

News & Views

February 2016

Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust
Preserving the land  Protecting the future



ROSE HILL NATURE RESERVE ECOLOGY & NATURE STUDY

This past summer we celebrated the expansion of Rose Hill Nature Reserve through the donation of 258 acres by Patricia Hatton. This sanctuary for nature now totals 358 acres, over 3½ times its original size!

Thanks to the Brodey Fund, MMLT will have the resources to conduct a multi-phase field study to describe the natural history and ecology of the nature reserve. Patricia Hatton established the fund in honour of late husband, Robert Brodey, specifically for research and stewardship activities on this wilderness property.



Fufflemucker Pond at Rose Hill Nature Reserve

Photo by Shelley Ball

Starting this spring, naturalists and ecologists will undertake several weeks of intensive field work followed by additional study, spread across the seasons and over two years. It will describe and map vegetation cover and earth science features, inventory plant and animal species, document the locations of provincially and regionally significant species, and locate small and larger specialized habitats such as seepage areas, vernal pools, unique rock outcrops and ecosystems where rare or unusual species may be found.

This study will be jump-started by examining satellite imagery and gathering previous knowledge from individuals and reports. The majority of the field work will take place this year. Discoveries made this first year will provide direction for more focused, targeted field work the following season.

Results from the study will provide the ecological foundation for preparing a long term management plan. It will also assist us in locating nature trails and interpretive signage, and in writing a handy guidebook – all to foster public enjoyment of nature's many

dimensions on this reserve.

While the study's goal is to gain a deeper understanding of plants, animals and habitat, we also hope that the success of this multi-year project will mean that more people will come to appreciate that nature in its natural state is worthy of being protected in perpetuity. The study will be managed by MMLT board members and the Ecosystem Stewardship Committee.

YOUTH IN NATURE GRANT

Late last year, MMLT was delighted to learn that it was being awarded \$2,200 from the Perth & District Community Foundation. In partnership with two local youth organizations, YAK Youth Services in Perth and Lanark Highlands Youth Centre in Lanark, MMLT will organize outdoor adventures for youth at Blueberry Mountain and High Lonesome Nature Reserve. The outings, led by experienced naturalists, will introduce the young people to the fascinating world of nature, providing interesting insights into the native flora, fauna and habitats, touching on the role of logging and different cultural practices with regard to hunting and fishing and nature in general.

The overarching goal of the project is to enhance youth connections to and with nature for the long term health of both. There is growing consensus that nature experiences are essential to our well-being. It is also understood that the young will only appreciate and be committed to preserving our natural environment through personal experiences in that natural world.

The PDCF Youth in Nature project is in MMLT's Wild Child Initiative being launched this year. Stayed tuned for more on this!



The old red oak at High Lonesome Nature Reserve attracts young and old alike.

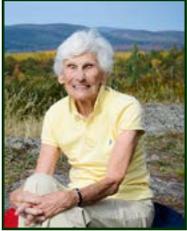
Photo by Jacquie Christiani

THE LOSS OF GOOD FRIENDS

by Howard Clifford

Recently MMLT lost two good friends and strong supporters, Glenn Drover and Pauline Macpherson.

Glenn was a co-founder of the Lanark Wild Food Club and a good friend and supporter of MMLT. He attended many of our events, hiked Blueberry Mountain and received an honour that we no longer bestow - an honorary life-time membership.



Pauline was the first inductee into our 80 Plus Club to hike to the top of Blueberry Mountain. She did it at least twice and on one occasion, at the age of 90, became the oldest person to do so. No matter where she was she saw and usually pointed out the beauty in nature. Both Glenn and Pauline were the type of people who made you feel good just being in their company.

As I thought about the loss we feel in losing these two friends, I recalled John Muir in one of his few moments of depression. The fight to save Hetch Hetchy, the beautiful twin jewel of Yosemite, was going badly and this was compounded by the recent loss of a couple of his closest friends. Emotionally drained and physically exhausted, he retreated to his beloved forests. He noticed a few leaves still clinging to the branches and asked, "When you see your brethren fall to the ground one by one do you feel lonely? Because that's how I feel now." However deep in his soul he remembered in his travels how he marvelled over the discovery that he really couldn't dissect life from death. They were both intertwined and each beautiful in their own right - a true mysterious and inspirational circle. In the forest he stated he sometimes felt closer to his friends, even those who had preceded him in death, than if they had been physically present with him.

I am sure there will be times when we too, alone in the woods, will recall their friendship and their love of nature and feel a special closeness to them as they live on in our memories. We thank them for their contributions. Two lives well lived.

COMING EVENTS

We have an exciting line-up of spring events for you to enjoy. Please visit mmlt.ca/events for full details.

March 10: Ed Lawrence Live! with Rob Clipperton moderating. Centreponte Studio Theatre, 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$20 on sale at EventBrite. Win a 90 minute consultation with Ed in your garden. Raffle tickets at event only: \$20 or 3 for \$50. Cash or cheque only.

April 6: AGM, Perth Legion Hall, 7:00 pm. Howard Clifford's talk begins at 7:30 on the topic, *The Wild Child: Unleashing the Power of Nature*. General public welcome. Refreshments served.

April 24: *Born to Walk: The Transformative Power of a Pedestrian Act* with author Dan Rubinstein. Followed by a hike at High Lonesome Nature Reserve. Registration 9:30 a.m. \$10 donation.

May 1: Creativity Blitz at High Lonesome Nature Reserve. Registration 10:00 a.m. \$10 donation.

May 8: Spring Nature Walk on Blueberry Mountain. Registration 10:00 a.m. \$10 donation.

Endowment Funds Keeping the Wild for 1000 Years

MMLT is the only local, private sector, charitable organization dedicated exclusively to the preservation of ecologically valuable land in our part of Eastern Ontario. As a local land trust, we often offer the only legal, secure mechanism for landowners looking to preserve land they care about long into the future. When landowners entrust their properties to our care, we commit to meet our stewardship obligations in "perpetuity": 999 years. This commitment means we must be sustainable as an organization over this time frame.

To help us build a solid financial foundation to meet our 999 year mandate and to support landowners in the preservation of their properties, MMLT has established three endowment funds that you can donate to: the Sustainability Fund, the Land Acquisition Fund, and the Carp Hills Opportunity Fund. The Community Foundation of Ottawa (CFO) administers all these funds on behalf of MMLT.

The Sustainability Fund is a permanent endowment set up to provide long term financial capacity to carry out the mission, programs, staffing, and ongoing operations of the land trust. When you donate to the Sustainability Fund, you are investing in the future of the organization.

The Land Acquisition Fund helps us respond to unexpected opportunities for the acquisition of ecologically significant properties and conservation easements, covering expenses such as surveys, legal and appraisal fees, and stewardship plans. When you donate to the Land Acquisition Fund, you help MMLT to cover the costs of expanding our preservation of wild lands in our region.



Beaver pond at High Lonesome Nature Reserve

Photo: Eleanor Thomson

MMLT established the Carp Hills Opportunity Fund to ensure the availability of funds for the acquisition of ecologically significant properties or conservation easements in the Carp Hills in rural west Ottawa.

We welcome and rely on your regular donations to help us with the ongoing operation of the land trust. But if you are considering a significant donation or a bequest, you may wish to donate to one of our endowment funds. To find out more about these funds and how to donate to them, please see the [Endowment Funds](#) information on our web site.

If you have questions or would like to be added to our mailing list, please contact Susan Sentesy, Program Manager, at ssentesy@mmlt.ca or 613-253-2722.

Office Hours: 8:30 - 4:30 ~ Monday to Friday