

THE THAMES TALBOT LAND TRUST



BRUCE FLOWERS: LEAVING A LEGACY



A year ago, Bruce Flowers came to meet with us to discuss his plan to leave a Legacy Gift. It was a beautiful fall day and Bruce was very engaging in relating his childhood in Oxford County, as well as his love of architectural preservation and conservation. His knowledge and history of the county was captivating.

Bruce explained that he was a retired teacher from the Thames Valley District School Board where he had taught art for many years. He wanted to make a gift to the Land Trust for his beloved Oxford County.

This past September, Bruce passed away and,

at the beginning of October, we received notice that he had left us a Legacy Gift for property acquisition in Oxford County. Here is a link to his obituary -

<http://yourlifemoments.ca/sitepages/obituary.asp?oid=1090715>

We are very grateful for this wonderful gift that Mr. Flowers has donated to the Trust. As per his wishes, we will be putting these funds aside for conservation land purchases in Oxford County. On behalf of the Thames Talbot Land Trust, we thank Bruce for his very generous donation to our ongoing work.
— Suzanne McDonald Aziz

WESTMINSTER PONDS UPDATE

As you may know, your Board has been considering the possibility of becoming co-owners of the lands where our headquarters are situated, near Westminster Ponds. In July 2015, the London Health Sciences Centre contacted us to indicate their intention to dispose of the buildings and surrounding 14 acres of land. Over the past three years, Dave Wake (Past President) and Suzanne McDonald (Executive Director) as well as other Board Members have diligently examined this opportunity.

We are immensely grateful for the enormous time, effort, and passion they have invested in exploring this project. In the end, your Board has decided that the best choice was not to become co-owners. ReForest London is moving forward with sole ownership of the site. TTLT looks forward to continuing as tenants at this beautiful location. We value the comments received from our membership and assure everyone that the Board has considered all options with the utmost prudence.

— André Lachance



Monarch Butterfly, Cathy Gauthier

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

An easy way to stay up to date on all things TTLT, is to follow us on our various social media platforms.

If you have photos from any of our properties or events, please don't forget to tag us or send them our way!



@THAMESTALBOTLANDTRUST



@THAMESTALBOT



@THAMESTALBOT

EVENTS CALENDAR

The best way to be in the loop about our events, and those put on by our friends in the community, is to follow our social media accounts (listed above) or to check out the events page on our website.



- Go to **tlt.ca**
- Click on **Events**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our vision as a Land Trust is to increase both focus and diversity: focus with respect to restoring significant tracts of Carolinian forest, diversity in ecological and geographic terms. We hope soon to acquire our first property in Oxford County, a target made much more attainable thanks to the generous donation of Mr. Bruce Flowers. Such an acquisition will complement our current holdings in Middlesex, Elgin, and Perth counties. Management of these properties requires skill and hard work, both of which are provided by our Conservation Property Manager, Stewardship Coordinator, the Property Management Committee, and a crew of other volunteers and summer interns. Always intent on augmenting our splendid portfolio, our Land Securement Committee regularly visits properties of special natural interest to determine their conservation value and engage in negotiations as appropriate.

As we grow as an organization, our activities increase in complexity. This is particularly true of our accounting. Our Finance Committee continues to work diligently with staff to optimize our fund accounting processes. It is also important to grow our membership and keep our members informed of our activities. With this issue of the TaTTler, the Membership and Marketing Committee is adopting a new electronic format that is in keeping with the times, although we will continue to provide a printed version for those who prefer that format.

— André Lachance



André Lachance

STAFF UPDATE



Ashley Turner

We welcome Ashley aboard! Ashley Turner has joined the TTLT team as our new Administrative Manager. You might have seen her around, as she spent her summer co-op work term with us. She has a BSc in Biology from the University of Windsor and has recently wrapped up her Master's in Management of Applied Science at Western University. Ashley has worked for, and volunteered with, multiple non-profit science outreach organizations.

We are excited about having Ashley in the office full-time, along with the skills and expertise she brings to the land trust!

2018 STEWARDSHIP RECAP

SUMMER STUDENTS

It was a full house here at Bruce Pavilion over the summer months as we were fortunate to have four students with us on various projects.

Mark Willson and Lauren Negrazis (pictured right) were our Summer Property Stewards, assisting with species at risk monitoring, invasive species removals, workday events and everything in between.

Back in the office, Devin Daniel, Communications Intern, aided us in stepping up our social media game with a communications plan. Kaitlyn Knoll, Outreach & Events Assistant, put together fun new tree identification activities for our schools program, which continues this fall.



Photo by Lauren Negrazis

PROGRAMS



Photo by Ashley Turner

The end of the summer marked the first anniversary of the *Nature for Nurture* program, offered in partnership with the Canadian Mental Health Association – Middlesex. Once a week, hikers set out to enjoy the wellness benefits of being in nature while helping the environment out along the way. The group explored some of London's parks and natural spaces as well as TTLT properties.

Thanks to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for making this program possible.

In June we wrapped up the very first session of *Biodiversity Boss*. The program provided conservation training for high school and university students, providing them with hands on experience in species identification, inventory and monitoring, invasive species management and restoration activities.

Thank you, Trojan Technologies, for supporting this valuable training opportunity.



Photo by Rebecca Launchbury

On July 25th, we hosted a beetles release party and it was a roaring success! A natural enemy of purple loosestrife, *Neogalerucella* spp. beetles are an excellent biological control for this invasive plant. By feeding on the leaves, the beetles inhibit loosestrife's ability to grow and produce seeds. TTLT staff and volunteers released 5000 of these critters to take care of the remaining loosestrife population at Newport Forest.

Stewardship updates can always be found on our Facebook page!

www.facebook.com/thamestalbotlandtrust

SPECIES PROFILE: BLACK TUPELO

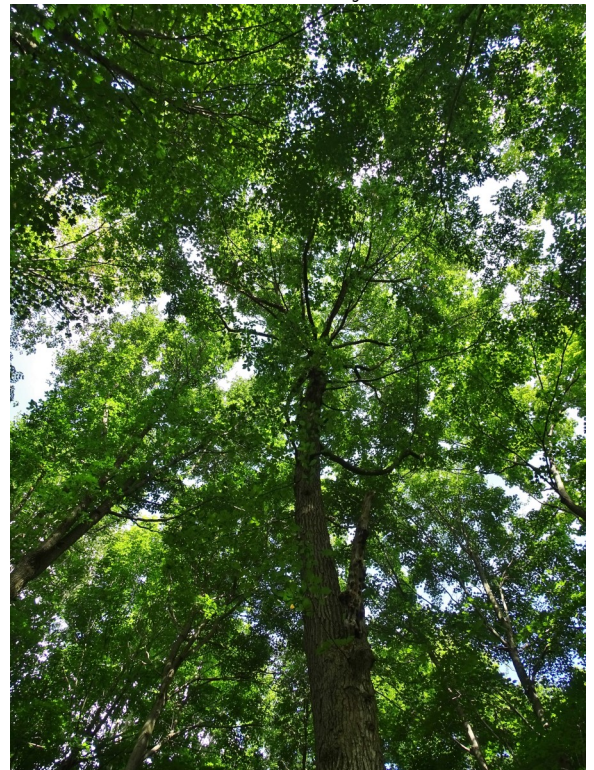
The name "tupelo" might evoke images of humid cypress swamps in the southeastern United States, but did you know that there are tupelo trees native to Canada? The black tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*) - also known as black gum - is a large deciduous tree that grows in swamps and slough forests. In Canada, black tupelos grow only in Ontario's Carolinian Zone, a narrow strip of land south of a line running from roughly Grand Bend to Toronto.

This species is rare in Ontario, having a provincial conservation status of S3, meaning that there are fewer than 80 known occurrences in the province. Almost all of these are within 50 km of Lake Erie.

Black tupelos are important trees for wildlife. They produce abundant berries in the late spring and early fall, which are eaten by birds and small mammals. Dense masts of tupelo berries can be found at the margins of forested swamps where they float after falling from the trees. Old growth black tupelos can reach enormous heights and provide important roosting habitat for birds and bats.

TTLT's Tanager Tract in West Elgin is an easy place to see this rare tree. This 40 ha property contains a patchwork of dry oak woods and mucky sloughs, the latter being the black tupelo's preferred habitat. Black tupelo is just one of many rare species which are protected at Tanager Tract and other TTLT properties, giving land trusts an important role in protecting this unique species in Canada.—Will Van Hemessen

Photo by Will Van Hemessen



WAYS TO GIVE

TTLT supporters will be familiar with various fundraising campaigns relating to the securement of new properties. While these are an exciting and important aspect of the Trust's work, equally important is the generation of unrestricted money to fund day-to-day operations including database management, website maintenance, preparing communications, bookkeeping and other administrative tasks. Although less exciting than securing a new property, these tasks are no less vital to our work.

We rely on a variety of revenue streams to generate unrestricted funds including special events, rental of agricultural lands, as well as individual and corporate donations. Two particularly helpful revenue streams are membership and monthly giving.

MEMBERSHIP

Benefits to You:

- **Special access:** Our members benefit from member-only invitations to MEC and Columbia Sportswear and have the opportunity to be at the forefront of our events such as hikes, educational programming and special events.
- **Let your voice be heard:** Every member has a vote at the annual meeting and input into the direction of the organization; you have direct participation in the work of the Land Trust.

MONTHLY GIVING

Benefits to You:

- **Convenience:** Once set up, deductions are made automatically from your bank account; no further action is required on your part. As well, monthly donors have their memberships renewed automatically – no more renewal notices to respond to!
- **Flexibility:** You determine the size of your monthly gift. Benchmark levels of \$20 (Advocate) or \$40 (Protector) are offered as suggestions, but you may select any amount from \$10 upwards. Also, you may increase, decrease, pause or cancel your monthly deductions at any time by simply contacting our office.
- **Budgeting:** Manage your annual gift through 12 equal installments.
- **Peace of Mind:** Take pride and comfort in the knowledge that you are playing an instrumental role each month in protecting the landscapes you love.



Those who sign up
for monthly giving
by December 31st,
2018 will be
entered into a
draw for a \$50 MEC
gift card!

Both membership and monthly giving produce a reliable and predictable revenue stream that assists TTLT in our internal planning and budgeting.

Just as the foundations and roofs of our homes are not their most glamorous elements, we all know how important they are. As you renew your TTLT membership for 2019, please consider joining our monthly giving circle. Help us strengthen the foundation upon which all our conservation efforts rely.

To enroll in our monthly giving option or renew your membership, simply fill out and return the enclosed form, visit thamestalbotlandtrust.ca/donate or contact us at ashley.turner@ttl.ca or 519-858-3442. —Bernie VanDenBelt and Suzanne McDonald Aziz

GIVING TUESDAY

Known as 'Opening Day of the giving season', Giving Tuesday follows Black Friday and Cyber Monday. In the same way that retailers take part in those days, Giving Tuesday is an opportunity for the community to come together in support of our favourite causes.

We are pleased to share with you that TTLT will be participating in Giving Tuesday this year. For each dollar donated to TTLT during the month of November, the Friends of the Trust Fund, an anonymous group of members will match total donations up to \$5,000.

To donate, visit: https://thamestalbotlandtrust.com/donate_money

GivingTuesday



November 27th 2018

INDIGO FUNdraising

If you are planning on making any purchases at Chapters/Indigo, whether it be in-store or online, please consider purchasing an e-gift card through our fundraising page first (link below). You will be emailed a pdf with a barcode to use in-store, and a numeric code to enter for online purchases. There are no additional fees, just a simple extra step.

Indigo will donate 15% of your e-gift card value to Thames Talbot Land Trust to support our mission of supporting environmentally significant lands.

Gift cards can be purchased at: <https://indigofundraising.flipgive.com/f/801241>

AMAZON AFFILIATE PROGRAM

TTLT is a participant in the Amazon Services LLC Associates Program. This affiliate advertising program is designed to provide a means for us to earn fees by linking to Amazon.com and affiliated sites. TTLT is eligible to earn 6-8% on all purchases made through our personalized link at no extra cost. See the Amazon images at the bottom of our website to start shopping and support your land trust at the same time!



Clockwise from top left: Mood Walkers learning about controlling the spread of invasive garlic mustard; *Biodiversity Boss* students planting native species for the Native Plant Sale; St. Thomas Railway City Rotary Club planting trees at Hawk Cliff Woods; Rebecca and the tall sunflowers at The Community Wildflower Garden at Wardsville

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