

the TaTTLeR

Hawk Cliff Woods Update and Weekend Celebration!

Thames Talbot Land Trust (TTLT) invites you to meet us at Hawk Cliff in September. We will be there along with volunteers from the St Thomas Field Naturalist Club, the Hawk Cliff Banders and Monarch Watch on September 10-11 and September 17-18 between 10:00 am and 3:30 pm. Be sure to join us **Sunday September 18, at 12:30 pm** for the **dedication and official opening** of Hawk Cliff Woods.

Hawk banding and Monarch tagging demonstrations are scheduled for both weekends. In addition, TTLT will be offering guided hikes in Hawk Cliff Woods. New this year is educational programming by Let's Talk Science (Sept 11 and 18) and tree climbing on September 17. Check the schedule at www.thamestalbotlandtrust.ca



The TTLT team has been hard at work at Hawk Cliff Woods doing ecological restoration, monitoring biodiversity, planning trails, and preparing for events. We have planted a mixture of meadow species in the former agricultural fields. As the plants grow up, this new meadow will provide habitat for Monarch Butterfly and other pollinators, as well as a range of meadow birds. Parts of the agricultural fields have also been seeded with Oak, Hickory, and Plum trees which will grow into a new forest area over time. This will not only increase the overall forest area at Hawk Cliff Woods,

but will almost double the amount of interior forest that many birds rely upon.

A team from Kettle Creek Conservation Authority helped us to plant a white pine shelterbelt along part of the northern boundary of property, adjacent to neighbouring agricultural fields. We've also been busy removing Garlic Mustard, Multiflora Rose, Common Barberry, and other invasive plants from the forest. As well, a range of biodiversity monitoring programs are underway, recording observations of plants, birds, mammals and reptiles.

Hawk Cliff Woods is located at 4435 Hawk Cliff Rd, Union, ON

For more information please visit our website. We hope to see everyone there!

What Can You Do To Help Songbirds?

Earlier this year, the TTLT co-hosted a showing of *The Messenger*, a documentary about the uncertain future of migratory songbirds. Thanks to the Hyland Cinema for making this possible! One question that *The Messenger* did not address fully is how we can help to conserve the songbird for future generations. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology suggests that the following steps be taken to help conserve our songbirds.

1. Make windows safer day and night. In daytime, windows reflect foliage and sky, encouraging birds to fly into them. Lighted windows in office towers are a danger at night.
2. Bird friendly coffee is grown in shade conditions, which provide favourable habitat for wintering songbirds. Look for Bird-Friendly coffee certified by the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center.
3. Across Canada and the U.S., cats kill more than 2 billion birds each year.
4. Sign the Boreal Forest Needs Half Petition (<http://borealbirdsneedhalf.org/en/>), an initiative to save half of the boreal forest, an area that is crucial for migratory songbirds.
5. Restore a patch of land. Birds need to land somewhere new everyday during their migration—it is crucial that they are able to find food and cover!
6. Become involved in citizen-science projects that help track bird populations.



For more information, visit

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/7-things-you-can-do-to-help-songbirds-if-youve-just-watched-the-messenger/>

We hope these tips can assist you in helping songbirds!

TTLT Summer Students

Meidan Leiderman

Summer Property Steward

Meidan has joined TTLT in May 2016 as a Summer Property Steward. He grew up near Tel Aviv, Israel and has an Honours Bachelor of Environmental Studies degree from York University. He is going into his final year in the Ecosystem Management Technology program at Fleming College. Meidan is passionate about urban-ecological planning and restoration work. He has previously volunteered in various stewardship and restoration projects in Southern Ontario and South Africa.



Meidan, and Chris along with Rebecca, our Stewardship Coordinator

Chris Therrein

Summer Property Steward

Chris first joined TTLT in May of 2015 as a summer property steward. After a successful summer, he returned for another in May 2016. An avid outdoorsman, Chris grew up in Sudbury, Ontario and has an Honours Bachelors of Science from the University of Western Ontario. He has been actively volunteering for a number of environmental organizations across Ontario and is passionate about biology and the outdoors. Chris wishes to gain experience in the field of restoration ecology before returning to the University of Western Ontario in September to begin his Master's degree in biology.

Jessica White

Marketing and Communications Assistant

Jessica joined the TTLT in May 2016 as a Marketing and Communications Assistant. Jessica is born and raised in London, Ontario. Jessica has an Honours Bachelor of Arts and a Masters of Arts from the University of Western Ontario in political science. She recently completed her first year of law school at the University of Windsor, Faculty of Law. Jessica has been actively involved in the London community, working and volunteering for the London Public Library for over seven years.



Jessica White

Native Plants For The Garden

Many of the flowers and trees we commonly plant in our gardens come from far off places in the world. We like them because they have beautiful and showy flowers, sweet fragrances, or because they remind us of home. But some of the plants we bring to Ontario from abroad can cause problems when they escape into the wild, and there are plenty of beautiful plants native to Ontario that also have colourful blooms and fresh scents that can make a nice addition to our gardens.

The problematic plants, like English Ivy, Periwinkle, Himalayan Balsam, and Tartarian Honeysuckle, are known as invasive species. They can affect our native ecosystems by releasing chemicals into the soil that prevent native plants from



Michigan Lily

growing. Or they can grow in dense patches that crowd or shade out any other plants. Unfortunately, these invasive plants are causing some of Ontario's native plants to decline.

But you can help! Planting native species in your garden will help to keep our native plants alive in the wild too. Plus if you have more native species, your garden won't be contributing as much to invasive plant populations.

Native species have evolved to live here successfully and they thrive in the environmental conditions of this region. This means they will typically grow more easily and require less care and maintenance than other plants that come from far off places with different environmental conditions. As well as less labour, they can also save you money over the long term because you won't need to use as much water, fertilizer, mulch, and pesticides to maintain your garden.

Native animals, birds and insects greatly prefer (and sometimes even depend upon) native plants for food and shelter. If you plant more native species in your garden, you'll probably see a greater number and diversity of birds, butterflies, bees and other wildlife. Many of our native plants are also very showy and will still contribute to your garden's aesthetic. Some ideas include Michigan Lily, Blue eyed grass, Slender Blazing Star, Wild Lupin, Prairie Smoke, False Sunflower/Pale Leaf Sunflower. It can be hard to find native plants for sale in local nurseries, but keep asking for them! Whether you're an avid or an amateur gardener, nature will thank you for finding some space in your garden for native plants. Remember to always buy native plants from a reputable supplier.

Community Native Plant Garden at Wardsville Woods

On June 2nd, the TTLT planted the Community Native Plant Garden at Wardsville Woods! We will be running native plant gardening workshops, including seed collection at the garden, in the fall. Thank you to TD Friends of the Environment Foundation - TD FEF and Arbortech Professional Tree Care in Strathroy for supporting our project! Thank you to volunteers for planting, watering and mulching! We are very excited about this new project!

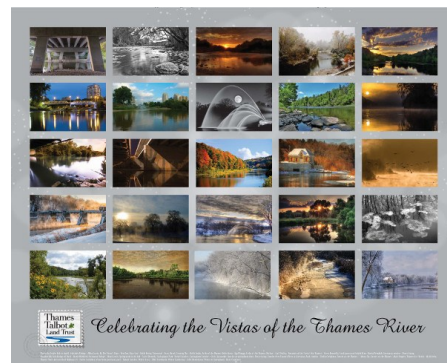


TD Friends of the
Environment
Foundation



Vistas of the Thames River

Its not too late to purchase one of our Vistas of the Thames River Posters! Posters are \$20.00 and plaque mounted posters are \$50.00. This stylish 19 x 24 inch poster features 25 vistas of the Thames River submitted by local photographers. The poster is available for pick up at the TTLT office and any TTLT event.



Become a Member!

*Charitable receipts are issued for all contributions
(Reg. # 86745 7475 RR0001)*

Membership Donations

Youth/Student (under 18): \$25
Individual Member (18+): \$50
Affiliate/Group/ Corporate: \$100

Additional Donations

Donation amount: \$ _____ Total: \$ _____

Membership Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Postal Code: _____

Telephone: (____) _____

Email: _____

You may also contribute online through our website, or become a monthly donor and make a big impact.

Supporters' Circle (Automatic monthly donations)

Advocate \$240 (\$20/month)

Protector \$480 (\$40/month)

Direct Bank Debit:

I (we) authorize the Thames Talbot Land Trust to process a debit, in paper, electronic or other form in the amount of \$ _____ on my (our) account on the first day of each month beginning 1, _____, 201____.

I (we) acknowledge that we have read, understood and accepted all the provisions set out in the Terms and Conditions

www.thamestalbotlandtrust.ca.

I (we) enclose a cheque made payable to the Thames Talbot Land Trust and marked "VOID."

Signature(s) of Donor(s)

Date: _____

Please mail the completed application form and cheque to:

Thames Talbot Land Trust
PO Box 25054, London ON N6C 6A8

Privacy Policy

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Upcoming Events

September 18 12:30pm	Hawk Cliff Woods Celebration
September 10, 11, 17 10am-3:30pm	Hawk Cliff Woods Weekends (hawk banding, monarch tagging)
October 2 12:30pm	Trails Open at Westminster Ponds (TTLT entrance)
October 16 10am	Joany's Woods workday
October 22 1pm	Five Points Forest Workday
October 29 1pm	Hawk Cliff Woods Adopt-a-Patch workday
November 5 1pm	Five Points Forest Adopt-a-Patch workday
November 12 10am	Hawk Cliff Woods Workday

Check thamestalbotlandtrust.ca for details and updates

