



Up-coming dates:

On **February 21st** - **Cheyenne Blaker** will speak about butterflies in the final lecture of our winter series. Members and friends are invited to gather at 600 William Street in Cobourg at 7:00 p.m. for refreshments. Our speaker begins at 7:30.

February is membership month. Please fill in the form accompanying this newsletter and return with your membership cheque.

The **Wallace Birdathon** will take place in May and we'll be asking for your sponsorship for this major fundraiser. As always, we would like to thank Norma Wallace and our birder, Roger Frost, in advance.

Our Annual General Meeting will take place on Monday, **June 17**, and the annual fundraising dinner is planned for **mid-October**.

Delightful butterflies could relieve your winter blahs on February 21st

What could be better on a cold winter evening than to spend a little time learning more about the beautiful butterflies that frequent our gardens? Come to 600 William Street in Cobourg for Cheyenne Blaker's presentation including pictures of the beautiful butterflies found at the Alderville Black Oak Savanna. She'll offer some fascinating information about their life history, some of the parasites that prey on butterflies and other threats faced by these winged wonders.

For the last two years Cheyenne Blaker has been an intern at the Alderville Black Oak Savanna and was previously a summer program education assistant. Cheyenne's fascination with the butterflies that are found in the area led to her research into what the caterpillars eat, the flowers preferred by the adult butterflies and how they survive the winter.

Stewardship Activities, 2013

Although not much actual action takes place during winter, that is when your Stewardship Committee does a lot of its planning for the upcoming year. On the next page is a summary of what we hope to accomplish in the next few months:

THE PRESERVER, FEBRUARY 2013

Leckey Property: this property has recently changed hands. Our point person, Julie Munro, maintained an excellent relationship with former owner Molly Leckey, and we are looking forward to working with the new owners, Martin Poitras and Alison Jacobs. This year we would like to:

- keep the trails cleared and marked,
- continue the removal of Scots pine,
- begin control of dog-strangling vine,
- investigate methods of controlling the garlic mustard we found last year.

Laurie Lawson Outdoor Education Centre: Mark Rupke continues to be very active at the LLOEC, and his work is much appreciated by both his students and the Land Trust. He has several ongoing projects, including:

- transplanting many native flowers and other plants to the property,
 - maintaining the trails in good condition,
 - controlling buckthorn and periwinkle,
 - thinning the red pines and planting oaks in their place,
- and we will continue our dog-strangling vine control project.

McEwen Property: Jesse Harnden, our point person, plans to:

- extend the trail, which currently goes about 200 m west and 400 m north from the gate,
- remove more Scots pine,
- continue the dog-strangling vine control program,
- install some signage, at least at the corners of the property.

In the longer term, we must decide whether we should use controlled burns to keep some or all of the current grassland areas as grassland; if we do not, the whole area will likely revert to forest.

Pelton Property: Russ Lake has already ordered 260 trees that we plan to plant in April to add to last year's 400, a good proportion of which seem to have survived last summer's drought. No other activity is planned for this relatively remote property, but we will be looking for volunteers to help with this year's planting.



Jesse Harnden and Harley visit the McEwen Property on a blustery January

Are you an e-reader? Some of our members have told us that they are glad to receive our newsletters only by e-mail. This saves us the expenses of paper, printing, envelopes and stamps, so if you would prefer to receive newsletters electronically only, please contact John Geale at johngeale@yahoo.com. We're happy to continue mailing to everyone who prefers to receive paper copies.

Northumberland Land Trust lectures enlighten and fascinate residents

The crowds attending the two recent lectures indicate a rapidly growing interest in preserving Northumberland County's natural heritage.

Last fall, naturalist Val Deziel outlined her work identifying native plants on the Hazel Bird property, including plans to restore prairie habitat on the property described by pioneering naturalist, Catherine Parr Traill.

Preserving heritage trees, cultural landscapes and natural features are a passion for Barbara Heidenreich, Natural Heritage Coordinator, Ontario Heritage Trust. All 60 people in attendance were completely engaged by Barbara's outline of the value of these features of our environment and tools for protecting them. Barb can be reached at 416 314-4918 or barbara.heidenreich@heritagetrust.on.ca.

Call Sue Stickley 905 885-1344 for electronic copies of her presentation and Legal Tools for Protection document.



Russ Lake and Jack Goering discuss habitat restoration at the Hazel Bird property with Val Deziel following her November lecture.



In January, an overflow crowd paid rapt attention to the Ontario Heritage Trusts' Barbara Heidenreich as she described Tools for Preserving Heritage Trees and Cultural Landscapes.

Your Board

PresidentJoan Chalovich Past President.....Jim McGrath
First Vice-presidentJohn Geale SecretaryEva Nichols
Directors:Mary Bedford-Jones, David Fischer, Janette Johnston,
Bill Newell, Suzanne Sticklely

The Board would like to thank all the volunteers who have helped out with various projects during 2012, meeting organization, tree-planting and trail maintenance. New Board members would be welcome, especially someone who would be willing to help out as Treasurer. We would also like to have a Second Vice-President on the Board to help spread the work around a bit. Please give us a call if you would like to help out.

Any Board member may be contacted by leaving a phone message at 905-342-3851 or by e-mailing us at operations@northumberlandlandtrust.ca

President's Report

Now is the time to renew your Northumberland Land Trust membership. The Trust depends on our members' support and donations for all our conservation efforts. Please see the attached membership form for details regarding the potential for gifts of publicly-traded securities. Also, we've begun soliciting silent auction items for our fund-raising dinner in October, so if you can offer an item or service of value please contact me or any other director.

Our Board meets on the third Monday of the month in the dining room lounge of Victoria Retirement Home, 100 University Avenue, Cobourg. The Retirement Home always puts on the coffee pot for us and the 7 p.m. meetings are open to the public, but if you wish to attend a meeting, please confirm the date and time by calling 905-342-3851.

The Stewardship Committee has plans for managing our current sites, cutting Scotch pine growth, controlling dog-strangling vine, transplanting native plants, and clearing trails. Helpers are always welcomed so if you are able to assist please leave your name with John Geale or myself and we will contact you when work parties are going out.

I'd like to thank NTL director, Mary Bedford-Jones, for organising our recent extremely successful public lectures. We are grateful to the County of Northumberland for allowing our Board to use their well-equipped conference room at 600 William Street for our lecture series. A warm welcome awaits you for the final lecture this season on February 21st.

Joan Chalovich, President.

