

Thinking Big, Wild Ideas

Conserving Carolinian Landscapes & Species-at-Risk
20th Anniversary Conference

October 1-2, 2004, Port Franks Community Centre on Lake Huron



Foliage No 2 by Melissa Doherty



Canada

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The McIlwraith Field Naturalists
of London Ontario Incorporated



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Carolinian Forests, Prairies, Rivers, Sand Spits

Innovative Ideas for Private Landowners

Agriculture Stewardship

Local Solutions, Healthy Communities

Citizen's Toolkit to protect Green Spaces

Carolinian Hotspots Fall Colour Field Trips

Karner Blue Sanctuary, Walpole Island Prairies,
Port Franks Dunes, Ausable Gorge,
Pinery Bike & Canoe

Join Us to Celebrate 20 years of Success
& Dream Wild Ideas for the next 20!

Register Online!



Carolinian Canada



Hosted by Lambton Wildlife Inc. www.carolinian.org (519) 433-7077

CAROLINIAN CANADA



N E W S L E T T E R

S u m m e r 2 0 0 4

Thinking Big, Wild Ideas. Join the Party!

Carolinian Canada 20 Years Young

By Michelle Kanter

Here in Canada's Far South, our "Islands of Green" may be small but they're very rich in species, significance, and community. So we celebrate Big. This fall, join us on the shores of Lake Huron for Thinking Big, Wild Ideas, our 20th Anniversary Party, hosted by Lambton Wildlife Inc. in Port Franks. We will discuss, share, reflect, brainstorm, network and take up challenges as the Carolinian Canada Coalition moves into a new decade of action. We will celebrate our wild spaces and our communities who are making a difference.

Carolinian Canada is home to one third of Canada's Species-at-Risk. This will be a priority topic, thanks to the sponsorship of the Habitat Stewardship Program of Environment Canada. Ecosystems at Risk, new recovery plans, terrestrial and aquatic, improved policies and programs will be highlighted with a focus on moving from species to landscape-scale recovery strategies.

You may have seen the Big Picture Roadshow which has been touring the zone thanks to the George Cedric Metcalf Charitable Foundation. The Big Picture natural heritage vision inspires, motivates and leads us to think about the next 500 years. The conference will explore how a healthy landscape can be achieved through a wide variety of innovative Big Picture tools for communities, landowners, naturalists, farmers, researchers, planners and policy-makers. The Nature Conservancy of Canada will reveal their new Great Lakes Conservation Blueprint, based on the Big Picture. The Rural Lambton Stewardship Network and Ontario Stewardship will showcase practical ideas for landowners. Ontario Nature will present a Citizen's Green Toolkit.

Situated on the Carolinian west coast, the conference location will be the base for a series of dazzling fall colour tours. Walk, paddle, bike or bus with the experts. A full day trip is planned to the Walpole Island First Nation Carolinian Canada site in partnership with the Walpole Island Heritage Centre. This site contains 12% of Canada's plants and animals at risk. An afternoon canoe trip in Pinery Provincial Park will explore aquatic Species-at-Risk.



Butterfly Weed in bloom in July this year in the Port Franks area near the conference site. Photo by Lynn Dukelow

The roster of over 50 speakers and trip leaders planned for the conference is impressive, from Carolinian Canada founders to leading landowners. Speakers include Dr. Paul Eagles from the University of Waterloo; Alec Denys, MNR District manager; Andy Graham, Ontario Soil and Crop; Ric Symmes, Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation; Dr. Stewart Hilts, University of Guelph; and Clint Jacobs, Walpole Island Natural Heritage Centre.

In 1984, a coalition was formed to research, plan and promote protection of our best remaining wild lands and the Carolinian Canada Coalition was born. The conference takes place in Port Franks Wetlands and Forested Dunes, one of 38 critical unprotected sites identified in 1984. It is a prime example of how communities have rallied around Carolinian gems to protect and steward them into the future. The tireless work of local volunteers has protected many acres of this fascinating site, and more recently, they have put countless hours into organizing this event.

So, after 20 years, are we making progress? Less than 2% of our natural areas are protected. Yet, more and more landowners are active in conservation, communities are self-starting in stewardship actions and governments at all levels are working on improving natural heritage policies. There's definitely something to celebrate. Join the Party and plant a seed of an idea now, to make a big difference in the future! See you there.



CAROLINIAN CANADA NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2004

For more information call 519-433-7077 or look us up on the web at www.carolinian.org



Sydenham River Shows off Mussels

Natural Heritage Marking Program

Shawn Staton of Department of Fisheries and Oceans pulls a mussel shell from the waters of the Sydenham River. It is the endangered mudpuppy mussel, a good find for the crowd attending the Carolinian Canada plaque unveiling. This river and its mussel populations can be protected and enhanced



Landowners protect significant features in the Sydenham River Corridor. Phil and Donna Clements, Diane Bailey, Travis Lehrbass and Steve Janicek participated, along with local partners and public landowners Township of Southwest Middlesex and St. Clair Region Conservation Authority.

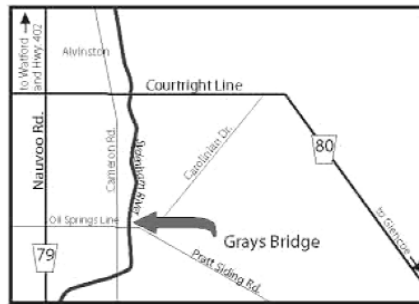
according to the Sydenham River Recovery Strategy, with the help of landowners and many supporting groups and agencies. The Sydenham River in southwestern Ontario is the only major watershed which lies completely in the Carolinian Life Zone and is relatively undisturbed by industrial development. The Sydenham River supports an incredible variety of aquatic life. At least 82 species of fish and 34 species of freshwater mussels have been found here, making it one of the richest watersheds in all of Canada in terms of species diversity.

On Thursday, June 24 a Carolinian Canada Heritage plaque was unveiled to recognize the Sydenham River Corridor, one of 38 critical Carolinian Canada sites in the province. "The stretch of the river from County Rd. 80 to County Rd. 79, is one of the most beautiful and natural stretches of the Sydenham" Ralph Coe, General Manager of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority said. The site is 387 hectares and includes lands owned by the Municipality of Southwest Middlesex and the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority, however, the majority of this

Carolinian Canada site is privately owned. Conservation of this unique area depends on the good stewardship of the public owners and of these local families.

Several species in the Sydenham River are found nowhere else in Canada, and some remain at only a few locations globally. Many of these species at risk have been nationally listed as endangered, threatened, or of special concern by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC).

The Carolinian Canada Coalition acknowledges the financial support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation, which receives annually \$100 million in government funding generated through Ontario's charity casino initiative.



You can visit the Sydenham River Corridor plaque at Gray's Bridge in Southwest Middlesex. A guide to the sites by writer Lorraine Johnson will be released later this year.



THE ONTARIO
TRILLIUM
FOUNDATION



Think Big, Wild Ideas, Oct. 1-2

Join Carolinian Canada for "In My Backyard" and "Keeping it Wild" with talks about the Sydenham River Corridor and other Carolinian Hotspots. Meet a mussel or a Southern Flying Squirrel. Find out about innovative backyard strategies for wildlife. Tour Carolinian Canada sites in their autumn splendour: Walpole Island, Ausable Gorge, Port Franks Forested Dunes and Wetlands.

Register Early!

Pork Producers honoured for Environmental Action & protecting Species at Risk

Carolinian Canada presented a conservation award earlier this year to the Natvik Family of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent for their stewardship of habitat on their farm properties.

The Natvik Family operates swine and crop operations while protecting and 'adding back' to local natural habitats near Highgate on the Orford Ridge overlooking Lake Erie in the distance. With less than 4% forest cover in this part of the Carolinian zone, this family is critical to protecting what remains.

"The Natviks have gone to great lengths to make their farms more environmentally- appropriate. This family has gone well beyond any existing guidelines and have a viable farm operation plus a well maintained and restored natural environment," said Michelle Kanter, Executive Director of Carolinian Canada.

Beside a productive farm field, the Natviks steward a portion of Clear Creek Forest, a provincially significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest, with the goal of long-term protection of habitat of several species at risk nationally including Southern Flying Squirrel and Red-Headed Woodpecker. Adjoining properties are managed to provide critical wildlife corridors along creeks, drains and hedgerows.

Areas peripheral to the agricultural fields have been restored over decades to natural habitat, both planted and allowed to regenerate naturally, with assistance from the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority and the Ministry of Natural Resources. Multiple wetland restoration projects are underway with support from the Ducks Unlimited and Wetland Habitat Fund.

Mathis Natvik runs a rapidly expanding native plant nursery, Orford Ridges Native Plants, and offers workshops and consultation for habitat restoration work in the region putting over 110,000 plants back onto the land per year. At the leading edge of innovative ecological farm management, he experiments in small-

scale agriculture. Mathis is well-known across Carolinian Canada for his conservation activities, in particular, for his successful efforts to protect Clear Creek Forest.

The Natvik family works closely with neighboring farms and their local community to make 'natural linkages', implement eco-friendly agriculture and search out new ideas to help keep the landscape healthy. They are involved in municipal advisory committees and the Ecological Farmers Association.

See the events listing in this newsletter for an opportunity to tour the restoration projects on the Natvik farm.



The conservation award was presented to Olav, Lars and Mathis Natvik at the 11th Annual Southwest Agricultural Conference, in Ridgeway, by Brett Groves, a Director of the Carolinian Canada Coalition.



Think Big, Wild Ideas, Oct. 1-2

Join Carolinian Canada for "People Power for Conservation" with talks on E-technology for landowners, private land stewardship, restoration projects, Environmental Farm Plans, riparian buffers, policy changes and youth in conservation. See landowner projects in Lambton County firsthand on our Stewardship Bus Tour with the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority.

Register Early!

The Back 40

Saving the Farm in Canada South

By Betty Learmouth

In April this year, brothers Bill and Jack Balkwill wrote to the Canada South Land Trust (CSLT) indicating their wish to donate a conservation easement on their forty acre woodland, including a two acre pond and prairie restoration site on their 149 acre farm in the Town of Kingsville, Essex County. CSLT have initiated negotiations for the first donated conservation easement for this newly established land trust.

The farm has been home to the Balkwill brothers all their lives, following its purchase in the 1920's by their father. Bill began studying the trees in the woodlot in the 1970's, undertaking active management of the woodlot which is praised by local forester Casey Cothurst.



The Balkwills have welcomed members of the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club and Essex County Woodlot Owners Association over the years for walks and activities such as night viewing of insects, consequently their woodland is well known in the community. Participants enjoy a visit to a wet-mesic oak forest with its mature White Oak, Red Oak, Bur Oak and Black Oak. Other species include Red Maple, Beech, Shagbark Hickory, Big Shellbark Hickory, White Ash and Red Ash. The lowest and wettest section supports Pin Oak, Swamp White Oak, Shumard Oak and Pumpkin Ash.

The Southern Flying Squirrel is a resident in this woodland. Birds which breed here include Red-breasted Grosbeak, Red-eyed Vireo, Wood Thrush, Eastern Peewee and Orchard Oriole.

The early spring floral display in the woodland is splendid with its carpet of Trout Lilies and Spring Beauties. Trout lilies are found in three colour morphs – the traditional yellow, yellow tinged with crimson and cream. Rare flora include Alum-root, Small-flowered Agrimony, Spring Avens and Prairie Rose.

Submissions to the Carolinian Canada Newsletter:
Send your favourite photo of the season, share stories of community action or profile a landowner project or program for the "Back 40".
Send to: info@carolinian.org.

Trulliums were a refreshing sight for hard workers during the spring cleanup at the Skunk's Misery Carolinian Canada site.

Photo by Valerie Towsley, Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority.



Think Big, Wild Ideas, Oct. 1-2

Join Carolinian Canada for "From the Ground UP" with leading edge rural stewardship examples, updates on incentives, funding & policies for landowners, wild ideas for habitat restoration & a Stewardship Bus Tour.

Register Early!

INVADING SPECIES WATCH 2004

Get Out and Participate! We Need Your Help!

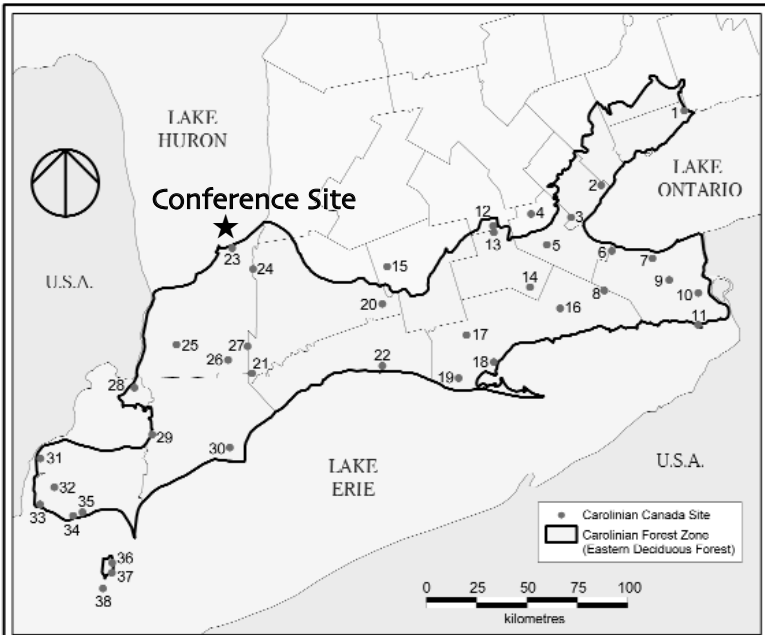


The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (O.F.A.H) is searching for volunteers from cottage and lake associations, to help track and monitor the spread of zebra mussels and spiny water flea in Ontario lakes. Zebra mussels, spiny water flea, and other invasive species are harmful to recreation and ecosystems.

Participating cottage and lake associations will be couriered all of the necessary equipment to obtain plankton samples from their lake. The samples are then returned to the O.F.A.H. for analysis.

If you would like to participate in this exciting program, please contact the O.F.A.H. Invading Species Hotline (1-800-563-7711) or email invading_species@ofah.org to register.





Carolinian Canada Signature Sites

1. Rouge River Valley	14. Six Nations Indian Reserve Forests	26. Shetland Kentucky Coffee-tree Woods
2. Iroquois Shoreline Woods	15. Embro Upland Forest	27. Sydenham River Corridor
3. Sassafras Woods	16. Oriskany Sandstone and Woodlands	28. Walpole Island First Nation
4. Boviory Swamp	17. Delhi Big Creek Valley	29. Lake St. Clair Marshes
5. Dundas Valley	18. St. Williams Dwarf Oak Forest	30. Sinclair's Bush
6. Grimsby-Winona Escarpment and Beamers Valley	19. Big Creek Valley - South	31. Ojibway Prairie Remnants
7. Jordan Escarpment Valley	20. Walsingham Sand Ridges	32. Canard River Kentucky Coffee-tree Woods
8. Caislor-Camborough Slough Forest	21. Dorchester Swamp	33. Big Creek Marsh
9. Fonthill Sandhill Valley	22. Skunk's Misery	34. Oxley Poison Sumac Marsh
10. Willoughby Clay Plain	23. Catfish Creek Slope and Floodplain Forest	35. Cedar Creek
11. Point Abino Peninsula Sandland Forest	24. Port Franks Wetlands and Forested Dunes	36. Middle Point Woods
12. Sudden Bog	25. Ausable River Valley	37. Stone Road Alvar
13. Grand River Valley Forests and Spoliswood Lakes	26. Plum Creek Upland Woodlots	38. Middle Island

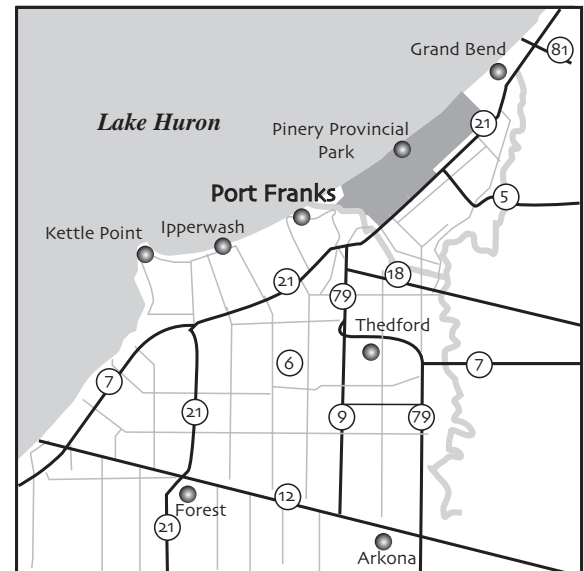
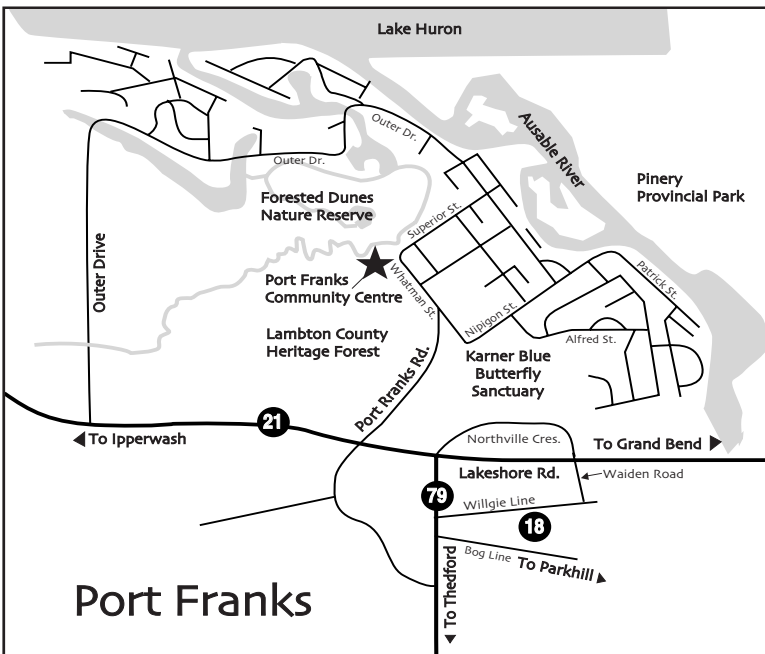
Source: Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
Note: This map is for illustration purposes only. Do not rely on it as a precise indication of routes, locations, or features nor as a guide to navigation.
© Carolinian Canada 2003

Think Big, Wild Ideas, Oct. 1-2



In 1984, Carolinian Canada identified 38 sites in a study of critical natural areas. Join Carolinian Canada at the Port Franks Wetlands and Forested Dunes (Signature Site #23 on map) for our 20th Anniversary Conference and Annual General Meeting. Autumn Colour Field Trips will explore this site, including nature reserves managed by Lambton Wildlife Inc., the Karner Blue Sanctuary and Pinery Provincial Park. Other trips will take you to Rock Glen in the Ausable River Valley (#24) and the prairie of Walpole Island First Nation (#28).

Register Early!



CAROLINIAN CANADA 20th ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Space is limited. Reserve Early & On-line at www.carolinian.org

**** PLEASE PRINT** Port Franks Community Hall (Smoke-free) • Oct 1-2, 2004 ** PLEASE PRINT****

Name (to appear on tag) _____

Affiliation / Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

Carolinian Canada 2004-05 Membership			
<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Individual / Family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Organization	\$

Full Conference Package			
<i>Includes Friday & Saturday Seminars, lunches, Banquet & Basic Field Trip.</i>			
<input type="checkbox"/> \$135 Carolinian Canada Member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150 Non-member		\$
<input type="checkbox"/> \$99 before Sept 1 for	<input type="checkbox"/> Student	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-profit Volunteer	

Partial Conference			
<input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Friday Seminars with lunch	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40 Saturday Seminars & Field Trip with lunch		
<input type="checkbox"/> \$35 20 th Anniversary Banquet with Keynote Speaker, Friday evening			\$
<i>All participants are invited to the True South Wine & Cheese, Annual General Meeting and Karner Blue Sanctuary Hike on Friday, and Early Birding on Saturday, at no charge.</i>			

Saturday Field Trips			
<i>Choose a field trip if you register for Full conference or Saturday. Note extra fee for trips 6 & 7.</i>			
<i>1st Choice trip # _____ If full, your alternate choice is trip # _____</i>			
1. Port Franks Wetlands & Forested Dunes and Karner Blue Sanctuary			Enter extra fee or rental fee for 1 st choice if applicable: \$
2. Rock Glen in the Ausable Gorge			
3. Family fun in Pinery PP# children _____ under 12 (free with paying adult)			
4. Bicycle tour in Pinery PP, weather permitting			
<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Bicycle rental	<input type="checkbox"/> Bring your own Bicycle		
5. Aquatic Ecosystems by Canoe in Pinery PP, weather permitting			
<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Canoe rental per person.	<input type="checkbox"/> Bring your own Canoe		
Canoe partner if known _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> 6. \$10 Stewardship Bus Tour			
<input type="checkbox"/> 7. \$10 Walpole Island First Nation (Full Day with lunch, Note that this field trip runs concurrently with Saturday Seminars)			

Meals			
Banquet choice:	<input type="checkbox"/> Chicken	<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian	Special dietary requirements:

Display Space			
<i>2 Meters at no charge for CC members. Limited availability. Does not include conference registration or meals.</i>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Wall poster	<input type="checkbox"/> Table	<input type="checkbox"/> Floor display	Special requirements:

Please Indicate		
<input type="checkbox"/> Check if you agree to include your name in the participants list in the conference program		
<input type="checkbox"/> Check if you cannot climb stairs. The main halls are easily accessible; however, we cannot guarantee access to all sessions. Please call early to discuss possible arrangements.		

Accommodation

Participants must arrange their own accommodation. If possible, let us know where you are staying:

WIN! WALPOLE ISLAND THUNDERBIRD QUILT!	# tickets _____ @ \$5	\$
Can't make it to the conference? Anyone can enter!		

Send Registration Form with Payment to: Carolinian Canada Conference, 1017 Western Rd., London, ON N6G 1G5 FAX: (519) 229-8091	TOTAL Make Cheques payable to Carolinian Canada	\$
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Reserve your place fast! Enter this information ONLINE at www.carolinian.org and mail your cheque. (7)

What's Happening in the Big Picture?

A Marsh for All Seasons

Just west of Colchester on Lake Erie, Lypps Beach Marsh has one of the best remaining natural dynamic beaches unprotected in Carolinian Canada. A provincially significant wetland, it is home to many birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and other wildlife. At the convergence of several streams and runoff from tiled agricultural fields, it is part of an interconnected network of watercourses, flood plains, wetland and other habitat used by farther ranging species such as the globally significant Fox Snake. These wetlands perform many vital functions including the cleansing of water before it returns to Lake Erie, important habitat for the endangered Lake Erie Water Snake.

A development of 120 homes is planned surrounding the marsh separated by a 40 meter buffer and fences. Friends of Lypps Beach Marsh are concerned that houses, fences and roads will obstruct the natural connections of the marsh, possibly leading to genetic stagnation and loss of species. George Brackx of the Friends believes that "Boxing in this area by surrounding it with homes and roads will ultimately kill this wetland. Southern Ontario has seen a reduction of its wetlands from 28% to less than 5%. The fragmentation of the remaining wetland areas is killing them off, especially as we box them in ever more tightly, fencing the yards, and allowing household pets to roam in natural areas and prey on native species." The rare snakes are also a target of people who are not aware of their importance to the Carolinian ecosystem, and persecute them or capture them for recreation.

The Provincial Policy Statement points to the need to plan carefully in order to avoid the need for costly remedial measures. The Friends are working to find a planning solution and initiate stewardship actions and youth education programs to prevent potential adverse impacts. As Brackx says, "I am advocating for the marsh, for its inhabitants, and for our future. The continual encroachment and destruction of these precious areas speaks volumes about our disregard for the health and wellbeing of the environment and the legacy we are leaving for our children."

Friends of Lypps Beach Marsh welcome donations, ideas and assistance in this project.
489 Lypps Beach Rd., RR 3 Harrow, ON N0R 1G0, LYPPS-MARSH@aol.com.

Submit your story! The Carolinian Canada Newsletter welcomes submissions and perspectives from across the Carolinian Big Picture to stimulate discussion of innovative ideas for our natural heritage.

Think Big, Wild Ideas, Oct. 1-2



Join Carolinian Canada for the "Citizen's Green Toolkit". As we continue to lose green spaces and agricultural lands, it is increasingly up to individuals and community groups to protect our natural heritage. In this session we'll explore some of the tools that can be used to protect these areas. Find out what you can do when a favourite natural area is threatened, learn how you can get involved at the start to help prevent this from happening, and hear from local groups who worked to protect nature and won.

Register Early!



Bald Eagle on the hunt over the Lypps Beach Marsh.

New Publication

Birds on the Farm – A Stewardship Guide

This booklet is packed with glossy, full colour photos of birds that frequent rural and farm areas, and the crisp layout of the pocket-sized publication makes it an easy and enjoyable read. Written by Erin McGauley and edited by Gregor G. Beck and Ann Bell, it is Ontario Nature – Federation of Ontario Naturalists' newest publication. The book focuses on improving habitat around farms and rural areas, and demonstrates the link between bird-friendly farming and nature.

Highlighted throughout the guide book are some of the most readily available ecological management techniques that help protect birds and their habitat. Techniques such as conservation tillage, riparian buffer strips and integrated pest management play important roles in enhancing and creating bird habitat on farms. Each technique is briefly outlined, as are the economic, environmental and/or social benefits of their implementation. Various bird species that may benefit from each management technique are named, and each chapter includes stunning photography and profiles of one to three bird species that benefit from the techniques noted.

If you are interested in learning more about improving bird habitat on your land, you can order your copy of *Birds on the Farm* from Ontario Nature for \$8 each (or \$6 each for orders of 10 or more), plus GST and shipping. Please call 1-800-440-2366 or 416-444-8419 or email info@ontarionature.org.

Big Picture Networks

Natural Heritage Planning Energizes Crowd

By Julie Ryan

Carolinian Canada's symposium, "Natural Heritage Planning: Restoration Ecology for The Big Picture" brought together over 120 municipal planners, conservation authority planners, ecological consultants, landowners and students in London on May 11.

The day-long symposium focussed on how the three R's of restoration ecology – rehabilitation, reclamation and recreation – are used as tools in natural heritage planning. Conservation experts from around Ontario presented workshops on the restoration work they are engaged in. The workshop topics centred on woodlands, watercourses, wetlands, and urban issues.

"We were very pleased with the quality of the presentations," said Michelle Kanter, Executive Director of Carolinian Canada. "I think people came away with a better understanding of how to move towards the Big Picture in their local context, using systems of core natural areas and connecting habitat corridors."

"The energy of the symposium was very exciting," said Bill DeYoung, symposium organizer. "People were scribbling notes furiously during the workshops, and engaged in discussion and debate throughout the day."

Carolinian Canada will distribute the proceedings, which will include additional planning resources to symposium attendees and municipal and conservation authority planners throughout the Carolinian Zone. You may order a copy of the proceedings, by sending \$10 to Carolinian Canada.

This symposium was made possible through in-kind donations from the University of Western Ontario, City of London, Upper Thames River, St. Clair and Grand River Conservation Authorities, and the generous sponsorship of:



Public consultation until September 24

Places to Grow: Better Choices. Brighter Future. A Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe

The Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal invites you to attend a public information session in July on the government's vision for growth in the Greater Golden Horseshoe and provide comments on their discussion paper.

www.placestogrow.pir.gov.on.ca, 1-866-479-9781

Public consultation until August 31

Building Stronger, Better Communities: Planning Reform

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing invites you to participate in e-consultation on a series of three discussion papers and questionnaires on planning reform that have been prepared for your review and comment. Paper copies are also available.

www.mah.gov.on.ca, 1-866-751-8082,
planningreform@mah.gov.on.ca

Think Big, Wild Ideas, Oct. 1-2



Join Carolinian Canada "Tools for Thinking Big" with talks on Securing Core Areas, Eco-regional Planning and Smart Growth Land Use Planning. Various planning issues are currently in the forefront in Ontario that will guide natural heritage policy and decisions. This session will highlight the draft Provincial Policy Statement, Smart Growth Initiatives in Carolinian Canada and natural heritage strategies.

Register Early!

Across the Zone

July 9 to August 27

"A Sense of Place - Celebrating the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve"

Carnegie Gallery, Dundas Ontario

The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre is presenting its 2nd annual Niagara Escarpment-inspired art and photography exhibition and sale - an evocative opportunity to explore the diversity and global significance of this UNESCO designated World Biosphere Reserve. Includes works from over 50 of Ontario's award winning and internationally recognized artists and photographers such as Robert Bateman. On July 15, the Dundas Museum at 139 Park Ave West will host an evening multi-media show "The Niagara Escarpment - North to South" at 7:00 pm. Barbara Rusnak, 905) 690-3332, gianttrib@hamilton.ca, www.gianttrib.org

August 25 - 27

Canadian Society of Landscape Ecology and Management (CSLEM)

Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo

Exchange information on current research in oral & poster presentations. Discuss directions for CSLEM, establish a new executive & working groups. Rob Milne, rmilne@wlu.ca, 519-884-0710 x2533.

Restoration on the Farm

Prairie: August 18 Forests: September 15

Clear Creek Forest area

Join Mathis Natvik for a tour of restoration projects on his family farm and at Clear Creek. You will see projects ranging from 1 to 50 years old including conifer plantations, hardwood plantations, successional forests, directly seeded forests, fields restored using the pit and mound technique pioneered at Clear Creek Forest, old mature forest and remnant Tallgrass Prairie possibly thousands of years old. The techniques of establishing prairie or encourage forest diversity quickly will be discussed. Tours start at 1 pm, meet at 14738 McDonald Line, 5km south of Highgate in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, \$10. Mathis Natvik, (519) 678-3866, www.carolinianplants.com

Community Greening Project Registry & Native Plant Database

Visit Evergreen's new and improved Project Registry which profiles nation-wide naturalization projects. This online database enables you to learn about how groups across Canada are making their schools, homes and communities greener; find volunteer opportunities for projects near you; and share information about your project. Evergreen also provides a database of native plants for use in greening projects. www.evergreen.ca

@ Risk

From Cambridge to Reykjavik: The Journey of a Thousand Miles Begins with a Single Seed...

By Heather Webb

*A sailor's wife had chestnuts in her lap,
And munch'd, and munch'd, and munch'd:
Macbeth: I,iii*

*American Chestnut
Castanea dentata ("Castanea", a town in the Roman empire +
"toothed")
Status: Threatened (COSEWIC)**

The story of the once mighty American Chestnut is a tragic example of the dangers posed by invasive species. Up to ten feet in diameter and a hundred feet tall, this behemoth of the Carolinian forests was once an important source of wood, food and income in eastern North America. A mature tree – rare today – has a rounded crown of large, dentate (toothed) leaves from which it derives its scientific name. In June or July, the canopy explodes in aromatic, creamy yellow catkin blossoms. The bark splits as the tree ages, and the wood is straight grained, lighter than oak and easily worked. The American Chestnut originally ranged from Maine west through southern Ontario and Michigan, and south to Georgia. It was particularly prevalent in the Appalachian Mountains, where it constituted over 25 percent of forest stands, and in some places formed pure stands.

However around 1904, Chinese chestnuts infected with the chestnut blight *Cryphonectria parasitica* were accidentally introduced into the United States. This fungus infects the tree through cracks in the bark and quickly spreads around the trunk, girdling the tree. The portion of the tree above the fungus dies off, as do the new shoots the tree attempts to send out. By 1950 nearly all American Chestnuts in the eastern deciduous forests were dead.

Recovery efforts for the chestnut are ongoing. The American Chestnut Foundation is currently working to produce a genetically American Chestnut that has the Asian Chestnut blight resistance. And a new program in Iceland may provide unexpected recovery assistance. Once about 30% forested with Downey Birch, Iceland's land base was cleared for agriculture by the Vikings over a thousand years ago. Almost all the forest was removed, and over the centuries soil erosion has



become a major problem. The Icelandic government is now working to restore the forests and is experimenting with a variety of tree species, as the Downey Birch is a small, slow grower. Enter the American Chestnut. A fast-growing tree with excellent wood and tasty nuts is apparently just what Icelandic gardeners are looking for, and so the Grand River Conservation Authority has sent over some seeds at Iceland's request. Despite the surprisingly temperate Icelandic climate, it's not expected that the chestnut will be able to survive in forests. But even if it can survive in gardens and backyards, Icelandic American Chestnuts would serve as an isolated genetic pool safe from the blight.



Chestnut Lore:

- ◆ Appalachian legend claims that a squirrel could once chestnut tree-hop from Maine to Georgia without touching the ground.
- ◆ According to ancient Celtic tradition, those born between May 15 and 24, and November 12 and 21 are born under the Chestnut tree. They are said to be unusually beautiful, with a well-developed sense of justice.
- ◆ The legendary Castagno dei Cento Cavalli (The Chestnut Tree of a Hundred Horses) was 52 m in circumference – it sheltered Queen Joan I of Anjou and her entire retinue from a sudden rainstorm.
- ◆ Mount Olympus is said to have had an abundance of chestnut trees.

To find out more about the American Chestnut, check out the links below:

The American Chestnut Foundation: www.acf.org
Species at Risk (Environment Canada):
www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca
The Canadian Chestnut Council:
www.uoguelph.ca/~chestnut/

* Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada

Think Big, Wild Ideas, Oct. 1-2



Join Carolinian Canada for "Species & Ecosystems @ Risk" with sessions on new & improved action plans for government, conservation & farm, recovery strategies for Carolinian Forest, Aquatic Ecosystems, Prairies & Dunes. See @ Risk species & ecosystems first-hand on our fall colour field trips to the Karner Blue Sanctuary, Walpole Island, Rock Glen and by canoe in the Ausable.

Register Early!

Conference Accomodation

Explore the Flavour of the Lambton and Huron Coasts!

Participants must arrange their own accommodation for the conference and there are many options to choose from in the Port Franks area. The conference hall is right next door to Pinery Provincial Park and Grand Bend, major tourism destinations. It is the off-season, so rates tend to be lower and availability higher, but book early, to ensure a comfortable stay. You can camp, yurt or bunk in the lodge in the Pinery and other local campgrounds. Many local bed and breakfasts are a great way to get to know the area. Inns such as the Coral Reef Inn and the Oakwood Resort and Spa offer a variety of amenities. Check www.tourismsarnialambton.com, 1-800-265-0316 for listings in the North Lambton, Lake Huron, Port Franks & Grand Bend links. Or call Carolinian Canada (519) 433-7077 for a list of sites.

Win Thunderbird Quilt!

Carolinian Canada is proud to present the Thunderbird Quilt generously donated by the Walpole Island Heritage Centre. The quilt-making team of Willie "Rennie" (Mii scut ta maa – Ojibwe for Storm Coming) and Cindy (Maan da qua – Ojibwe for Pretty Woman) Shipman are from the Walpole Island First Nation. Cindy learned to make quilts in the 1970s, while Willie first learned to sew from his mother and was later taught to quilt by his wife Cindy. Since then, they have been making quilts as gifts for family members, for special purchase orders, and for community fundraising events. Their quilt tops placed 1st in Fall Fair contests held on Walpole Island First Nation and Wikwemikong Unceded Territory in the early 1990s. Willie and Cindy welcome orders for quilts and blankets including any specific design desired.



The Thunderbird Quilt was made in three days by the creative team of Willie and Cindy Shipman this spring. The pattern includes a Thunderbird, which represents the message that we share each day with others. The quilt also includes four coloured ribbons that signify four traditional teachings. The white ribbon represents the north direction and healing; the yellow ribbon represents the east direction and vision; the red ribbon represents the south direction and strength; and the black ribbon represents the west direction and relationships.

The above was shared by Cindy Shipman



The Thunderbird Quilt will be on display at the fall conference. The draw will take place in December 2004. \$5 Tickets are available to anyone interested in supporting conservation in the Carolinian life zone. Entry form at www.carolinian.org or use the registration form attached. Even if you can't make it to the conference, your support makes a difference!

Dr. Reed Noss

Thinking Big Keynote Address

Dr. Reed Noss, an international expert in landscape ecology will join us from the University of Florida for a keynote address at our Friday banquet thanks to the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation. He is a world leader in regional conservation planning focusing on long-term survival of wild species over centuries and millennia. He has worked on or advised projects ranging from regional to continental scales, in the Pacific Northwest, California, the Rocky Mountains of the U.S. and Canada, parts of Latin America and Europe, the Wildlands Project and Ontario's Oak Ridges Moraine.

Through his work, he has pioneered methods to model natural systems in order to test what amount of habitat is needed to ensure species survival under a variety of conditions. He is author of over 140 publications including such definitive works as "Saving Nature's Legacy: Protecting and Restoring Biodiversity". Many of his papers focus on integrating conservation into planning, forestry and other sectors. His work on identifying components for healthy natural heritage systems provided the basis of Carolinian Canada's Big Picture analysis.



Dr. Noss is the former Editor-in-Chief of Conservation Biology (premier journal in the field); past President of the Society for Conservation Biology; & recipient of the Edward T. LaRoe III Memorial Award, the highest honour of the Society for Conservation Biology, for outstanding achievement in translating the principles of conservation biology to policy and management.



CAROLINIAN CANADA 

20th Anniversary Conference & Annual General Meeting

Hosted by Lambton Wildlife Incorporated
October 1-2, 2004, Port Franks on Lake Huron

Thinking Big, Wild Ideas

Conserving Carolinian Landscapes & Species-at-Risk Join Us to Celebrate 20 years of Success & Dream Wild Ideas for the next 20!



20 Years: Reflecting on Accomplishments, Challenges & Leading-edge actions.

Species-at-Risk in Big Picture Landscapes

Working Together across Landscapes & Ecosystems with Landowners, Recovery Teams, Planners & Communities

In My Back Yard (Lambton, Essex, Middlesex)

Exploring nearby Carolinian west coast Hotspots & Ideas that Work in innovative Stewardship, Protection & Restoration

Friday October 1 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Wild Ideas: Plenaries, Panels & Concurrent Sessions with Carolinian Canada founders, prominent researchers, Recovery Team experts, public policy makers, landowners, stewardship and conservation leaders.

Species & Ecosystems at Risk

New & Improved Action Plans: Federal, Provincial, aquatic
Carolinian Forest Recovery: A new strategy
Aquatic Species & Ecosystems Recovery: Ausable, Thames, Sydenham
Landscape & Ecosystem Recovery: Prairies & Dunes,

Tools for Thinking Big

Securing Core Protected Areas: Lake Erie, Provincial Reserves, Land Trusts
Eco-regional Planning for Nature & People: Municipalities & Watersheds, Unveiling the Great Lakes Ecoregion Conservation Blueprint
Smart Growth Land Use Planning: Local, Provincial & Rural perspectives

People Power for Conservation

Making Conservation Work for People: Evolution of Landowner Contact, E-technology for Landowners, Youth in Conservation
Environmental Stewardship in Ontario Agriculture: Environmental Farm Plans, Riparian Buffers, Policy changes

Canada



George Cedric Metcalf Charitable Foundation



Friday Evening Celebration

True South Wine & Cheese

Carolinian Canada Annual General Meeting and Karner Blue Sanctuary Walk

7 p.m. 20th Anniversary Banquet and Conservation Awards

Keynote Address: "Thinking Big" by Dr. Reed Noss, University of Central Florida

A world leader in conservation biology and cross-sector solutions in land conservation, Dr. Noss pioneered concepts that are the foundation of the Carolinian Big Picture and numerous leading-edge programs from Latin America to the Oak Ridges Moraine. Former Editor-in-Chief of Conservation Biology and author of such keystone books as "Saving Nature's Legacy: Protecting and Restoring Biodiversity" & "Ecological Integrity: Integrating Environment, Conservation, and Health."



Saturday, October 2

7 a.m. Early Bird at Grand Bend Lagoons

9 a.m. Full Day Field Trip to Walpole Island First Nations & Bickford Oak Woods

Win a Walpole Island Quilt

9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Wild Ideas Plenary & Concurrent Sessions

with Carolinian experts, local ecologists, volunteers and leading landowners

Keeping it Wild!

Natural Gems on the Carolinian west coast
Wildlife from microbes to mammals
Wild Ideas: Innovative community stewardship programs

Citizen's Green Toolkit

What you can do: When a favourite natural area is threatened
Wild Ideas: Strategies for prevention
Local successes: Win-win for communities.

From the Ground Up

Rural stewardship successes
Updates on incentives, funding & policies for landowners
Wild Ideas for habitat restoration



Afternoon Field Trips: Carolinian Hotspots in Fall Colours

Species & Ecosystems at Risk

Port Franks Forested Dunes and Karner Blue Sanctuary
Aquatic Ecosystems by Canoe

Stewardship Bus Tour

Visit demonstration sites & conservation projects showcasing a range of public and private action on the land.

Extreme Nature at The Pinery

Bicycle Tour: A habitat restoration odyssey from Pines to Oak Savanna & Dunes.
Family Fun: Activities along the trail for kids & parents.



CAROLINIAN CANADA CONFERENCE FALL 2004

For more information call 519-433-7077 or look us up on the web at www.carolinian.org