

THAMES TALBOT LAND TRUST

Ta T T L e r




Daria Koscinski

Executive Director Announcement

On behalf of TTLT, we congratulate Daria Koscinski on becoming our new Executive Director! Daria has worked as TTLT's Conservation Property Manager since 2014 and has been acting in the Executive Director role for the last year. She has been a volunteer with TTLT since 2008 as a member and Chair of the Property Management Committee and a director on the board. Daria received her BSc and MSc from Queen's University and her PhD from Western University. She has a strong background in ecology, population genetics and habitat fragmentation. Daria is an incredibly qualified, passionate and hard-working person, and we are confident that she will be a great leader for the organization.

When she is not working on grant applications, attending board and committee meetings or answering emails, Daria can be found in her natural habitat: the outdoors. She demonstrates her passion for conservation in everything she does. Daria absolutely lights up when she's helping to protect habitat, whether that is through stewardship work, such as restoration plantings, conservation planning or securing a new property. She especially loves turtles and spends spring evenings surveying for nesting individuals along dangerous roadsides and returning them to the safety of their pond after they have laid their eggs.

Congratulations Daria!

- Kaitlin Richardson, President and Bernie VanDenBelt, Vice-President

Sitting Down with Ian Wilcox

It was with great pleasure that we had the opportunity to sit down virtually with Ian Wilcox who was the General Manager of the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) for 17 years until he recently retired. Ian began working at conservation authorities (CA) in 1985. It was our great pleasure to discuss environmental issues with Ian, and the natural connection between our two organizations.

What were the greatest accomplishments of the UTRCA under your leadership as the General Manager?

The UTRCA started developing and publishing Watershed Report Cards that have since become standard publications for all conservation authorities in Ontario. These help measure the current health of our watershed and report change over time. They point out that, while there's tremendous effort locally, it is barely enough to compensate for new stresses, forest loss and water quality threats. More needs to be done.

The science behind our Watershed Report Cards led directly to the development of the UTRCA's *Environmental Targets Strategic Plan*. It's more than just a strategic plan, it sets specific and measurable goals for improvements in environmental quality over the next 20 years, provides a plan to get there and a direct connection to Watershed Report Cards to measure our success.

These two efforts together will ensure that we see visible changes in the health of the watershed within the next 20 years.

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Upcoming Events

All events are subject to postponement or cancellation depending on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic. Please see the "Upcoming Events" page on our website (www.thamestalbotlandtrust.ca) to view the status of each event and to RSVP.

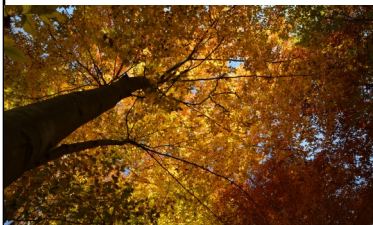
PASSPORT TO NATURE

Passport to Nature is a series of free events hosted by Thames Talbot Land Trust (TTLT) and its volunteers. Pre-registration is required. More information about each event is available at www.thamestalbotlandtrust.ca

Forest Immersion Walk with Katie Van Den Berg

Thursday, May 27th, 6 pm
@ Five Points Forest

Virtually experience the rejuvenating practice of spending time in the forest to support healing and wellness. Relax and recon-



Autumn Trees by Vicki Hammond

nect with nature and discover fresh perspectives through a series of sensory invitations with Forest Therapy Guide Katie Van Den Berg of Peaceful Pine Wellness.

Wildflowers and Walking with Will Van Hemessen

Sunday, June 6th, 2 pm - 4 pm
@ Joany's Woods

Join Will Van Hemessen, botanist and ecologist, to learn about the beautiful array of spring wildflowers in the woodlands and wetlands of Joany's Woods, a scenic 148-ha (365-acre) reserve along the Ausable River.



Cut-leaved Toothwort by John St. Pierre

Gentle Yoga with Leigh Shand

Sunday, June 20th, 8:30 am & 10 am
@ Hawk Cliff Woods

Yoga has many benefits for the mind, body and soul. Nature offers similar benefits, so why not combine yoga with nature? Join Leigh Shand, Certified Ayurvedic Yoga Therapist, Lifestyle Consultant, Holistic Practitioner and nature lover, for a 60-minute yoga practice at either 8:30 am or 10:00 am (two sessions).

STEWARDSHIP EVENTS

Garlic Mustard Pull

Sunday, May 30th, 10 am - 2:30 pm

@ Meadowlily Nature Preserve

Join us at Meadowlily Nature Preserve on May 30th to help clear the invasive Garlic Mustard from the forest and allow native plants some room to grow. Meadowlily Nature Preserve is across the road from the City of London's Meadowlily Woods Environmentally Significant Area. Enjoy a lovely spring hike while you're here.



Rowan pulling Garlic Mustard like a boss! By Daria Koscinski



Pulling Garlic Mustard by TTLT staff

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

It's in Our Nature: Woodlands, Well-Being & TTLT

During the past year, we were required to stay home, shelter in place and reduce our contact with people. As weeks turned into months of social isolation, the toll on mental health began to emerge. Throughout the world, people of all ages started reporting increased experiences with depression, anxiety and stress. Immediately, the importance and benefit of nature was apparent. Locally, our trails and parks became busier and busier as the sale of outdoor equipment such as hiking boots, poles, bicycles, cross-country skis, snowshoes, canoes and kayaks soared.

The connection between human health and nature is well-documented. Psychologist Erich Fromm first used the term biophilia in 1964 to describe *a passion for all life and that which is alive*. Two decades later, biologist E.O. Wilson popularized the term in his *biophilia hypothesis*, which brought greater recognition and acceptance in the scientific community that humans not only had *an innate need to affiliate with other living things* but, in fact, there was evidence of positive benefits of human interaction with nature.

In his best-selling book *Last Child in the Woods*, Richard Louv outlined a growing body of evidence that time outdoors is critically important to child development. It galvanized an entire movement to reconnect children with nature. Louv's follow-up book, *The Nature Principle*, examined how nature has a positive affect on adults too.

Recently, there has been a plethora of research and literature on the benefits of nature to human health, including lower probabilities of obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, asthma, mental distress, depression and more. Lower cortisol levels (stress hormone), increased brain function and immunity appear to be integral components. These are positive effects of nature, over and above the benefits of exercise.

Doctors are actually writing *green prescriptions* for patients to get out in nature on a regular basis. Parks Prescriptions, (PaRx) has officially launched in B.C. and Ontario: a program where health care providers and patients can register and track time in nature. For information on the program, research on health and nature, resources, etc., check www.parksprescriptions.ca.

No wonder that, during times of acute and prolonged stress such as the global pandemic, natural areas are more important than ever. With city parks at capacity and adventure travel curtailed, local and nearby natural areas offer refuge.

TTLT plays an essential role in helping people cope. First, natural areas open to

the public provide a less travelled and more wild, aesthetic experience. Long, unencumbered trails wind through a forest that

is yours to discover in solitude. Away from the noise and bustle of the city, your mind quiets as your lungs fill with fresh air, your eyes take in the beauty of woodland flowers, and the fragrance of sun-warmed pine needles awakens your nostrils. Birds call, leaves rustle and water trickles over rocks and branches. Sounds, colours, textures and aromas ignite our senses and render us fully present.

Strolling through a natural area allows us to slow down, pause our own thinking and focus on the world

around us. While green spaces, flora and fauna alone won't solve our problems, (e.g., socio-economic, loss/grief, illness, racism, etc.), they go a long way toward providing the mental space for calm and reflection.

Second, TTLT typically offers opportunities to get into nature through volunteer trainings, stewardship work, property tours and so on. For the last two years, TTLT has prepared a

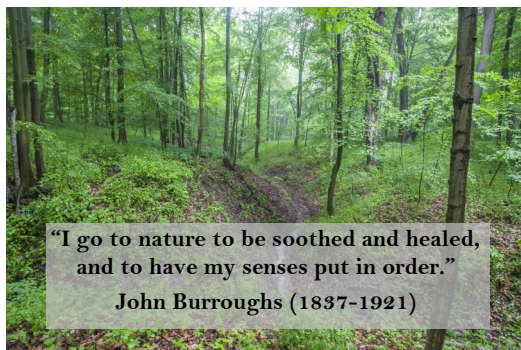
series of activities through our year-long *Passport to Nature*. This program introduces the public to the work of the Trust, protected properties and various activities that encourage people to get outside.

A year ago, like many organizations, our volunteer trainings, special events and passport activities faced cancellation. Thanks to some creative thinking, flexible presenters and support from staff, activities carried on – virtually. The response was astounding. Over 2,358 people registered for events. Our following on social media rose dramatically: from 893 to 1,500 on email; 1,400 to 1,800 on Facebook; and 365 to 1,944 on Instagram. Clearly, people needed nature even if it was online.

One might say that protecting nature for our own pandemic getaway is self-serving and anthropocentric, yet is a stark reminder that natural areas may have saved us this year. It also reminds us of what endures and needs protection. It is but one reason planetary health matters; there are many others.

This is a moment of opportunity to harness public interest and reliance on nature to further safeguard the earth. We cannot leave it up to our institutions, political leaders and policy-makers alone. As citizens, we must take an active role. To me, that means supporting the continued work of the Thames Talbot Land Trust.

– Vicki Hammond



Hawk Cliff Woods by John St. Pierre

NATURE GOES ONLINE!
Our 2020 events looked a little different this year... they were all virtual! We adapted our activities and guess what? The response was tremendous! Those who attended loved the beautiful photography and the enthusiasm of the presenters. We were happy to share this time with so many!

	EVENTS such as birding, bugs & butterflies, yoga, native plant gardening and nature art for kids
	REGISTRANTS from southwestern Ontario, most in the London area
	HOURS OF LEARNING & FUN to view over again as a recording
	FIRST TIME PARTICIPANT in TTLT activities
	WOULD ATTEND ANOTHER EVENT 93% would recommend to friends &

In 2021, we're looking forward to getting outdoors. There will still be events online as well. Stay tuned at www.thamestalbotlandtrust.ca

Sitting Down with Ian Wilcox (Continued from Page 1)

What were the greatest challenges of the UTRCA under your leadership as the General Manager?

The greatest ongoing challenge has been securing funding. The Province currently supports <1% of our budget, and municipalities ~35%. The remainder is self-generated. Local and senior government funding for CAs has gradually been reduced over the past 30 years from the original 50-50 municipal-provincial split to the current model. While we've been successful in the past, it's a constant struggle, with a significant amount of staff time required to find money to allow us to continue our core work.

The future poses even greater challenges. The Province's recent re-writing of the Conservation Authorities Act reduces funding further, and weakens CAs and environmental protections in Ontario in an effort to support expanded development. This has been frustrating as CA programs ensure new development is safe from flooding and erosion hazards are being circumvented, despite provincial rules to the contrary. From my perspective, their actions are short sighted, dangerous and do not serve the public's interest. Unfortunately, it will be difficult, if not impossible, for the environment to recover from these recent decisions.

What was the most fundamental change you witnessed during your tenure as General Manager of UTRCA?

On the positive side, there has been expanded public knowledge, a stronger public environmental ethic, including demands for action, and greater expectations of the UTRCA. In some cases, rather than lead, we've had to work to catch up to the community's interests and demands. This is not where we should be as an organization, but it's encouraging nonetheless.

Contrasting with that is the current provincial agenda. After many years of progressive policy and legislative growth in environmental programs and support, the past two years have seen a rapid regression that may not be possible to reverse. This is despite strong local municipal and community support for CA programs in this watershed.

TTLT's primary goal is to preserve land for future generations. In what ways have land trusts (TTLT in particular) assisted (or not) the UTRCA in its goals?

Land trusts have provided a viable and stable option for the protection of sensitive lands. UTRCA has a broad mandate and, while we are significant land owners, acquisition is rarely affordable for us anymore. Land trusts such as TTLT have a focused mandate and work to develop creative securement strategies. One of the UTRCA's interests is protecting land. Who ultimately owns it doesn't matter as long as it's secure and serves the public interest. TTLT is a welcome, respected and important local leader and option, and allows us to direct opportunities to TTLT that might otherwise be lost.

Do you think anything has regressed in terms of environmental protection and stewardship during your career?

The most visible change has been the loss of natural cover in both rural and urban areas. New plantings come close to compensating for losses. However, this is a poor second choice as it may be 100+ years before they become viable, resilient and functioning natural systems.

After a long tenure and a well-deserved retirement, will you still be involved in environmental movements? If so, in what ways?

Absolutely, however, I'd like to take a break from the politics and policy work and get back to wet feet and mud. It was environmental work on the ground that inspired me to pursue a leadership role, which was incredibly rewarding. But, even as general manager, I'd schedule mental health days to join staff for water monitoring, tree planting, Softshell Turtle research, and flow monitoring. Now that it's someone else's turn to lead. I'm looking forward to being on the ground: cold, wet and dirty, but inspired.

Do you believe that we are properly addressing our environmental careers locally, provincially, and federally? If not, what needs to change?

I don't recall a time when an environmental career was ever an easy or lucrative option. We still see passionate people with post-graduate degrees willing to work contracts for years for far less than they could earn in the private sector. As an employer, we are fortunate to have this pool of incredibly passionate, committed, value-driven and educated talent to draw from. For an individual seeking work, it's always been tough despite having the talent and passion. Funding is poor and uncertain, opportunities are few as staff that do find full-time work tend to stay for long careers, and the remuneration is modest at best.

I do see society placing more importance on environmental issues in the future, despite what our current

provincial government interprets as the public's interest. The next generation in particular is more insightful, questioning and suspicious of their futures based on our actions. In the long run, I believe environmental work and opportunities will be elevated to a level of importance more fitting to its importance. This will hopefully translate into career opportunities with appropriate respect and remuneration.

How has the relationship between the UTRCA and community groups and volunteer members changed during your tenure as General Manager?

In summary, community groups and volunteers are more informed, more passionate, and have greater knowledge. They question and challenge current practices, and this encourages UTRCA to do more.

Unfortunately, there has also been more aggressive opposition to environmental rules and concerns, which has funded political interests, development efforts and regulatory changes. It seems to be part of the polarization of views we see broadly across North America.

- Jim Rule with Ian Wilcox



Ian Wilcox, former GM of UTRCA

Protecting Nature: A Promise of Forever

As a supporter of TTLT, you already know the benefits of nature and natural areas to the overall health of the planet and to people. Studies show that natural cover of at least 30% is needed to ensure healthy ecosystems and the benefits nature provides as ecosystem services to local communities (and beyond). In addition, biodiversity is declining with loss and degradation of habitat as major drivers. How do we ensure there is enough nature on the working landscape of southwestern Ontario? There are immense pressures on the land, and nature seems to get squeezed out. But there is hope for nature because of individuals and organizations striving to “protect” natural spaces now and into the future.

You might have heard TTLT talk about permanent protection for the nature reserves in our care. It’s a promise of “forever” that we make every time we agree to protect a new nature reserve. “Forever” is at the core of what we do. We ensure this protection through a number of TTLT by-laws, policies and additional conditions placed on the nature reserves through programs such as Ecological Gifts (governed by the federal government). In addition, we make sure we can fund “forever” by setting aside stewardship funds in an endowment fund each time a new nature reserve is created. This investment allows for an annual disbursement to help us care for nature for the long term.

In 2010, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) set 20 global biodiversity targets, known as the Aichi Targets. Aichi Target 11 focused on the protection of terrestrial ecosystems and inland water (17%), and coastal and marine areas (10%), which led to Pathway to Canada Target 1 with the same



A mosaic of forests in the Skunk's Misery Area, a high priority area for conservation in southern Ontario

goals to be reached by 2020. As of December 2019, 12.1% of Canada’s land and freshwater was conserved, short of the 17% target.

In 2021, the federal government announced an updated commitment to protect 25% of Canada’s land and freshwater by 2025. This protection, however, is not distributed evenly across Canada. The vast majority of protected areas are in the north where large tracts of natural lands still exist. In the Carolinian region, only about 2.5% of land is protected. Yet, this area holds the highest biodiversity in Canada and the

highest proportion of Species at Risk.

To protect Canada’s wildlife, we need to protect Canada’s south. Much of the natural lands in southwestern Ontario are not even included in the official count for Canada – which previously counted only national and federal lands, of which there is little. In 2021, TTLT submitted its nature reserves to be counted as protected areas towards Canada’s goal. To be counted, nature reserves must meet strict criteria for permanent protection, and TTLT meets them.

We can make a difference for nature, for biodiversity, for climate change, for our health, for future generations. We can protect the land that supports our clean drinking water, provides our every breath, produces our food and nourishes our spirits. We are grateful for the many supporters who share our vision and support our work. Together we can make the promise of forever for nature.

- Daria Kosciński

To learn about our current campaign to protect nature forever, please visit:

https://www.thamestalbotlandtrust.ca/vision2020_campaign

Passport to Nature Returns in 2021



This year, TTLT’s Passport to Nature program will return for its third season with 14 free events that highlight the natural wonders on our 20 nature reserves in London and the surrounding counties of Elgin, Middlesex, Perth, and Oxford. Some events in 2021 will be in person on our nature reserves

(COVID regulations permitting). Others will have expert presenters using webinar format that will accommodate a much larger audience, but still allow questions and participation.

Our 2021 Passport to Nature will be posted on our website (www.thamestalbotlandtrust.ca) under the tab “Passport to Nature”. There will be some printed Passports, but

we will be depending on the online information and sign up because of the difficulties of booklet distribution under COVID restrictions. However, anyone interested can flip through our illustrated online Passport to select events of interest and use the same site to register for free. Events in 2021 include a return of popular presentations such as “Birding for Beginners” with Mhairi McFarlane, “Wildflowers” with Will Van Hemessen, and “Gardening for Pollinators” with Rebecca Launchbury. There will be new events such as “Butterflies of Carolinian Canada” with Jenna Siu and “Forest Fungi” with Greg Thorn, plus eight more presentations throughout the year!

These free events are possible because of the generous sponsoring organizations that are listed in our Passport and on the www.ttl.ca website. Please consider using their services as their sponsorship supports Thames Talbot Land Trust and nature in our community.

- Ric Symmes for the Passport Team

An Arboretum for Future Generations

One of the original founders of TTLT, Mary Kerr, once stated that “a land trust was for future generations and, following the perspective of our Indigenous Peoples, we should think seven generations ahead”. It was this vision that inspired us to develop an arboretum on our own property. Equally important in our decision was our growing recognition that many trees on our land and elsewhere were suffering from a variety of diseases. An arboretum would ensure a place for younger trees to find their role in the ever-changing environment of the Carolinian zone.

The idea of an arboretum was originally conceived during my tenure as president of TTLT over seven years ago. On a tour of environmental initiatives in Oxford County, I was introduced to an experiment in which a land owner had set aside an acreage where trees from North and South Carolina were being transplanted to his property. This initiative by the Upper Thames Conservation Authority (UTRCA) and Oxford Futures, in its sixth year, is designed to ascertain if global warming is effecting change in how trees grow throughout the Carolinian zone and if trees from the US will now survive in southern Ontario.

I returned home from that visit with a new mission for our property. Our 10-acres are evenly divided between woods and an open field. The two horses we had then had almost five-acres to themselves, which seemed a bit too generous. Actually, feeding on that much grass was counterproductive to their health. My wife, Marg, and I decided to fence off the five-acres into two parcels: three-acres for the horses and two-acres for a new initiative: an arboretum highlighting Carolinian trees.

We knew immediately whom to contact: the UTRCA. With great anticipation, we reached Brenda Gallagher, who became our ‘go to’ person in the planning stages of this project and, later, in the planting stages. Brenda was keen to assist us with our new idea and quickly informed us about funding



Jim and Marg's arboretum by Jim Rule

(Clean Water Initiative) that helped homeowners who wished to plant trees on their property, especially native species. Luckily for us, a two-acre parcel was the minimum to qualify for this funding.

Brenda visited our property several times to advise us about how this project might happen. Looking back now, I can

still picture Brenda and ourselves trying to visualize the future of this rather vacant scrub parcel of land. It was clear from the beginning that this arboretum would not involve tree planting in a formal manner. We envisioned three separate entries to the arboretum each one leading, via a circuitous pathway, to different sections of the arboretum. Of

course, these pathways added to my grass cutting responsibilities. In the end, after considerable discussion, we decided to space out the project over at least three years, with the goal of planting trees in one-third of the parcel each year. By chunking the project over reasonable and achievable tasks, we were confident that we could make this initiative happen.

Each year has brought its own challenges, ranging from a lack of rainfall to an excess, from prolonged cold springs to excessive heat. The variability of the weather certainly hinders the proper growth of trees and those in the Carolinian zone are very susceptible to our dramatically changing climate. We successfully partnered with the UTRCA under Brenda Gallagher's leadership and her always-dependable students who coached us on what strategies might be undertaken to promote healthy trees in response to uncertain growing conditions.

We are now more attune to impending problems, such as oak rot, pine beetles and invasive species. Our desire to learn more about the lives of trees has led us to research which trees will flourish in what environment and what can be accomplished by careful monitoring and yearly underbrushing. The trees have been planted strategically to foster a healthy landscape that will enhance their shape, texture and colour. Some of the trees now in the arboretum include Sugar Maple, Tamarack, Bur Oak, Red Oak, Sycamore, White Pine, Tuliptree, Redbud, Cucumber Tree and serviceberry.

We are extremely pleased with the results of our efforts and our vision for this small piece of land on our property. Once a neglected field, this arboretum is now full of flourishing Carolinian trees. We hope that our initiative will encourage other land owners to undertake a similar plan that not only promotes the well-being of our Carolinian culture but also leaves a legacy of trees for generations to follow.

- Jim Rule

The Weird and Wonderful with a Biologist: *Moths without Mouths*

Caterpillars start their lives with gluttony. Their only job is to eat and grow. Metamorphosis for a caterpillar takes a huge amount of energy, which means it needs all the nutrition it can get. Some caterpillars eat 27,000



Luna Moth by Dave Wake

times their body weight during their lifetime.

While a caterpillar has an insatiable desire to eat, an adult moth may present quite a juxtaposition. Some species of moths emerge from their cocoons without mouths. Once they emerge, they may have only days to find a mate before starving to death. This is true for two of Ontario's largest moths: Luna Moths and Cecropia Moths.

Species Spotlight: Smooth Serviceberry



Serviceberry flower by Cathy Quinlan

of the Rose family.

Smooth Serviceberry, *Amelanchier laevis*, is an erect shrub with several stems in a clump. It also has a tree form, growing to 10 metres in height. Pretty white flowers with five petals appear in April and early May, and the leaves unfold and develop at the same time. The leaves are alternate on the stem, simple and the margins have fine to coarse teeth. The leaves are smooth underneath, not hairy as other serviceberries are, hence the name Smooth Serviceberry.

Dark reddish-purple-to-black berries ripen in June and July, which is why the common names include Juneberry and Julyberry. The berries are juicy and edible and make excellent pies and jam – if you can collect the fruit before the birds eat them. Robins seem to adore them. A close relative, Saskatoon Berry (*A. alnifolia*), is native to northwestern Ontario and the

There are several species of serviceberry that are native to Ontario, and the common names are often used interchangeably – Serviceberry, Shadbush, Juneberry, and Julyberry. These lovely shrubs are members

prairies.

Local pioneers coined the name serviceberry as this shrub comes into bloom each spring at the time funeral services were held for the people who died over the winter. The pioneers may also have given this shrub the other common name, shadbush, as it blooms when the shad fish come upstream to spawn.

Smooth Serviceberry is ideal in urban gardens, as it does not get too tall and the leaves turn a lovely orange colour in the fall. The Upper Thames Conservation Authority plants several species of serviceberry in its reforestation programs, as they are excellent wildlife shrubs. The flowers are a nectar source for bees and other pollinators early in the season, and the summer berries are an important food source for birds and other animals.

This species is common throughout southern Ontario and prefers sunnier locations in clearings and thickets. It can be found along the edges of woods, fencerows and roadsides and in coniferous and mixed woods.

- Cathy Quinlan



Serviceberry fruit by Cathy Quinlan

A Wetland and a Field

During the spring of 2020, Daria Koscinski, Acting Executive Director of TTLT, asked me to participate in two new projects on the Blain Farm property just west of Wardsville. Located at the north end of a deep meander of the Thames River, the site is a long way from the access on Beattie Line. I was familiar with this very secluded site from 2011 when I assisted Donald Craig in establishing a 4.5-to-5-acre hardwood plantation on the east edge of the meander.

The first project for 2020 was a wetland restoration. On my first visit to the site, a professional wetland restorer brought in a bulldozer and high hoe excavator to dig a large pond in an old channel a couple of hundred metres inside the north end of the meander. After a couple of days, the construction was completed, resulting in a long pond with an island and a couple of dead snags for wildlife habitat. The spoil from the excavation was formed into undulating mounds along the sides of the pond to create a variety of transplanting sites for a mix of native plants.

The second project was a field of tallgrass prairie plants. This field is intended to provide TTLT with a supply of pollinator plant seeds for restoration plantings, gifts, and plant

sales. Daria asked me to participate in this planting project because "you know how to plant in rows". The staff/volunteer crew laid out very long rows by hand, using the longest garden line I've ever seen. It ran across a couple of acres between the new wetland and the edge of the riverside woods. The first two sessions involved transplanting rows of tallgrass prairie pollinator plants, such as Butterfly Milkweed, Canada Wild Rye, Little Blue Stem, Big Blue Stem, Brown-eyed Susan and more.

This was followed up later in the year by hand-planting of stratified seed of a variety of tallgrass prairie species. Freshly planted material was watered by hand, and most of it seemed to thrive. Tallgrass prairie plants are "tough customers". Some of the transplanted material, such as Canada Wild Rye, actually produced seed later in the year.

In 2021, we should see the first use of the new wetland by frogs, salamanders, and other wildlife, as well as the early maturity of the mound plantings. The tallgrass prairie field remains a work in progress. I'm looking forward to some planting days this year "under the eagle's gaze". Those wishing to share in the venture are urged to contact TTLT at info@ttl.ca. Volunteer opportunities will be posted on the TTLT website.

- Douglas Craig



Native flower rows by Daria Koscinski



The beginnings of a wetland, before the spring rains by Colin Johnson

Logic Puzzle: Birds and Volunteers at TTLT

Solutions will be posted at https://www.thamestalbotlandtrust.ca/the_tattler.

Make it a challenge and donate to TTLT if you can't finish the puzzle. Tax receipts will be issued for donations over \$20.

When TTLT properties re-opened for visitors last summer, each was first visited by one of four committee members, in some order (1-4). Each visitor spotted a favourite bird. Using the grid below and the clues provided, determine the order of each visit, to what property, by whom, and what bird was spotted. Mark a positive clue with a star and a negative clue with an x. The entire grid can be filled by deduction. The results can then be entered in the table at the bottom of the page.

		Joany's Woods	Meadowily Nature Preserve	Wardville Woods	Five Points Forest	Downy Woodpecker	Scarlet Tanager	Warbling Vireo	Gray Catbird	Land Securement	Property Management	Membership & Marketing	Finance
1													
2													
3													
4													
Land Securement													
Property Management													
Membership & Marketing													
Finance													
Downy Woodpecker													
Scarlet Tanager													
Warbling Vireo													
Gray Catbird													

Order	Property	Bird	Committee
1			
2			
3			
4			

Clues

- A. The third visitor, who spotted a Downy Woodpecker, did not go to Wardville Woods, which was visited by the secretary of the Property Management Committee.
- B. Joany's Woods was visited first.
- C. Five Points Forest, where the Gray Catbird was heard, but not by the Chair of the Land Securement Committee, was not the last property visited.
- D. A volunteer was so excited about seeing a Scarlet Tanager that she decided to join the Membership & Marketing Committee.



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Thames Talbot Land Trust is a registered charity. Our mission is to protect, conserve, and restore nature within Elgin, Middlesex, Oxford and Perth counties, contributing to a stable climate, human wellbeing, and healthy habitats for all species