT as an area of conservation priority for its stewardship and securement activities. The Venison Creek Watershed Reserve in particular has been identified as an essential link for protecting watershed integrity, as an essential buffer for the cold water creek system, and as a critically important site for restoration and protection of Norfolk Sand Plain Carolinian forest and riparian corridors. Conservation of this property will protect in perpetuity a 55-acre natural treasure, preserving wildlife including species at risk, and providing

excellent opportunities for nature appreciation.

The acquisition campaign for the Venison Creek Watershed Reserve was launched in September and is now in full swing. We are excited to report that more than 75% of the required funding has been secured; however, the closing date of January 31, 2018 is quickly approaching. LPBLT has been continuing to reach out to charitable foundations, corporations, conservation groups, and individual supporters to secure the additional funds needed to secure this vital property situated in the heart of Carolinian Canada.



M.E. Gartshore

The portion of Venison Creek on the Venison Creek Watershed Reserve

NURTURING NATURE IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

Lyndsay Shular



Above: Grade nine students from Delhi District Secondary School participate in a biodiversity scavenger hunt on the Delhi Wetland Nature Reserve.

Right: Mary Gartshore shows workshop participants how to clean native plant seed.



Ann Sawyer

Lyndsay Shular

SINCE 2015, Long Point Basin Land Trust has been running *Nurturing Nature in the Neighbourhood* with funding from Ontario Trillium Foundation. This three-year project, which was focused on engaging the community, volunteers, and partners in long-term stewardship and enjoyment of LPBLT properties is coming to a close at the end of 2017. The main goals of the project included hosting local, free events as learning opportunities for the general public, engaging volunteer stewardship teams for LPBLT's

properties, and developing publicly-accessible interpretive trails on select properties.

Over the last three years, a variety of events have been held as part of the Nature in the Neighbourhood event series, including spring birding walks, invasive species restoration workdays, species identification workshops, and Monarch tagging events. Tim Goodale, who has attended many of the workshops and events, says "everyone should take in a workshop if they have a chance to do so. Government laws don't do enough

to protect species at risk and it's up to organizations like LPBLT to help educate the general public on this special place we live in."

The newly created volunteer stewardship teams for LPBLT's properties have helped to implement on-the-ground restoration projects. Some of the activities these teams undertake include monitoring, garbage cleanups, trail clearing, invasive species management initiatives, and seed collecting.

The volunteer stewardship teams are excellent opportunities to develop environmental and conservation skills, meet new people, and learn about the unique ecosystems found throughout the Long Point Basin. If you are interested in helping with stewardship initiatives on LPBLT's nature reserves, contact the Stewardship Coordinator at 519-420-9913 or steward@longpointlandtrust.ca to join a team.

Through the creation of interpretive walking routes on some of LPBLT properties, visitors are able to explore and learn about some of the diverse

habitats found on each nature reserve. Strongman – Guiler Conservation Legacy, Shirley and George Pond Nature Reserve, and Arthur Langford Nature Reserve all have clearly marked walking routes of varying difficulty that allow for activities such as walking, hiking, and snowshoeing. Descriptions and maps of the walking routes are available at www.longpointlandtrust.ca/ourlands.

The *Nurturing Nature in the Neighbourhood* project has allowed LPBLT to expand its reach within the local communities and generate awareness about environmental issues and on-the-ground solutions. We have also been able to meet some of our neighbours and begin to foster long-term relationships. Moving forward, LPBLT would like to continue hosting events that include a stronger hands-on component, allowing participants to learn about what they can do in their own backyard to help conserve biodiversity in the Long Point Basin.



Bruce Bolin



Lyndsay Shular

Left: Members from Otter Valley Naturalists cleaned garbage on the Arthur Langford Nature Reserve as part of the Stewardship Team.

Above: A Monarch carefully being tagged before its release at the Monarch Tagging Workshop.

...everyone should take in a workshop if they have a chance to do so.

POND RESERVE BIOBLITZ A SUCCESS!

Lyndsay Shular

ON AUGUST 12TH, Long Point Basin Land Trust held their first-ever community BioBlitz at the Shirley and George Pond Nature Reserve. A variety of workshops were held throughout the day and facilitated by experts, allowing the 40 participants and many volunteers to have a productive and enjoyable time. With over 220 species observed, this inventory will provide a baseline for ongoing monitoring and aid with future management planning for the property. Highlights from the day include observing over 20 different butterflies, spotting a Bald Eagle flying over the property, seeing a Northern Red-bellied snake on the trail, hearing an Eastern Screech Owl as the sun was setting, and using bat-detecting technology to observe three different species of bats on the property.

Nicole DePoorter, a volunteer with LPBLT, assisted with data recording during the BioBlitz. “I really enjoyed participating in LPBLT events this 2017 season, especially the BioBlitz! What I enjoyed the most was learning a lot and have gained a lot of appreciation for butterflies and being able to identify butterfly species. I’ve been able to meet

some great people with the same interests as me and it has been nice to be able to come together to appreciate nature and all the amazing species in Norfolk County.”

A lot was learned by all involved, as is the case with any first-time event, and suggestions will be included in the planning of any future BioBlitz hosted by LPBLT. All in all, LPBLT gained valuable information and knowledge through the event and is looking forward to what next year can bring.

Long Point Basin Land Trust would like to thank Stefan Weber, Adam Biddle, Jenna Siu, Bernie Solymar, Toby Thorne, and Mary Gartshore, as well as all the volunteers who came out to help make the event a big success. Thank you to Burning Kiln Winery for their support and gracious donations, and to Olde Tyme Deli and Eatery for providing a delicious lunch to the participants. Funding for the BioBlitz was provided by TD Friends of the Environment Foundation.

Workshops facilitated by experts gave the participants and volunteers a productive and enjoyable time.



Botanist Stefan Weber explains tips and tricks for plant identification at LPBLT's BioBlitz

Leanna Gauthier-Helmer

CONGRATULATIONS TO PETER

THIS FALL, at the 2017 Ontario Land Trust Gathering, Peter Carson was awarded the OLTA Vision Award in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the land trust community. He has always had a love and admiration for nature that started at a young age. In 1985, Peter worked with a team doing fieldwork for the Natural Areas Inventory of Haldimand-Norfolk Region, which changed his career path. Ever since, his life has revolved around natural history and conservation; Peter's resume of professional and volunteer experience is both lengthy and diverse. His involvement with the land trust

movement began when he served on the board of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, now Ontario Nature. He was involved with the inception of the Ontario Nature Trust Alliance, now Ontario Land Trust Alliance, and serving as Vice Chair for a period. Since its founding in 1996, Peter has been a leading force of Long Point Basin Land Trust and has been President for the past 10 years. There is no doubt the conservation movement has benefited from his frankness and strength of opinions over the years, and for that we are all grateful!



Kristyn Richardson

LPBLT's Al Robinson awarding Peter Carson with the OLTA Vision Award

Much of our work wouldn't be possible without the continued support of the LPBLT volunteers. If you are interested in learning more about volunteering with LPBLT, please contact our Stewardship Coordinator Lyndsay Shular: steward@longpointlandtrust.ca or 519-420-9913.



M.E. Gartshore

A future restoration site on the Venison Creek Watershed Reserve.

The Nurturing Nature and Protecting at Risk Biodiversity in the Long Point Basin projects were undertaken with the support of



TD Friends of the Environment Foundation

Priorities for Protecting Land

Since being established in 1996, Long Point Basin Land Trust's mission has always been to protect and restore functioning ecosystems in the Long Point Basin. One of the ways LPBLT achieves this is through land securement, as well as land stewardship and species at risk recovery activities on properties owned by the Land Trust. As the Long Point Basin is a diverse area with a variety of land owners and users, LPBLT is one of the organizations shaping the future for this region.

Current science suggests that at least 30% of a region's natural cover must be maintained to retain ecological functions. Canada, through the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, has set the goal of protecting at least 17% of terrestrial areas and inland water. The

contribution of LPBLT's secured lands and conservation leadership across the Long Point Basin is essential in order to achieve these targets and support the well-being of our natural and human communities.

The securement of properties, whether by donation or purchase, is a typically lengthy process that includes long-term negotiations with both potential, and confirmed, land donors. Distinctive features in the Long Point Basin are of the focus of LPBLT's securement activities, and these priorities are critical for maintaining ecological functions and the character of the area.

There are various ways to give land. To find out about the various options or for more information, please contact Kristyn Richardson at kristyn@longpointlandtrust.ca or 519-586-8309

MONTHLY GIVING

PLEDGING \$10, \$25, \$50, OR MORE each month provides LPBLT with a dependable source of funds that allows us to protect the land you love – day in and day out. Not only is it a greener option because it reduces the amount of paper we use annually, it also decreases LPBLT's fundraising costs making it possible for us to put more of your money into conservation. It is also one of the most convenient ways for you to donate – it helps you to plan your giving for the year, reduces your paperwork, and gives you

control of the amount of the donation. You can change or cancel your commitment at any time.

When you sign up for monthly giving, you will not only be supporting Long Point Basin Land Trust, you will also receive a coveted LPBLT reusable tote bag.

For more information on monthly giving, please contact Kristyn Richardson at 519-586-8309 or kristyn@longpointlandtrust.ca

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