

the TaTTLeR

Soaring Higher: Hawk Cliff Woods & Beyond Campaign Update



Photography by Joe O'Neil

Soaring Higher - The Hawk Cliff and Beyond Campaign is nearing completion. For many members of the Board, undertaking this campaign last year was a leap in fund raising faith. A \$1.6 million campaign was the biggest development campaign the Trust had ever done. We knew that the purchase of Hawk Cliff Woods was a wonderful opportunity. What we also knew was that we also had other needs to address and that it was the perfect time to blend our needs into a major ask.

For several years, the Trust has been waging annual campaigns. We did Wardsville Woods in 2013, then the Bebenssee acquisition, and the Lusty Campaign in 2014. Within all these campaigns, we were acutely aware that there were demands on some of our established funds namely our Opportunities Fund and our Jane Bowles Limited Endowment Fund.

In 2007, Dick and Beryl Ivey established the Opportunities Fund in the amount of one million dollars. We were asked to use the fund to purchase conservation lands in a timely way. We were required to repay the fund for half of the value of the purchased property. In other words, if we purchased a \$200,000 property – we would return \$100,000 to our Opportunities Fund from our fund raising efforts. Despite our stellar fund raising efforts – our Opportunities Fund was depleted to half of its value in 2015 but we did have 14 properties. To restore it to its original strength, we needed to add \$400,000 to the fund raising pot. We were unbelievably surprised and elated when Richard Ivey came forward and agreed to fund the whole amount.

We also decided to pursue enhancing the Jane Bowles Limited Endowment Fund. In 2013, through a substantial legacy gift by Jane Bowles and André Lachance, we were able to fund a newly created position of Property Manager at the Trust. It is our desire to keep funding this position for the 14 properties on our roster but in order to do so we needed to keep the fund balance in the account healthy. As of March 2016, we have made our goal of \$100,000.

The current balance on the Hawk Cliff and Beyond Campaign is at 88% of goal. This is truly amazing and awe inspiring. We need to raise another \$200,000 to get us to our final goal. Right now, we are approaching our friends, granting agencies and our corporate and foundation supporters to get us over the top.

What's With all The Rules ?

What's with all the rules? In this article, Thames Talbot Land Trust explains why certain regulations are in place on conservation properties and the impacts associated with unpermitted activities.

Why are some properties closed?

TTLT has properties that are either open or closed for public access. When a TTLT property is closed, this usually means that there is sensitive habitat that would be impacted by human traffic. A closed property could also be at the request of the property donor or it could mean the property is not maintained for public access and therefore, it is not safe to hike.

Staying on the Trail

The trails on TTLT properties are the safest place for you to walk. Staying on the trail ensures that sensitive habitat is not disturbed and that hazards are minimized. Besides, we have put a lot of work into designing trail systems that showcase the most beautiful parts of our properties! Why would you want to walk anywhere else?



Motorized Vehicles, Bicycles and Horses

The use of motorized vehicles, such as ATVs, horse-riding as well as mountain biking are considered high impact activities in natural areas by many studies. Impacts from these activities are most commonly soil compaction and erosion, loss of organic litter and ground cover vegetation, species loss, erosion and widening of trails as well as invasive species into natural vegetation. TTLT does not permit these activities for the safety of the natural environment and for your own personal safety! TTLT properties are not maintained for motorized vehicle and biking safety. A hazard that may be obvious to someone walking slowly along a trail may be less obvious if that person is moving faster on a bicycle or ATV.

Keeping Dogs on Leash

TTLT encourages you to bring along your furry friend to enjoy a nice trail walk but please keep them on their leash. This rule is in place for the safety of your pet, the forest and wildlife – the woods contain many hazards, potentially poisonous plants and not-so-friendly wildlife that may pose a threat to your dog. Dogs also love to explore. They may be unaware that they are entering sensitive habitat, that they should not try to play with the wildlife, and that they may be spreading invasive species seeds throughout the forest on their fur and paws. So, for the safety of the habitat and your pet, please keep your dogs on the trail with you.

Hunting

TTLT does not allow unregulated hunting because many of our properties are open to the public and it is a safety issue to hunt where the public may be hiking. TTLT may use hunting for management purposes as needed, however, general hunting is not permitted for public safety reasons.

Announcing TTLT Volunteer Training



Please join us for our first volunteer orientation training. This training is designed for both new and current TTLT volunteers and will feature training on both the TTLT and general stewardship best practices. You will learn about Species at Risk monitoring and assessment on TTLT properties, invasive species identification and management practices, and specific protocols and techniques we use in the field. There will also be time to meet TTLT stewardship staff, committee members and volunteers.

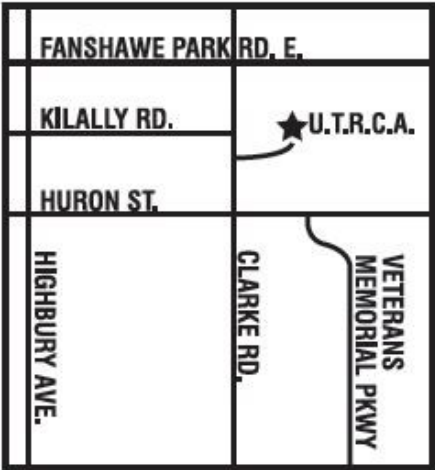
Please join us on April 13th, 2016 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. or on April 16th, 2016 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Sessions will be held at the TTLT office located at 944 Western Counties Road. For more information, or to RSVP for a session please visit the TTLT website at www.ttl.ca

Annual General Meeting 2016

The Thames Talbot Land Trust 2016 Annual General Meeting will be held on April 7th, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the UTRCA Watershed Conservation Centre located at 1424 Clarke Road, London, ON.

Program:

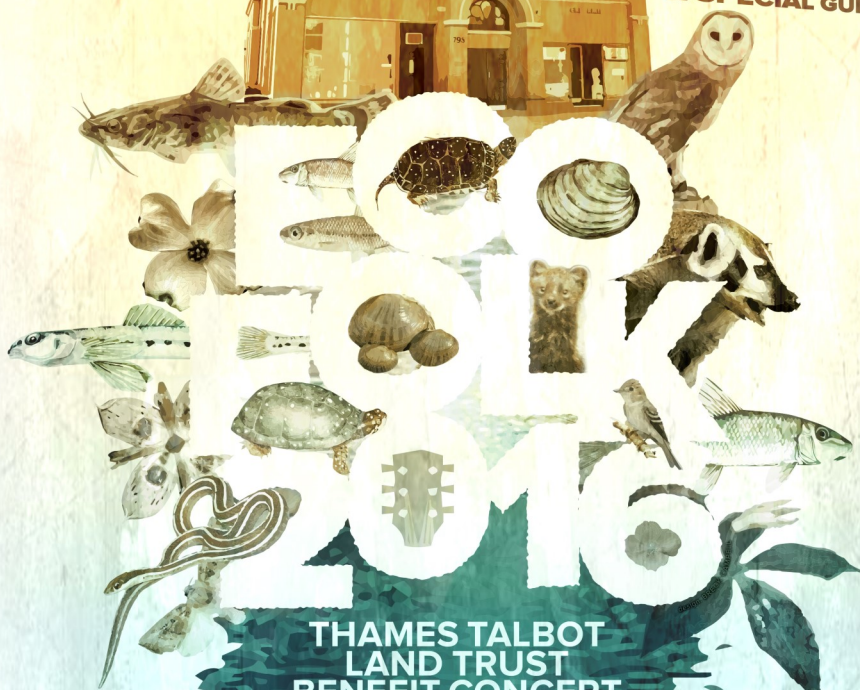
- 5:45 p.m. Light Supper (suggested donation \$10)
- 6:30 pm Social with TTLT Board of Directors & Staff
- 7:00 pm Annual General Meeting
- 8:30 pm Adjournment



For more information, contact Dee Crilly 519.858.3442 or dee.crilly@ttl.ca To RSVP for the AGM please visit www.ttl.ca. Meeting information and financial statements are available on our website www.ttl.ca on March 17th, or from the office at 944 Western Counties Rd, London, ON N6C 6A8. Please call before visiting.

**PETE DENOMME
AND THE
COSMIC COWBOYS
KATY CARSWELL
JARMO JALAVA**

**SUPERNATURAL
BUFFALO
BRENT JONES
CHRISTINE NEWLAND
& SPECIAL GUESTS**



**THAMES TALBOT
LAND TRUST
BENEFIT CONCERT**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 10th
2-4p.m.**

**THE AEOLIAN HALL
795 Dundas St, London, Ontario**

\$25

@ the box office, online:

aeolianhall.ca

or call:

519 672 7950

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.

Thames Talbot
Land Trust

New Initiatives at Five Points Forest



Five Points Forest was donated to the Thames Talbot Land Trust in 2009 by Al and Lilianne Driedger, who wanted to protect the natural features of the land in perpetuity. The 29-hectare (73 -acre) property lies on a gently rolling moraine just south of the south branch of the Thames River between Putnam and Ingersoll, adjacent to other woodland patches.

Five Points Forest consists of mixed coniferous-deciduous upland forest and forest swamp. White Cedar is prevalent in the wetter areas. Upland areas contain mature White Ash, Red Oak, Sugar Maple, American Beech, Bitternut Hickory and Black Walnut. This area of Five Points Forest was never cleared, and its vegetation cover is well documented in Ontario Heritage Trust (OHT) and Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) reports. The wetland contains several rare orchids and there is a good understory of native plants on the property.

Five Points Forest Adopt A Patch Program

This program aims to engage stewards of the property in ecological restoration by removing invasive species from their "patch" annually to protect surrounding habitat. This will lead to planting of the cleared areas with native species once the invasive ones have been kicked out! Individuals or groups of people, nature clubs, schools and other organizations can adopt one or more 10m x 10m patches within the forest. A training session for those interested in participating in the program will be held at Five Points Forest on April 23rd, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. For more information, or to RSVP for the session please visit the TTLT website at www.ttlit.ca

Five Points Forest Trail Opening Celebration

Join us on April 23rd, 2016 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. for the launch of TTLT's new Five Points Trail and interactive trail guide. The event will feature welcome speeches, a light reception and a guided hike of the property! The event will be followed by an optional garlic mustard removal workday for those who would like to stay and learn more about the management practices for this invasive species. For more information, or to RSVP please visit the TTLT website at www.ttlit.ca

Become a 2016 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

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

Joany's Woods Workday

*Joany's Woods Hike and Trail Cleaning on May 1,
2016 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.*

Explore the trails at Joany's Woods while helping TTLT clear debris. You will have the choice of hiking the Inch Trail (3.2 km) or for the keen hikers, the less explored Ivey Trail (6 km)! Bring loppers and work gloves if you have them (some will be provided by TTLT). Dress appropriately for the weather and wear suitable footwear for rough terrain.

For more information, or to RSVP please visit the TTLT website at www.ttlit.ca

Newport Forest Wildflower Walk



Join TTLT volunteer property stewards for the 2016 Wildflower Walk at Newport Forest on May 7th from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. This expertly guided hike though the property will feature the many beautiful wildflowers that can be found at Newport Forest.

Stay for light refreshments after the hike with the property stewards for a chance to ask questions and hear more about the TTLT and Newport Forest.

For more information, or to RSVP please visit the TTLT website at www.ttlit.ca



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