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MESSAGE FROM OUR Board of Directors:

As this is written, it is now October, and the woods are painted with vivid fall colours – one of the finest spectacles of nature. Dogwoods, oaks, and of course maples are now showing the pigments which have been hidden all summer. The display seems to be especially nice this year! In the field north of my house, oak seedlings wearing just a few leaves resemble scarlet stars, showing a taste of what beauty they will exhibit when mature. I can't wait for them to grow up...but, as we know, trees are planted for the next generation's pleasure. Restoration requires patience.

In this issue of ViewPoint, Stewardship Coordinator Dan Marina talks about restoration ecology, pointing out where hands-on management is – and is not – appropriate on the Land Trust's various reserves. Read about Oak Savanna restoration now underway at Trout Creek Nature Reserve.



LPBLT is changing with the seasons – and the times, strengthening our Board of Directors by adding diverse opinions and experiences. Three new directors are introduced in this issue. We also welcome our new Outreach and Fund Development Manager, Brianne Curry. Brianne brings a wealth of experience

to us, and is profiled within these pages.

We are always aware of the importance of our supporters and friends in our success. We could not do without you. So, on September 24 the Land Trust held our first "Appreciation BBQ" in Delhi. It was well attended and a good and entertaining time was had by all (even the rookies on the charcoal crew who sweated and worried, but finally pulled through). Read more about this event inside.

Soon this year's leaves will be nourishing next year's growth. As the seasons flow along, so we continue to work tirelessly on behalf of the natural world. We are so glad you're with us on this journey.

Stephen Kilbridge
Secretary, Long Point Basin Land Trust



Spotted Wintergreen

(Chimaphila maculata)

Brianne Curry - Outreach and Fund Development Manager

Never is the importance of our work to protect and restore habitats as clear to me as when I have the chance to observe an endangered species on one of our nature reserves. Recently I was on a tour at one of the nature reserves when I learned of a population of Spotted Wintergreen growing on the forest floor amidst the maple, beech and sassafras. Spotted Wintergreen is incredibly rare. Its native range is in the northeastern US and parts of southern Ontario and Quebec. However, it is listed as endangered in Ontario, Quebec, Illinois, and Maine, and is “exploitably vulnerable” in New York state. Here in Ontario, the only documented populations are in the Hamilton, Niagara, and Muskoka areas - plus a few locations here in Norfolk County.

Spotted Wintergreen isn’t really ‘spotted’, per se, but the leaves do have a variegated pattern of white veins on a dark green, smooth leaf. This plant grows to about 10-25cm tall and produces a pretty white-to-pinkish flower in midsummer. The leaves are ‘evergreen’ throughout the year, and the stems are woody, peeking up through the leaf matter on the forest

floor even during winter (when they are perhaps more easy to spot). Spotted Wintergreen can be found in sandy habitats, including mixed upland deciduous and coniferous forests, and in particular oak-pine forests and similar habitats.

Primary pollinators of Spotted Wintergreen include bumble bees and honey bees.

Because Spotted Wintergreen contains chemical compounds with antiseptic, antibacterial and astringent properties, this plant has several medicinal uses and is used by indigenous peoples to treat arthritis, urinary tract infections, kidney stones, and other stomach related issues. Whether fresh or dried, the leaves are aromatic - think wintergreen flavoured toothpaste - and was used as a tonic and diuretic.

The ecosystem restoration work that LPBLT and our volunteers undertake at the nature reserves will contribute to preserving habitat for Spotted Wintergreen and other species at risk. By removing invasive plants that crowd out and out-compete our native plants, we can take direct action to protect these vulnerable



(Photo: Getty Images)

plants and animals, for the benefit of future generations and the health of our local ecosystems. You can help support this work through donating your time, services, or funds. We hope you’ll join us on this mission.

Long Point Basin Land Trust Swag!

Give the gift of nature and support our work by purchasing one of our logo items! We have T-shirts, Ball Caps, and Tote Bags available. These are a perfect gift for the nature lover in your life.



Special offer: Purchase a hat and a t-shirt, and get the tote bag for FREE!

Order online at longpointlandtrust.ca/support-our-work/long-point-basin-land-trust-swag



Plant conservation research on the Spotted Wintergreen

Amy Wiedenfeld - PhD Student, University of Lethbridge

One step towards the conservation of plant species is understanding whether individual patches of plants are growing or shrinking, and how the environment affects this growth. With more information on what environmental conditions are required, conservation efforts can focus on habitat management that will improve the chances of a population to grow, aiding in the overall conservation of the species. There are many rare plant species in Ontario, and I am focusing on just four species for my research.

My project focuses on rare plant species in the Carolinian forest in southern Ontario. The species I'm studying include the Spotted Wintergreen (*Chimaphila Maculata*) and the Wood Poppy (*Stylophorum Diphyllum*). I'm interested in learning more about the populations of these species and what habitat they prefer, which could help inform conservation efforts of the existing populations, such as the populations of Spotted Wintergreen on Long Point Basin Land Trust properties.

For my project, I visited several populations of Spotted Wintergreen during the summer and placed individual markers with numbers near some of the plants. For these tagged plants, I took some basic census data—I recorded whether or not they were flowering, and the length of the longest leaf, which can be used as a size or age measurement for the plant. I will go back to the same plants for two more years to collect the same data from the same plants, to see how each one grows over time. I am also collecting information on the environment



around the populations, to better understand the habitat preferences of the species. For now, I am collecting soil moisture and light availability data at each population.

After returning each summer and collecting data on the tagged plants for three years, I will be able to create computer models of

which populations are growing and which are shrinking, and if the environment influences the population change in any way. For example, I might learn that the Spotted Wintergreen prefers a certain light level, or a specific soil pH for the population to grow. The outcome of this project will hopefully be more information on the populations of Spotted Wintergreen and models of the population growth rate in relation to the environment.

Amy Wiedenfeld is a PhD student in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Lethbridge, AB. She is studying population demographics of rare plant species in southern Ontario.



A Rally for Ecosystem Restoration

Dan Marina - Stewardship Coordinator

The Bonn Challenge is a global goal to bring 350 million hectares of degraded landscapes into restoration by 2030. Building on this, the UN Decade puts ecological restoration at the forefront, advancing the practice on a large scale. Restoration holds great promise for stemming the biodiversity crisis and ensuring local ecosystems can function resiliently against larger global issues such as climate change.

However, is it always necessary? Certainly, many ecosystems can recover from some disturbance without human intervention. There is a place for passive restoration – letting nature heal itself. Disturbance and succession are natural processes after all.

Restoration is nuanced. It's not just about promoting succession and making sure we avoid disturbing natural areas. It's not just

about tree planting. While some climax communities such as old-growth forests certainly benefit from limited disturbance and intervention, fire-dependent communities rely on it. But, we live in a world surrounded by infrastructure, virtually eliminating the option for fire to naturally occur on the broader landscape. Thus, a major ecological process has been crippled, and slowly, the ecosystems that rely on it. All the while, rising evidence suggests that many non-forest ecosystems such as prairies and savannas also provide strong benefits for mitigating climate change and the loss of biodiversity.

Long Point Basin Land Trust has made strides to protect land. Acquiring 13 nature reserves over 800 acres means we've taken on a big responsibility. Effort is needed to assess the ecological communities on the properties we steward and determine tar-

Above photo: a ravine at the Shirley & George Pond Nature Reserve is left to succeed into Carolinian forest.

gets appropriate to not only the site but the broader landscape.

There are situations where managing pristine environments requires little effort aside from monitoring. The passive approach is appropriate here. Some sites, however, demand a more hands-on approach. For example, areas that have been historically cleared and are now chock-full of invasive species, or sites planted with a monoculture of conifer trees. We've also identified a number of sites with remnant Oak Savanna species – the ones that rely on fire. The need for active restoration becomes clear.



Above: fire is reintroduced into an oak savanna ecosystem at the St. Williams Conservation Reserve.

We've been busy identifying the immediate restoration needs of our nature reserves, putting a big effort towards controlling invasive species and developing a volunteer seed collection program. We're also making progress towards utilizing fire to ensure the conditions required for species that live in Oak Savanna exist, and we've been actively thinning our conifer plantations. Exciting projects are underway!

Collaborative efforts for these projects

involve researchers, scientists, local communities, and conservation practitioners. Monitoring and reviewing the outcomes of restoration and discussing techniques that are ecologically, economically and socially viable ensures wise use of our resources.

In my mind, ecosystem restoration is not just about ecosystems. It's also about restoring our connection to the natural world and to each other. Communities built around a love and understanding of nature support these ac-

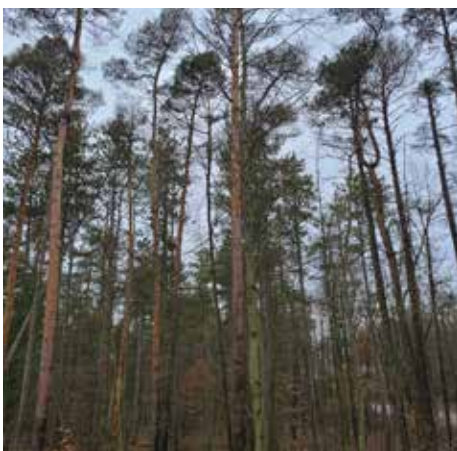
tions and push these projects forward. As we continue to make strides in restoring healthy ecosystems, we invite you to come along for the ride! There are many ways to support the work we do, such as donating, spreading the word to others, or becoming a volunteer.

Sources:

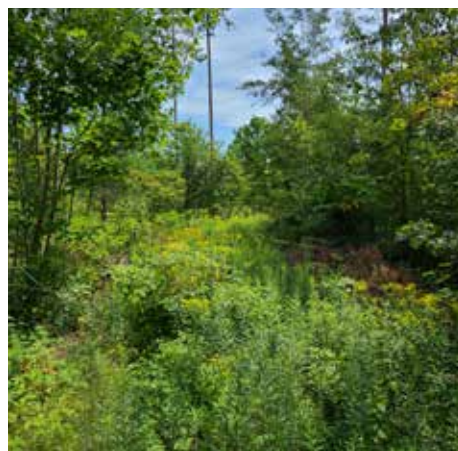
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/rec.12989>

<https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/>

<https://www.bonnchallenge.org/>



Left: a monoculture of non-native Scots Pine at the Trout Creek Nature Reserve in early spring 2022.



The same site bursts to life with wildflowers and regenerating oak trees after the conifer is removed.



Wild Lupine seedlings emerge to reclaim their place in the mighty oak savanna.

Get to know our newest team members!

Rick Levick Director

A “Long Pointer” since age 3, Rick has 40+ years of experience in public relations, project and non-profit management, and science outreach. He has a Master’s degree in Journalism and is accredited by the Public Relations Society of Canada. Rick currently serves on the Board of Directors of Nature’s Calling Environmental Education, is a member of the Road Ecology working group of the Long Point Walsingham Forest Priority Place initiative and serves on the Silver Lake Revitalization Project in Port Dover. Rick was President of the Long Point Biosphere Region from 2018 to 2021. In 2020, Rick’s work was recognized by Ontario Nature with the Ian Shenstone Frazer Memorial Award for making a significant contribution toward a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in Ontario.

David Agro Director

David is an award-winning architect based in Toronto whose work is based on the environment, ecology, and sustainable design. His architectural work has included the Bird Studies Canada Headquarters at Long Point, The Rainforest Discovery Centre adjacent to the Panama Canal, the Canadian Museum of Inuit Art in Toronto, and the Tropical Forest Science Center for the Smithsonian Institution in Panama. Prior

to working in architecture, David worked for Long Point Bird Observatory/Bird Studies Canada and the Ornithology Department for the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia. This work led to a life-long commitment to conservation which started with restoring Oak Savanna in Norfolk County and led to conservation work in Latin America, including co-founding the Jocotoco Foundation which has protected over 28,000 hectares of land in Ecuador and the Galapagos.

Emily Ratch Stewardship and Outreach Technician

Emily joined the LPBLT team in October 2022. She graduated from Sir Sandford Fleming College with a diploma in Ecosystem Management. She has 5 years of experience working in natural education, ecological restoration, and environmental research. Some of her previous roles included Discovery Guide at Turkey Point Provincial Park and Norfolk Environmental Stewardship Team member (NEST Crew) at Norfolk County. As LPBLT’s Stewardship and Outreach Technician, she organizes various events including volunteer opportunities and helps to manage the LPBLT social media pages. She values finding new ways to connect people with the natural environment. In her free time, Emily enjoys learning about the environment, searching for fungi, camping, traveling, and creating art.

Jason Bernardon Director

Jason Bernardon is a Senior Manager, Corporate Real Estate Transactions & Strategy with Bank of Montreal and is a graduate of the MBA program at the Schulich School of Business. Jason has recently moved to Norfolk and enjoys the many trails and natural heritage the area has to offer. Prior to joining the LPBLT Board of Directors in 2022, Jason was a board member with the North American Native Plant Society and the arts organization, The Toronto Consort.

Brianne Curry Outreach and Fund Development Manager

Brianne joined the LPBLT team in August 2022. She has worked in the non-profit sector for a decade and has experience in almost all areas of non-profit work, including fundraising, communications, program management and evaluation, education, community engagement, event planning, volunteer management, finance and administration, and restoration. She is proud to be working in the land trust community and to have the chance to contribute to the conservation and protection of some of our most ecologically valuable spaces. A native ‘Bluenoser’ at heart but now-rooted Southern Ontarian, her greatest joys are time spent with family and friends, native plant gardening, backcountry canoe tripping, and playing & watching baseball.

Read more about our newest team members at longpointlandtrust.ca

Community Conservation in Action!

LPBLT provides many opportunities for people to connect with nature through hands-on and outdoor experiences, and by promoting public awareness of the importance of protecting and enhancing the natural environment. Here's a snapshot of some of our recent community conservation events!



Volunteers contributing to ecological restoration by helping to collect native plant seeds at our Stead Family Scientific Reserve (Fall, 2022)



Up close and personal with the Monarch Butterfly: using citizen science to track monarch migration patterns at our annual Monarch Tagging event (Summer, 2022)

Visit our events page to learn about upcoming community conservation opportunities!
longpointlandtrust.ca/events

GivingTuesday - November 29, 2022

GivingTuesday is day of global generosity, which harnesses the power of social media to raise funds and awareness for important causes.

Giving Tuesday 2022 is just around the corner, and **we need your help** to reach our fundraising goal of \$5,000!

Your donation on Giving Tuesday will directly help us to continue our important work of protecting and restoring the rich biodiversity and functioning ecosystems of the Long Point Basin area for future generations.

We hope you will join us in giving back this GivingTuesday. Donate, spread the word, encourage others to participate, and even give the gift of time. To learn more, visit our website at longpointlandtrust.ca or find us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.

Thank you for your support!



1st Annual Appreciation Event

Brianne Curry - Outreach and Fund Development Manager



On Saturday, September 24, 2022, we welcomed supporters, donors, sponsors, and volunteers to our First Annual Appreciation BBQ event. Staff and Board Directors were on hand to serve up a helping of lunch and gratitude to guests for the outstanding community support over the past year. We were so delighted to take the opportunity to express a heart-felt thank you to so many folks who have lent their support this year and who have given a helping hand to wild species and ecosystems in one of Ontario's most naturally diverse regions.

Haldimand-Norfolk MPP Bobbi Ann Brady was also in attendance to celebrate the \$318,700 grant from Ontario Trillium Foundation that has supported LP-



BLT's community conservation program over the past 3 years.

A great time was had by all. A fantastic BBQ meal was prepared, we had kids games and activities, rockin' tunes, and a nature trivia game too (that was quite competitive!). Door prizes and native plant and seed favours rounded out the event and we had so many folks tell us they are already looking forward to next year's event. So are we!

We extend a huge thank you to our generous event sponsors who supported this event - we couldn't have done it without you! Our sponsors provided lunch items, sweets, beverages, favours, and prize packages. Thanks to you, we are able to continue to conserve and restore more natural areas across this region:



Burning Kiln Winery, Cider Keg Farm Market, Prairie Song Nursery and Restoration, Sam's Place Farm Market, Ramblin' Road Brewery Farm, Frisky Beaver Wine Co., Wholesome Pickins Market and Bakery, Ontario Popping Corn Co., & Mary Gartshore

We also thank the Ontario Trillium Foundation for generously supporting our Community Conservation Program.



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Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

Your Support is More Important Now than Ever!

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.

Please consider a donation today! You can give online at ongpointlandtrust.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 preservation of existing properties, or an in-honour or in-memorial 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 also consider planned-giving. See your financial advisor about the advantages to planned-giving in the form of a bequest, insurance, annuity, or gift of land.

Help us protect the nature and ecosystems you value and depend on, for future generations.