

SUMMER EDITION 2022

LONG POINT BASIN
LAND TRUST

ViewPoint

www.longpointlandtrust.ca

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to Summer 2022

Long Point Basin Land Trust (LPBLT) has leapt through spring with renewed vigour. The continuation (from last year) of logging to remove exotic trees in the Trout Creek reserve was finished before spring migration started. Although this sort of work always looks a little messy the operator has done a very sensitive job and any damage will disappear quickly. Several of the unsanctioned trails have been blocked with fallen trees and fencing at the parking lot on Concession 10 is underway. An exotic species brush station will be installed here as well as signage laying out allowed usages.

The Harlow Dune property has also received a lot of work. The exotic black locust along Vittoria Road have been removed, a gate has been installed to help prevent dumping and a volunteer crew has started the process of thinning out the too-dense white pine plantings that are impacting the dry oak aspects of the site.

The third property to receive attention this year is the Hammond Slough Forest. A parking lot has been installed off Highway #6 and unsanctioned



trails have been closed. A preliminary loop trail has been demarcated; but the very wet nature of the Slough Forest will require the installation of some sort of walkways in several sections.

Exotic removal has also been carried out at Spring Arbour; the abandoned house and barn have been removed and a gate and parking lot installed. Dan Marina, Stewardship Coordinator, has been the lead on most of these activities and he has many more projects planned. Stay tuned for more of his great works.

The field work isn't the only thing keeping LPBLT busy. The culmination of the Strategic Planning exercise that the Board undertook last year has been adopted with a new management structure for the organization. It is hoped that this will allow a smoother operation for staff and more of a policy role for the Board. The goal, of course, is to be a more effective organization in all we do.

We also celebrate the acquisition of our thirteenth nature reserve – the Stackhouse Forest Sanctuary. See inside this issue for how this came together.

As Spring moves into Summer, take the opportunity to get out and enjoy nature.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Peter Carson".

Peter Carson
President, Long Point Basin Land Trust

Red-headed Woodpecker

(*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*)

Stephen Kilbridge, Director, Long Point Basin Land Trust

When I was a boy I was struck by the picture of the beautiful Red-headed Woodpecker in the Golden Nature Guide, and hoped to someday see one in the flesh. Years later this wish came true near Port Colborne.

Once a common bird, the Red-headed Woodpecker is now uncommon or sporadic, and sadly in decline over all of its range. It is listed as Endangered in both Ontario and Canada.

It is a strikingly attractive bird, with a bright red head, throat and neck, bluish-black wings and tail, and large patches of snowy white on the wings and breast, noticeable during flight. It is a middle-sized woodpecker, average length being 24 cm (9 inches).

Our most omnivorous woodpecker, it eats insects, spiders, nuts, seeds, and wild berries. They forage on the ground for earthworms, will occasionally eat small mammals, and like a flycatcher, will dart after flying insects. Excess food is sometimes stored in tree cavities, sealed away with wood chips.

While very general in its food sources, it has very specific housing needs. The Red-headed Woodpecker relies on large dead trees (snags) for nest cavities.

Males and females share responsibilities of raising their young. Both excavate a nest cavity up to 60 cm deep. Between April and July, three to ten (commonly five) eggs are laid. The parents take turns incubating the eggs, with the males sitting on them at night for the 12-14 days until they hatch. The young will open their eyes in about 12 days and leave the nest three to four weeks after hatching. Sometimes the parents will start a second brood elsewhere while the chicks are being fed.

The habitat of the Red-headed Wood-



Red-headed Woodpecker at a nest site. (Photo: Trisha Snider)

pecker is open woodlands, grasslands, and oak savannas. The woodpecker helps to maintain these ecosystems by distributing many acorns and beechnuts during feeding and by food caching.

The bird's long-term decline is largely the result of human influence: the introduction of the European starling in the 1890's has resulted in competition for nest sites; and the loss or removal of dead trees has reduced nest sites even further.

Presently, it is estimated that there are 1000-1400 mature individuals in all of Ontario, and these numbers are declining at 1.88% per year.

Long Point Basin Land Trust is currently creating snags on some of its properties to help create Red-headed Woodpecker habitat (see the next page for more details). It is hoped that the decline can be partially reversed so future generations can be thrilled by the sight of the beautiful Red-headed Woodpecker.

Red-headed Woodpecker snag creation project carves its way through its inaugural year

Ian R. Fife, Ontario Forest Birds Program Coordinator, Birds Canada

Red-headed Woodpeckers were once abundant but are now considered Endangered across their range in Canada. In Ontario, the Red-headed Woodpecker population has declined by 82% since 1970. As loss of breeding habitat is one of the main causes, efforts to increase habitat using forest management techniques could prove beneficial.

Land use changes throughout their range have reduced the availability of their habitat: land conversion reduced the quality of tall-grass prairie and oak savannas, fire suppression has allowed succession of forests and snag removal has reduced breeding habitat. Birds Canada's Ontario Forest Birds (OFB) program has partnered with St. Williams Conservation Reserve, Turkey Point Provincial Park and Long Point Basin Land Trust to increase Red-headed Woodpecker habitat in Norfolk County.

The OFB program established 32 2-hectare plots throughout select partners' properties; 16 plots were determined as treatment plots and the remaining plots will act as control plots. During the summer of 2021, the OFB program began collecting pre-treatment habitat and bird presence data with the aid of partners' land management plans to establish ideal locations where created snags would be most beneficial for Red-headed Woodpeckers.

In the late winter and early spring of 2022, trees were marked and treatments applied. Our goal was to acquire the provincial forestry standard of establishing 10 snags/ha. OFB selected two treatment types for creating snags to be applied in eight plots each: in



Ontario Forest Birds program technicians measuring coarse woody debris in a Red-headed Woodpecker plot. (Photo: Jenny Andrews)

one treatment, a direct application of herbicide was applied; the other treatment used mechanical girdling, which strips the outer bark and cambium layer from the tree. Both methods cut off the tree's nutrient supply. In total, 81 trees of various species have been treated.

The OFB program does not anticipate immediate Red-headed Woodpecker response in treatment areas as they prefer very well decayed trees. Habitat and bird surveys will continue throughout the study area to

measure any significant changes that may occur due to our treatment methods. Our monitoring will also allow us to assess the longevity of created snags versus naturally occurring snags and, of course, we will determine any positive response by Red-headed Woodpecker to the treated areas.

Over the long-term, OFB hopes these treatment applications can be applied to other private and public landowners that can be a part of Red-headed Woodpecker recovery.

EXPLORE the *Outdoors*

Sandy Jukes, Executive Assistant, Long Point Basin Land Trust

After a hiatus due to Covid-19, Long Point Basin Land Trust (LPBLT) is very excited to be bringing back a full season of Explore the Outdoor events for 2022! Some are in-person at many of our protected reserves and others will be held online as a webinar.

Explore the Outdoors began in 2019 and quickly became very popular. The program brings a series of events to the area through much of the year where participants can enjoy such activities as hikes through Carolinian forests, Monarch butterfly tagging, identifying the area's fascinating fungus, just to name a few. Explore the Outdoors also brings enlightenment of the area's reptiles, native bees, nature photography and more through virtual webinars.

For a full line-up of 2022 events and to register, visit our website at <https://longpointlandtrust.ca/events>.

Explore the Outdoors events are free to the public, thanks to the generous sponsorship of the program's business partners. We would like to thank them here and urge you to support their establishments.

EXPLORE the *Outdoors*

These free Explore the Outdoors events are hosted by Long Point Basin Land Trust on one of its nature reserves or virtually and supported by local businesses. If you are interested in participating, please visit longpointlandtrust.ca/events/ to register for any or all the events of your choice.



The Buzz on Native Bees

July 5

7 PM - 8:30 PM • Virtual Presentation

Presenter: Dr. Sheila Colla, Conservation Biologist, York University

Sponsor: *Charlotteville Brewing Company*



Know your Trees • July 9

10 AM - 12 PM • Spring Harbour Farm

Nature Reserve

Presenter: Dan Marina, Stewardship Coordinator, LPBLT

Sponsor: *Lance Scott Investment Group (TD Wealth)*



Lake Erie's Disappearing Shoreline • Aug. 23

7 PM - 8:30 PM • Virtual Presentation

Presenter: Dr. Chris Houser, Dean of the Faculty of Science at the University of Windsor



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

Long Point Basin Land Trust (LPBLT), a charitable, non-government organization, was founded in 1996 with a mission to protect and restore functioning ecosystem in the central Carolinian Region through land ownership, management and stewardship. LPBLT currently protects 13 nature reserves, totaling 842 acres, that provide people with opportunities to enjoy and connect with nature.



Delhi and District Horticultural Society

Volunteer Spotlight

*Sandy Jukes, Executive Assistant,
Long Point Basin Land Trust*

This edition of ViewPoint shines its spotlight brightly on volunteer John Sinclair. John knocked on doors, telephoned and emailed several local businesses resulting in sponsorships for the 2022 Explore the Outdoor series of events. Because of these sponsorships, Long Point Basin Land Trust (LPBLT) is able to provide these wonderfully educational events free of charge to everyone interested.

John became familiar with Norfolk County back in the early 1990's when he purchased an old farmhouse in the area to use as a cottage. He now lives in the farmhouse full time and takes every opportunity to hike the wonderful conservation areas and properties that are available locally, includ-

ing those preserved by LPBLT. He is a long time "outdoor" person, an avid hiker, camper and bicycle tourer (2/3 the way across Canada) and passionate about gardening with native flowers, shrubs and trees. John says he chose to volunteer with LPBLT, "because of their continued good works to conserve and manage key properties in the area and because they are a small organization that needs volunteers (and donations) to support all these important efforts".

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff and especially all those who benefit by attending Explore the Outdoors events...a huge thank you, John!

Photo: John Sinclair, Long Point Basin Land Trust Volunteer.



More Ways for You to Connect with Nature

Dan Marina, Stewardship Coordinator, Long Point Basin Land Trust

The last couple of years have been a whirlwind for everyone, as we've all had to navigate the effects of social isolation and the disruption of our daily routines. All the while Long Point Basin Land Trust has seen significant change as our organization continues to grow and expand our reserve network. One thing has only become clearer – people need to feel connected to their local community, to build social networks, to get outside in nature, and to find purpose. As an organization, we've also come to understand that volunteerism is paramount to our success. Volunteer engagement increases our capacity to do more and protect more. It's a key component of our organizational culture as it brings creativity, energy, and passion into what we do.

With that, we're very excited to move ahead with revitalising and ramping up our volunteer program. We're on a mission to get people outside, connected to one another and to nature, all while achieving our goals of protecting and conserving our natural world. It's a win-win! We will be offering a wide variety of volunteer opportunities relating to stewardship, citizen science, ecosystem restoration, education, fundraising and more. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please visit our website at <https://longpointlandtrust.ca/get-involved/volunteering/>. We're excited for great things in 2022 and beyond!

Funding to enhance our Volunteer Program was provided in part by



*and Hodgson Family
Foundation*

LUCKY NUMBER THIRTEEN

Stackhouse Forest Sanctuary Acquired January 2022

*Kristyn Richardson, Executive Director,
Long Point Basin Land Trust*

There was absolutely nothing unlucky about the securing of Long Point Basin Land Trust's (LPBLT) thirteenth nature reserve, Stackhouse Forest Sanctuary. In fact, it was absolute smooth sailing from start to finish with just about everything going absolutely perfectly (I truly wish I could say they are all like that). It was a complete coincidence how I first met Linda and Chris Stackhouse, talk about "it's who you know". Their son is good friends with one of the contractors LPBLT utilizes to undertake restoration work on the nature reserves and put us in touch when he knew the Stackhouses were considering selling their 50-acre bush lot at the back of the century farm. It was an incredibly hard decision for them to make considering it had been in the family for six generations, and they were not keen to see it logged and developed into a homestead. So when they heard about Long Point Basin Land Trust and our mission to preserve and protect areas of ecological interest and cultural heritage, it truly was fate!



Beech-maple, hickory-oak deciduous forest with areas of dense sedges. (Photo: Mary Gartshore)



Dedrick's Creek on the Stackhouse Forest Sanctuary (Photo: Thomas Hanrahan)

From that point, which was only December 2021, our fantastic supporters rallied around the project and helped us to raise the money needed to ensure the protection of the property in perpetuity. THANK YOU!

The Stackhouse Forest Sanctuary is situated within a complex network of large forest tracts containing significant wetlands, interior forest and older-growth forest habitat. It provides connectivity at the local landscape-level by providing natural linkages to other sites protected for conservation including the Harlow Dune Nature Reserve, St. Williams Conservation Reserve Nursery Tract, and numerous Long Point Region Conservation Authority tracts. This location of the Stackhouse Forest Sanctuary provides strategic leverage for LPBLT to expand the protected area network within the Walsh Carolinian Forest Significant Natural Area by gaining opportunities for future acquisitions.

We are deeply satisfied to know that through this acquisition, we were able to fulfill the wishes of the Stackhouses by ensuring the protection of the property and their legacy. Plus, we gained some absolutely fantastic neighbours and life-long friends in the process.

*Funding provided by:
The generosity of individuals like YOU
and*



This project was undertaken with the financial support of:
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada



*Pano Cap Canada Ltd.,
James N. Allan Family Foundation,
The Walter J. Blackburn Foundation,
The Burton Charitable Foundation*

Meet The NEST Crew!

Emily Ratch, Intern, Long Point Basin Land Trust

The Norfolk Environmental Stewardship Team (aka NEST Crew) is a summer student position organized by the Norfolk County, Parks Department. Norfolk County created the NEST Crew to help students interested in environmental and natural resources and are attending post-secondary education in related fields. This unique position allows students to build various skills and connections, including hands-on work experience, as they help steward Norfolk's natural areas.

NEST works alongside Long Point Basin Land Trust (LPBLT), Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS), Nature Conservancy Canada (NCC), and many other environmental organizations in Norfolk County. The NEST Crew assists with field research, re-

storing habitats, and participating in forest management practices.

The NEST Crew completes many jobs throughout the summer, including: Species at Risk surveys (bats, Monarch butterflies, Spotted Wintergreen, and Eastern Flowering Dogwood); Invasive species control; Ecological Land Classification (ELC); Vegetation inventory surveys; Tree, pollinator, and wetland planting; Wildflower harvesting; Bird banding; and, so much more!

On a personal note, this has been my second summer on the NEST Crew. So far, the most enjoyable experience for me was completing Species at Risk (SAR) surveys. It was a challenging yet rewarding experience to participate in studies that will help protect Norfolk's most fragile species and ecosystems. NEST's role in SAR surveys was to

search for the species, accurately identify the species, and then record the geographical location and other data on a GIS (Geographic Information System) device. Organizations then use this data for restoration and conservation projects. It is a hard job, but the outcome makes it worth the effort. With a little elbow grease, positive change for our natural world is possible!

Collaborating with Norfolk's environmental organizations has allowed NEST to network with many ecological leaders throughout our community. I am so grateful for these opportunities and connections, as they allowed me to gain a deeper understanding of the environmental sector and my future within it. I'd like to thank Norfolk County and all other participating organizations for creating such a uniquely wonderful position that allows students like myself to grow and find the right career path for them.



Emily Ratch bird banding at Long Point Bird Observatory. (Photo: Mackenzie Sheppard)



Renai Kloetstra preparing to monitor bat frequencies for LPBLT. (Photo: Mackenzie Sheppard)



Renai Kloetstra, Mackenzie Sheppard, and Emily Ratch installing a Wood Duck nest box. (Photo: Chloe Cridland.)

Your Support Means the World to Us!

Quite literally, your support makes it possible for Long Point Basin Land Trust (LPBLT) to preserve habitat through land protection, land stewardship and restoration, and provides opportunities for people to connect with nature through hands-on experience.

So please consider a donation today! You can give online at <https://longpointlandtrust.ca/support-our-work/donate>. Or send your cheque made payable to Long Point Basin Land Trust to P.O. Box 468, Port Rowan, ON N0E 1M0.

Your gift can be a one-time general donation, a donation toward the next land acquisition and stewardship of existing properties, or an in-honour or in-memoriam donation. You choose. You might also consider a monthly recurring gift. All donations of \$10 and more will receive an official charitable receipt for income tax purposes.

Please consider leaving a legacy in perpetuity. See your financial advisor about the advantages to planned-giving in the form of a bequest, insurance, annuity, or gift of land.



Eastern Flowering Dogwood flowers

Together we WILL make a difference!

Let's Save Trees and Cut Costs!

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