



MISSISSIPPI MADAWASKA LAND TRUST CONSERVANCY

Official Newsletter

July 2014 Newsletter

Successful Bioblitz at the Keddy Nature Sanctuary

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to go back in time and see how your property looked 100 years ago? Was it covered with dense forest or was it already logged off to create pasture land for cattle or sheep? If so many changes could take place in just 100 years, can you imagine how that same land might look 1000 years from now? Will it even be recognizable as the same landscape or will it be completely consumed by urban sprawl with very little evidence of any fields and forests. Will the people living in that location even be able to imagine that 1000 years ago you were forced to fence your vegetable garden to protect it from the deer and rabbits and that you regularly listened to coyotes howling on summer evenings?

At the Keddy Nature Sanctuary 1000 years from now, we can be confident that species existing in 2014 will still be flourishing thanks to the legal protection provided by Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust. How do we know what is being protected? One way to begin such a species inventory is with a 24-hour Bioblitz and there couldn't have been a better day for it than June 6th -7th, when a large group of scientific experts, naturalists and volunteers gathered to survey the 530-acre nature reserve just west of Carleton Place. Over 140 acres of this property are designated Provincially Significant Wetland Complex, one of the most diverse and productive ecosystems on earth – a wildlife haven.



Blacklighting for moths is an extremely effective way to attract large quantities of moths for easy observation.

Photo by Simon Lunn

The 24-hour span of this event allowed for observances of the creatures of the night, and the identification of insects after dark was a particular interest. White sheets and blacklights were strung up between the trees creating a bluish glow on the sheets which is greatly attractive to insects. Our entomologists were rewarded with a dance of the Luna Moths with their luminous pale green hue and

exceptionally wide wingspan. As early as 5 a.m. the next morning, the birders were out with their binoculars and listening to the multitude of bird calls at that early hour. By the time the Bioblitz wrapped up after lunch, 75 volunteers had assisted with various aspects of the event.

The organization of the Bioblitz was a team effort from beginning to end. Led by the Lanark County Stewardship Council, who successfully applied to the Biodiversity Education and Awareness Network (BEAN) for funding, and joined by the Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust, the Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists and the Canadian Wildlife Federation, the partners gathered scientific experts through their respective networks and hosted a very rewarding event.

Once the full list of species has been compiled, we will have a benchmark with which to monitor changes on the property over time. This special spot will never be consumed by super highways leaving us to wonder how different the place looked in the distant past. If nature has its way, the Keddy Nature Sanctuary will become even more rich over the centuries.



The beautiful Luna Moth has a very wide wingspan of about 4". Because it only feeds during the caterpillar stage, this moth does not have a proboscis and only lives for one week.

Photo by Simon Lunn

Squatter's Rights!

By Ken Spicer



Hello below! Yes, I am a Northern Flying Squirrel (*Glaucomys sabrinus*), differing subtly from my southern cousins in that my tummy is more grey than white, and please note the cinnamon highlights on my back, missing on my cousin's attire.

Don't look so surprised to see me here! After all, every spring our families have been disturbed by your snooping – in duck boxes, owl boxes and of course, bird houses here at High Lonesome Nature Reserve. Under the pretext of preparing the above for the arrival of other creatures, you persist in ignoring the possibility of finding other tenants already at home. You must be aware "our people" prefer civilized winter quarters that are cozy and warm, even sharing them with other families. You don't live in summer cottages and tents when the north winds howl, so logically you should expect us to seek winter protection as well. And, if I may be so bold – especially in reproduction time.

So, you must not tarry my friend – move along and prepare bluebird and swallow houses. I understand they will soon be here at High Lonesome.

MORE BIOBLITZ PICS!



*A group of scientific experts, naturalists and volunteers gather on June 6th before setting out to gather inventory.
Photo by Simon Lunn*



*A jolly good group - Dorice Hanes, Karen Hunt, Linda Harvey and Gary Hanes.
Photo by Simon Lunn*

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

Office Hours: 8:30 – 4:30
Monday to Friday