

the TaTTLeR

Introducing our Beryl Ivey Woods campaign



Photo: Stan Caveney



Photo: David Wake

Spring is bursting forth, and TTLT is launching a campaign for another exciting property!

Beryl Ivey Woods is a 50-acre parcel of rich Carolinian forest, nestled within the Skunk's Misery Natural Area in the Municipality of Southwest Middlesex.

Skunk's Misery is one of the largest and most significant forested blocks remaining in the Carolinian Region of southern Ontario. The Carolinian zone in Canada has long been recognized for its unique assemblages of species, many of which reach their northern range limit in this region. Natural habitats within the Carolinian zone are considered critically endangered due to widespread and intensive agricultural and industrial land uses.

Recognizing the ecological importance of Skunk's Misery Natural Area, in 2007 Thames Talbot Land Trust partnered with the Nature Conservancy of Canada to develop the Skunk's Misery Natural Area Conservation Action Plan. This plan mapped out a conservation vision for the area.

With the protection of Beryl Ivey Woods, TTLT takes one more step in implementing this conservation vision. Situated in an Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI), and embracing Provincially Significant Wetlands, Beryl Ivey Woods has long been recognized as a high priority for acquisition. Its strategic location, contiguous with other woodlands, will help to provide suitable habitat for birds such as Ovenbird, Hooded Warbler, and the Threatened Cerulean Warbler, all species that require large tracts of forest. In Beryl Ivey Woods, you will find Sassafras and Tulip-tree, species that are characteristic of Carolinian woodlands. Species-at-risk, including Eastern Flowering Dogwood, Butternut, and American Chestnut are also present.

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Beryl Ivey Woods campaign—continued

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Beryl Ivey Woods is named in honour of the late philanthropist Beryl Ivey, in appreciation of her long-term commitment to the protection of Carolinian habitats. From TTLT's earliest days, both Richard and Beryl Ivey have been valued supporters of the work of the Thames Talbot Land Trust. When this important parcel of forest became available in 2015, Thames Talbot Land Trust moved quickly to purchase it, dipping into our Opportunities Fund. Now we are seeking your support for this exciting property. You can help us replenish our precious reserve funds so we will be ready to protect additional woodlands and wetlands in Skunk's Misery and other priority areas.

As with every campaign, TTLT will set aside funds for long-term stewardship of Beryl Ivey Woods. These funds provide support for monitoring, fencing, signage, control of invasive species, enhancement or restoration of habitats, etc. as the need arises. TTLT staff and volunteers are working already to improve the health of ecosystems in Beryl Ivey Woods. Enhancing the regeneration of oak, black cherry, and tulip-tree is an important management goal. Removal of non-native invasive species will also assist in protection of natural habitats.

The total budget for the Beryl Ivey Woods project is \$207,000 for purchase and stewardship. I am delighted to report that TTLT has received a grant of \$64,000 from the Natural Areas Conservation Program of the Nature Conservancy of Canada. Financial support for this program was provided by Environment and Climate Change Canada. With this support, and an allocation of funds from our own Opportunities Fund, we look to you, the readers of the Tattler, to help us raise \$53,000. Please be generous, as you consider your donation. Remember, you may contribute online through www.ttlc.ca or send us a cheque.

On behalf of the amazing diversity of life forms in Beryl Ivey Woods, I thank you for your support!

Join our E-Mail List!



Would you like to receive all of the latest news and information from the TTLT directly to your inbox? Please consider joining the TTLT electronic mailing list for an electronic version of the TATTLER, information about volunteer activities, event updates and the latest TTLT news. The electronic mailing list is a great way to stay connected with the TTLT!

Please visit www.ttlc.ca to subscribe to the TTLT electronic mailing list today.

Get a truly “green” thumb

Are you itching for spring? Want to add some beautiful plants to your garden and support TTLT? Then the Native Plant Sale is for you! TTLT is running a **native plant sale May 13th 8am to 1pm at the Covent Garden Market**. Look for us in the outside vendor area.

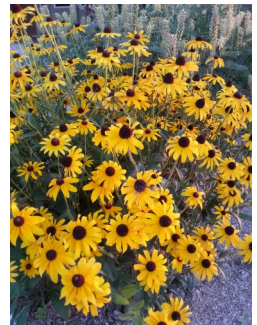
Why use native plants?

For many years gardeners have been trained to use exotic species from far away places in their gardens. Those are often the only plants available in commercial nurseries. Why? Many native plants are equally beautiful, easier to take care of and support local wildlife. Our local plants are adapted to living in the climate and often require less water, pesticides, fertilizers and other care once established. In addition, if they escape from your garden they won't have negative impacts on natural areas. Many of the worst invasive non-native plants (and plant pests and diseases) harming our local biodiversity are escapees from horticultural activities. Native plants also feed local wildlife such as insects and birds. You can do your part in helping nature by using native plants in your garden.

Some great garden choices

There are many native plants that do well in garden settings. They have attractive flowers, provide nectar for pollinators, attract wildlife, and different species are available for different soil and sun conditions.

- Black-eyed Susans – attract butterflies, host for butterfly larvae, very adaptable, long bloom period, great for cut flowers
- Wild Strawberry – great ground cover, edible strawberries (for animals and people!), flowers early, supports pollinators
- Butterflyweed – it's not a weed! Beautiful flowers, attracts pollinators, host plant for Monarch butterflies, drought tolerant



Black-eyed Susans
Photo: D. Koscinski

Great resources

Can't wait for spring? Why not read up on native plant gardening while you wait for the planting season? Some great books are listed below. Many are available in London and area public libraries.

- “Bringing Nature Home” – Douglas W. Tallamy (original and updated edition)
- “100 Easy-To-Grow Native Plants: For American Gardens in Temperate Zones” - Lorraine Johnson, Andrew Leyerle
- “Grow Wild!: Low-Maintenance, Sure-Success, Distinctive Gardening with Native Plants” - Lorraine Johnson, Andrew Leyerle

Did you know?

TTLT is starting two Community Native Wildflower Gardens! These gardens are a great source of inspiration and seeds for your garden. You are welcome to collect seeds from these gardens to take home, plant and enjoy. Each species has a description of the plant, how to collect and plant the seeds. Gardens are located at Wardsville Woods (planted 2016) and Hawk Cliff Woods (coming in 2017). Thank you to TD Friends of the Environment for supporting these projects!

Save the Woods – Adopt a Patch!

In traditional herbal medicine, Garlic Mustard was considered an all-round useful plant, used to treat a wide variety of ailments from the common cold to heart disease to lice. It's also a versatile culinary herb – as its name suggests, the seeds can be used to make mustard and the garlicky leaves can be eaten raw in a salad, steamed, or used as a garlic substitute in virtually any recipe.

But for naturalists and conservationists in North America, this plant is the stuff of nightmares. Originally hailing from Europe, it was brought across the Atlantic by settlers in the 19th century, who cultivated it in their gardens. Since that time, Garlic Mustard has become an incredibly successful invader of forests and other natural areas, gradually escaping the confines of gardens and spreading far and wide throughout the continent. It can thrive in a range of soils and each plant can produce hundreds or even thousands of tiny seeds that spread easily to new areas. The seeds can survive in the soil for up to 9 years, waiting patiently for their opportunity to germinate. Additionally, the plant releases chemicals into the soil that affect beneficial fungi, changing the soil chemistry so that native plants are unable to survive, which in turn leaves more resources and space for Garlic Mustard to grow. These traits combine to create a monster plant that can grow in large, dense monocultures, dominating the forest understory as soon as 5 years after the first seed arrives.

There is hope, however. Garlic Mustard has one major weakness – it's pretty easy to pull the entire root out of the ground. It's possible to get local populations under control simply by pulling out all the plants before they produce seed. This requires persistence because pulling the plants stimulates the seed bank (the seeds surviving in the soil) to germinate, so you often won't see a difference for a couple of years. In fact, it could take upwards of 5 years of annual pulling to deplete the seed bank of an established population.

Every spring TTLT staff spend a lot of time pulling Garlic Mustard, but with over 1300 acres of land, we need your help! With generous support from TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, the Adopt-a-Patch program was launched in 2016. Individuals, families, or groups can adopt one or more 10 x 10 m patches in the forest. Volunteers sign up for at least a 1 year commitment and pledge to visit their patch 4 times per year – twice in the spring and twice in the fall – to pull Garlic Mustard and keep an eye on any other problems or hazards. Once the Garlic Mustard is under control (which may be a few years, but hang in there!), volunteers will be able to plant native plants such as Bloodroot and Mayapple in their patches and see the full impact of their contribution to restoration!



Photo: D. Koscinski

Adopt-a-Patch is currently running at Five Points Forest and Hawk Cliff Woods. Volunteers receive their own patch kit and make a personalized sign to mark their patch (yes, we bring craft supplies!).

The next workshops are April 23rd at Five Points Forest and April 29th at Hawk Cliff Woods (both events start at 1pm). If you're new to the program, you'll be able to attend a short training session, choose your patch and make your sign, receive your patch kit, and start to pull the Garlic Mustard. If you've already adopted a patch, it'll be a chance to get some refresher training and work some more on your patch. Many hands make light work, so you're encouraged to bring along family and friends to help out at your patch.

Sign up to adopt your patch today at www.thamestalbotlandtrust.ca/adopt_a_patch

Lieutenant Governor’s Ontario Heritage Award For Excellence in Conservation



Photo: David Wake

On February 17, 2017, the Thames Talbot Land Trust received the Lieutenant Governor’s Ontario Heritage Award For Excellence in Conservation. The Trust was nominated by the Municipality of Central Elgin for our conservation work at Hawk Cliff Woods. The Award was presented at the Ontario Legislature.

Approaching the Legislature is a formidable experience – one has a very clear sense of history upon entering the building. Even when one is a guest, security is always a factor for public functions. In my case, I had a small handbag so I didn’t bring my wallet and didn’t have ID – thank goodness Heritage Trust staff could vouch for my identity.

In the lobby, I met with Campaign Director, Stan Caveney, and President of the Land Trust, David Wake. Stan was there to receive this award with me and Dave was our official photographer and cheerleader. The award recipients were sent to a special room where we were given our marching instructions for meeting the Lieutenant Governor and receiving our award. Also receiving awards were two elementary school classes. Smiling was our chief responsibility.

Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell is a warm and personable person and certainly made us all feel most welcome. Stan and I were delighted to receive this award on behalf of the Trust. We were extremely proud to have been nominated by the Municipality of Central Elgin. What an honour!

As I signed the guest book when I was leaving – her aide de camp informed me that my signature would be a permanent record of my attendance at the Legislature. A little bit of history for the Thames Talbot Land Trust and all of our supporters. Thank you.

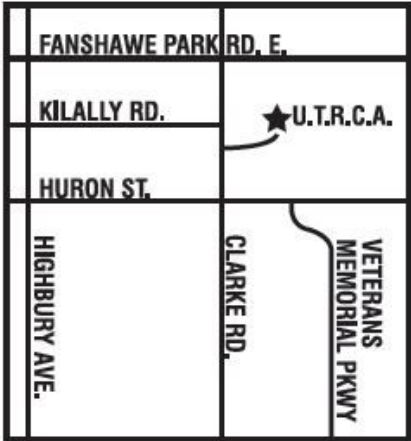
Annual General Meeting 2017

The Thames Talbot Land Trust 2017 Annual General Meeting will be held on **April 6th, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.**

Program:

- 5:45 p.m. Light Supper (suggested donation \$10)
- 6:30 pm Social with TTLT Board of Directors & Staff
- 7:00 pm Annual General Meeting
- 8:30 pm Adjournment
-

For more information, contact Julia Eastabrook at 519.858.3442 or Julia.eastabrook@ttl.ca. Please RSVP for the event. Meeting information and financial statements will be available on our website prior to the meeting. Visit www.ttl.ca



**PETE DENOMME
AND THE COSMIC COWBOYS**

THE MARRIEDS

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**THAMES TALBOT
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SUNDAY, APRIL 2nd
1-3 p.m.

THE AEOLIAN HALL
795 Dundas St, London, Ontario

\$25
@ the box office, online:
aeolianhall.ca
or call:
519 672 7950

Thames Talbot Land Trust
www.thamestalbotlandtrust.ca

The Thames Talbot Land Trust is a Southwestern Ontario charitable community organization that works to conserve land with natural, recreational, scenic, historical, or agricultural value for the benefit of future generations.

Poster Design by
BRECK CAMPBELL
www.breckcampbell.design

Join us at Eco Folk 2017!

Please join TTLT volunteers for an afternoon of folk music at the Aeolian Hall on Sunday, April 2nd from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. This concert will feature performances from local folk musicians. All proceeds raised by the concert will benefit the Thames Talbot Land Trust. Tickets \$25.00 for general cabaret style seating—be sure to purchase your tickets early to avoid disappointment!

To purchase tickets please visit the Aeolian Hall Website at www.aeolianhall.ca or the Aeolian Hall Box office during operating hours. The Aeolian Hall is located at 795 Dundas St. London, ON. Call 519.672.7950 for more information.

Newport Forest Wildflower Walk 2017



The annual spring wildflower walk, led by Muriel Andreae, will be held at Newport Forest on Sunday, May 14 from 1:30 to 3:30 pm. Virginia Bluebells are expected to be at their peak.

To learn more about Newport Forest please visit www.ttl.ca

Yes, we know it's Mother's Day-- bring your mom! Light refreshments will be provided. Please park inside the gate. To RSVP please email Pat Dewdney at dewdney@sympatico.ca.

Winter Walk for Wildlife—a huge success!

On February 25, 2017 we held our first Winter Walk for Wildlife fundraiser event. Although the weather was more spring-like than wintery, we all had a wonderful time! Thanks to our hike leaders we all learned more about our natural environment and with the help of many generous donors we exceeded our fundraising goal of \$15,000!

Thanks to everyone who made it a great success!

With special thanks to our sponsors:



Photos: Julia Eastabrook

Purchase/Renew Membership!

*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

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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

Thames Talbot Land Trust respects your privacy and will not share your personal information. From time to time we may contact you with information about the Land Trust and its activities which we believe are of interest to our members and supporters. For more information about our privacy policy visit

Support the Campaign!

*Beryl Ivey Woods
Campaign*

Please use my donation of \$ _____ towards the Beryl Ivey Woods campaign.

To enable larger gifts the TTLT welcomes pledges for up to 3 years. Contact the TTLT or visit our website for details on making a pledged gift through a series of payments.

These payments can be by cheque or through pre-authorized bank charges.

Donations can be made at www.ttlit.ca or via cheque payable to Thames Talbot Land Trust and mailed to:

**Thames Talbot Land Trust
P.O. Box 25054
London, Ontario
N6C 6A8**

Charitable receipts are issued for all contributions over \$20.
Charity #86745 7475 RR0001

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