



REFUGEE

THE NATURE TRUST OF NEW BRUNSWICK INC.

LA FONDATION POUR LA PROTECTION DES SITES NATURELS DU NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK, INC.

www.naturetrust.nb.ca

Newsletter/Bulletin

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July 2006

DISCOVERING LAND TRUSTS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

By Margo Sheppard, Executive Director

In March I was extremely fortunate to be invited on a seven-day land trust study tour of the Czech Republic organized by the Czech Union for the Conservation of Nature (CSOP) and the Quebec-Labrador Foundation.

Participants included land trust representatives from Spain, Brasil, Serbia, the United States and Canada. A small but colourful group, we welcomed the chance to tour the compact Republic led by our Czech guides, visiting numerous land trusts and studying their projects, facilities and approaches to conserving natural areas.

The Czech Republic is a picturesque country of ten million inhabitants which is a study of contrasts. Urban and rural areas sit side-by-side, distinct and separate and with little in-between urban sprawl. Brightly painted and well-maintained 18th Century buildings adjoin Communist-era apartment buildings, so delapidated they belie their relative youth. The people were at first wary of us, yet when prompted, quickly showed a friendly and open manner when asked all sorts of probing questions. (Continued on p. 3)

PAGAN POINT OPENING PLANNED

A seaside celebration is planned on August 10th to welcome the public to our newest nature preserve, Pagan Point, in St. Andrews. Join us for walks, refreshments and review preliminary plans for making the preserve an even more integral part of the community. (See p. 6 for details)



Saltwater ponds and marsh complex in the new 30 acre Pagan Point preserve, donated by the Meighen and Welstead families in 2005.

Margo Sheppard

TAX HURDLE CLEARED

CAPITAL GAINS CHANGE BENEFITS LAND TRUSTS

Canadians may now make donations of ecologically sensitive land without incurring capital gains taxes. So says the federal government's budget announced May 2, 2006.

Odd though it may sound, before this measure was introduced, donors of land to an organization like the Nature Trust were subject to capital gains taxes. Their gifts were treated by the government as if they were sales. The gift (or, as Revenue Canada regarded these transactions, *sales*, similar to when you sold land or a cottage) triggered a tax on the market value gains even though these gains were never realized.

Perverse incentives like this have dissuaded some donors from conserving their land. US donors of land in Canada have been particularly hard-hit, due to the additional difficulty of obtaining a usable (in the US) charitable tax receipt for their gifts. The Trust is hopeful the new rule will apply to these individuals as well.

Says Thea Silver of the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), "These measures are the culmination of years of work by NCC and many other organizations/individuals...and will greatly benefit the land trust community across the country (thanks also to those of you who sent in letters to Finance Minister Flaherty--this certainly had an influence)."

The Nature Trust has sent numerous Ministerial letters on this topic over the years and in April highlighted the issue to Fredericton Member of Parliament Andy Scott and Liberal Leadership candidate Stéphane Dion. The May Budget also introduced measures exempting gifts of securities to charities from capital gains taxes.

MS



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*WE PUBLISH ITEMS
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*NOUS PUBLIONS DES
ARTICLES EN FRANÇAIS
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NOUS N'AVONS PAS LA
POSSIBILITÉ DE LES
TRADUIRE, SAUF EN DES
CAS EXCEPTIONNELS.*

There is seldom a dull moment for those involved in the operation of the Nature Trust of New Brunswick. The negotiations concerning the donation of land are always exciting, rarely straight-forward, time consuming and frequently frustrating. Hopefully, we will be able to announce shortly the completion of the donation of our 25th preserve, while two other important properties are hung-up in discussions with the federal tax department and coping with the radical changes occurring in the provincial forestry industry.

The Nature Trust is very lucky in that it is approached regularly concerning the donation of property. These inquiries pose a variety of opportunities and challenges. In order to provide guidance and to help shape our future, the Board of Trustees has developed and approved at

its April 2006 meeting a policy on land donations.

The Board of Trustees also approved a new position, called Trustee Emeritus. It was recog-

**A WORD FROM THE
PRESIDENT**

nized that after having served for a time, Trustees have a stake in the Nature Trust and have developed considerable expertise. However, after six consecutive years on the Board, a Trustee is required to step down. We hope that the position of Trustee Emeritus will provide an opportunity to remain active in the affairs of the corporation and to allow Nature Trust to continue to benefit from their expertise and interest.

I am pleased to note that Margo Sheppard, our Executive Director, has been offered, and she has accepted, a position as an officer on the board of the newly formed Canadian Land Trust Alliance. Margo is well respected in the environmental community and the Nature Trust benefits from her many contacts.

With the twentieth anniversary of the Nature Trust fast approaching, it is time to reflect on past achievements and set a carefully considered course for the future. What are the challenges to be faced? What are realistic goals? It is a time for reflection. The continued support from members of Nature Trust is greatly appreciated and I would encourage members to get involved in helping to shape the next twenty years.

Best regards to all,

Bob Dallison

DIRECTOR'S PROFILE: JANE TIMS

Jane Tims has been a member of the Nature Trust since 1992 and a trustee since 2003. She has a solid background in biology and botany, and strong interests in natural history and conservation.



Jane Tims

"I joined the Nature Trust in part because I respected the work of Bill Ayer as its president," she says, continuing, "I keep participating because I see that stewardship and land trusts are our best approach to ensuring examples of New Brunswick's natural areas are here for future generations to appreciate and enjoy."

Jane's participation in the Nature Trust has often been closely related to her work with the NB Department of Environment. She was involved throughout the 1980's and 1990's in developing the Nature Trust's Environmentally Significant Areas Database which she uses regularly in her

work on community and environmental planning. During her 28-year career at the Department she's been able to apply her understanding of the environment and her botanical expertise.

A director of the Halifax Field Naturalists in the 1970's, Jane spent enjoyable evenings at the Halifax Museum frying up chanterelles for fellow naturalists and leading winter field hikes. Jane worked for a week each summer with the Canadian Nature Federation, guiding naturalists on tours to Grand Manan Island. On the topic of islands, she reflects "I am so impressed by the dedication of our staff and personally proud of the diversity and beauty of the properties we've been able to protect. The protection of coastal islands is a particularly fine goal since I think they're uniquely 'New Brunswick' in terms of their numbers and ecology."

During her expeditions Jane honed her botanizing skills and became interested in how the scientific and colloquial names of plants reflect their structural and habitat characteristics. Taxonomy was gradually replaced with writing and the first of many poems on the names of plants (see page 5). She has published poems in several literary journals including the *Fiddlehead*, *Whetstone*, and the *Antigonish Review*.

Jane lives with her husband and son in the Rusagonis woods in a home they built themselves.

NATIONAL ALLIANCE BORN

CANADIAN LAND TRUST ALLIANCE INCORPORATES

A new country-wide alliance of land trusts has formed to advance and promote the cause of land conservation. The Canadian Land Trust Alliance (CLTA) received its incorporation papers in June. The CLTA will represent land trusts and allied conservation organizations by promoting awareness of and support for the movement in Canada to the public, federal government and its agencies.

Like its American counterpart the Land Trust Alliance, CLTA will bring member trusts together, provide information and lobby for better legislation to facilitate our work. Standards and Practices and, ultimately, accreditation of participating land trusts, will be on its list of top priorities.

The CLTA will be formally launched at the Valuing Nature Conference in Corner Brook, Newfoundland in July, 2006.

CROSS-BORDER TAX RELIEF COMING

A new program is being developed by the Nova Scotia Nature Trust. The newly incorporated 501(c)(3) "American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts" will act as a vehicle for donations to Canadian land trusts from our US friends. This new entity will allow US supporters full tax benefits for donations in support of individual Canadian trusts. AFCLT is seeking directors for its board. Applicants should contact Bonnie Sutherland, Executive Director, Nova Scotia Nature Trust at nature@nsnt.ca.

CZECH REPUBLIC (continued from page 1)

Our guides informed us that when communism lifted in 1989, private land ownership was restored, yet sixty per cent of the land base is still owned by the state or municipalities. The remaining forty per cent is the focus of a growing community of land trusts organized under the umbrella of the CSOP, the groups' national association. There are sixty land trusts in the Czech Republic, which is roughly the same size as New Brunswick.



Study tour group at Czech land trust office.



Orchid meadow (lower left) in White Carpathian Mountains, Czech Republic.

Of the land trusts we visited, a major focus was orchids and their protection. The myriad orchid species found here occupy fields where for centuries farmers mowed by hand using scythes. The increase in farm machinery size, use of herbicides and the amalgamation of fields have meant the loss of this habitat and concern for the orchids' future. Scything parties are a regular type of workday for volunteers here, an interesting example of managing a man-made landscape to conserve a native species.

The legislative framework in the Czech Republic is not exactly hospitable for land trusts or conducive to philanthropy. For example, there is no such thing as a charitable organization: a for-profit corporation and non-profit advocacy group are, according to our hosts, regarded as one and the same under current laws. As a consequence, and certainly reflective of the holdover effects of communism, the incidence of land being donated by private individuals for conservation is extremely rare. Public support in the form of membership in land trusts is also low; these groups receive funding from the European Union and some from municipalities, but for projects, not operations. As a result, many are run entirely by volunteers, on shoestring budgets.

Despite this great things are happening. We visited land trusts that were operating tree nurseries, creating wildlife corridors, rehabilitating injured animals and stream channels, repairing old ruin foundations and creating public resting places. A land trust we called on operated a reed-bed sewage system for a village of 2,000. Another, the Vlasim Land Trust, managed a Chateau Park, complete with Chinese pavilion, chateau and several large, baroque-period buildings. The operations were varied, ambitious and in every place we visited, run by people who had an obvious and deep commitment to their work and the mission of their organizations.

A huge debt of gratitude is owed to the CSOP and the Quebec-Labrador Foundation (QLF) for including the Nature Trust of New Brunswick in this exceptional tour. We hope to return the favour someday by hosting an Eastern Canada land trust study tour in conjunction with QLF.

MS

SEEKING HIDDEN TREASURES

GPS AND GEOCACHING FOR THE NOVICE

Hand-held GPS (Global Positioning System) receivers are heavily used by technicians working in the fields of forestry and surveying, and even by land trust personnel. They also have a certain cachet for others seeking a higher-tech approach to navigating the outdoors, beyond the map and compass.

Based on a system of 29 satellites orbiting the Earth, a GPS receiver detects and records the user's precise position on the planet. Once a series of points is recorded, simply put, the GPS can guide you back to any of these points, and can be used to produce a map of where you've been. Property boundaries, or spot locations like rare plants or big trees, may be recorded. Precision varies with model and satellite coverage, of course, but the average \$350 model will have an accuracy of ten meters, give or take.

A new way of combining this gadgetry with a childhood passion, the scavenger hunt, emerged in Canada about six years ago. Known as 'geocaching,' this worldwide sport is based on a hide-and-go-seek premise whereby small caches—and these can be as small as a film canister with a miniature logbook or larger, Tupperware box with gift certificates or trinkets—are hidden in outdoor locations. Their precise coordinates (latitude and longitude) are posted on the internet, where others can note them, then go out themselves in search of the treasure.

A geocache cottage industry of sorts has sprung up since 2000 when the first Canadian cache was placed near Halifax. Two east-coast geocaching associations now connect enthusiasts in the Maritime provinces. Typing in an 'E3B' postal code on www.geocaching.com shows the locations and even some pictures of the 475 places where the secret treasures are found in and around Fredericton. A Moncton postal code turns up 1,045 sites; Rothesay 552. The sites range from burial grounds to farmers' fields. During this visit, one (and there are likely more) Nature Trust property was found to host a cache.

Edith McCormack of Riverview, NB is an active geocacher, finding 74 caches since she began in March. Her children, now aged 33, 29 and 27 first got her interested in the sport, which she describes as "fun and addictive." "Geocaches appeal to all ages" says Christopher Gibbons of Halifax who goes searching with his younger family members. Ideal for those who

love spending time outdoors, it is also an activity for the environmentally conscious. Gibbons and his family practice "CITO" (cache in-trash out) stating "It keeps the trails clean for future hikers, dog walkers...and well, everybody."

A type of geocache called an Earthcache is a place people visit to learn about a unique geoscience feature or aspect of the Earth. Unlike the caches described above, these do not use containers. Instead, along with coordinates is educational material on how the site formed and why it is important scientifically. Four New Brunswick locations were found during a brief search of the 500 Earthcaches on www.geosociety.org. One of these is an underground lake south of Moncton.

In time these intriguing destinations and the challenge they present may prove a great motivation for people to get up, get outside and enjoy the interesting but little-known corners of this beautiful province. MS

Learn GPS the Easy Way

On Saturday September 23rd the Nature Trust will offer a fun Saturday workshop called **GPS and Geocaching for the Novice.***

Volunteer leaders Bryan Price (4th year UNB forestry student), Mike Wolfe (professional geomatics engineer) and Bernie Connors (GPS Manager, NB Dept. of Environment) will lead participants through the history and basics of GPS, how it works and how it can help you navigate the woods of New Brunswick.

Topics to be covered include: using a hand-held model; different makes and price ranges; marking waypoints; navigating using GPS; and basic mapping. On geocaching, we'll cover: getting started; making and finding caches, and using the internet to plan and log caches. After the classroom session, we'll head out to a Nature Trust preserve in the Fredericton area to put new-found GPS skills to work plotting a trail and hunting hidden treasure. See Upcoming Events (p. 6) for details and to register.

*All registrants qualify to win a canoe excursion with **Gibson Creek Canoeing**. Note: This is an introductory workshop suitable for novices and children. In future we may consider more advanced sessions for intermediate and advanced levels.

Types of Caches

Traditional

Consists of a container and logbook. Small items may be taken, but a replacement is left in place. Coordinates listed on geocache.com website.

Micro-cache

A fun variation on the traditional. Generally have logbook only (which may also be 'micro' and hidden in a mini-container).

Multi-cache

Involves two or more locations, the final being a physical container. The first cache provides a hint to the second cache, and the second has hints to the third, and so on.

Mystery Cache

This form of cache can involve complicated puzzles you first need to solve to determine the coordinates.

Virtual Cache

This is actually a location, not a physical container with items. It could be a location, an interesting spot, a task etc.

Locationless Cache

The opposite of a traditional cache, you're given a task to locate an object and log its coordinates. A scavenger hunt.

Earthcache

A special place where coordinates include scientific information about the site. Geology and geophysical processes are the emphasis.

ISLAND CLEANUP 2006

This year's outing participants set sail from Black's Harbour (August 12, 10:00 am) bound for the **Letang Islands Nature Preserve**, a string of islands located near Back Bay in the Letang Harbour. We welcome volunteers of all ages. Please register with the Nature Trust office (Caroline) at 457-2398 or info@ntnb.org to confirm your spot on the boat. Bags and gloves are provided, but please bring your lunch! Last year's workers bagged 1.3 tonnes of waste over the course of the day.

TRUSTEE RECEIVES AWARD

Sheila Washburn (Trustee 1995 – 2004) is the 2006 recipient of the Gulf of Maine Council's Longard Award. She was presented with the award on the evening of June 7 at the Inn by the Bay in Portland, Maine. Sheila was recognised for this award for her demonstrated commitment to environmental conservation, exemplified by her work with the Nature Trust of New Brunswick and other organisations. Congratulations Sheila! For information on the awards, see <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/awards.asp>

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Nature Trust of New Brunswick welcomes the following individuals who have joined since December:

Mrs. Helen Brown, Saint John
Ms. Beth Buerkle, Chamcook
Mr. Chris Flemming, St. Andrews
Mr. Stratis & Ms. Carol Gavaris, St. Andrews
Mrs. Joan Groom, Saint John
Dr. Peter Jolly, Rothesay
Mrs. Phoebe Anne Magee, St. Andrews
Ms. Beth McMahon, Sackville
Mr. John & Ms. Frances Remer, St. Andrews
Mr. Lee & Ms. Margot Sackett, St. Andrews
Ms. Kathleen Small, Fredericton
Dr. & Mrs. C.M. Smythe, St. Andrews
Mr. John Williamson, St. Andrews

MEMORIAL PLANNED

A memorial to the life of Thom Washburn (son of Sheila and Owen) will be placed at the Caughey Taylor Nature Preserve in Bocabec this summer. The bronze plaque is inscribed with these words:

*In memory of Thom Washburn
Professional Engineer
1963 – 2004*

*Who shared his talent with the world
Who held fond memories of St. Andrews
An innocent victim of world terrorism*

Anyone wishing to make a contribution towards this memorial please contact the Trust office at 457-2398.

THANK YOU

In no particular order, we thank: **Karel Michalica** (Czech translation); **Mike Dillon** and **Dave Smith** (Hyla park trail work); **Paul Chamberland** and Environment Canada (used computer equipment); **Dave Wilson** (office furniture); **Evan Young** (canoe gift certificate); **Franz von Ziegesar** (clippings); **Quebec-Labrador Foundation** (for providing intern); **Lee Sochasky** (intern accommodation); **JD Irving** and **Kelly Honeyman** (sign at Saints Rest Marsh Nature Preserve); **Dr. C. Mary Young** (illustrations for preserve signs); **Huw** and **Jessie Davies** (sign posts).

In Memoriam

Nature Trust member and friend Ron Clanton passed away recently. Trust board and staff visited with Ron and Rosemary at their retreat on Grand Manan Island in 2004. We also note with sadness the passing of Dr. Ellen MacGillivray, a founding board member and early treasurer of the Nature Trust. We send our best wishes to the MacGillivray and Clanton families.

Round-leaved Sundew

Drosera rotundifolia L.

By Jane Tims

Daily, dew is falling
it sits on bristling leaves
of sundew

believe
that in our ditch is treasure
glittering jewels
set in sunshine
luring fools

brilliance and beetles caught
in sticky dew
tight bristles clutching
creatures they slew

tiny flowers cling
to a nodding stem
opening when sunlight
shines on them.

Drosera rotundifolia L.

The round-leaved sundew, also called daily-dew or rossolis à feuilles rondes in French, is a carnivorous plant of acid bogs, barrens, moist roadside ditches and peaty soils. The leaves are in a tuft at the base of the plant, each covered with numerous gland-bearing bristles. These exude drops of a clear fluid that glitters in sunlight, hence the name from the greek droseros meaning dewy. The delicate white flowers are borne on a slender, nodding stalk, and only open in the sun.



Don Vail

Sundew

UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY

Sam Orr's Pond Trail Family Hike. Walk the Acadian Forest with preserve steward and forester Jamie Simpson.

When: Saturday, July 15th, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Where: Meet at the trail head on Hwy 127 (11 km east of St. Andrews between civic numbers 5149 and 5185 on the S. side).

Details: ntnb@nbnet.nb.ca or 457-2398

Cost: Free, but donations to the stewardship fund welcomed. Trail can be challenging in places.

AUGUST

Pagan Point Preserve Opening. Join us at this seaside celebration of the Nature Trust's newest preserve. Walks, refreshments, presentations etc.

When: Thursday August 10, 5:00 p.m.

Where: Pagan Point Nature Preserve, St. Andrews

Details: 457-2398 or ntnb@nbnet.nb.ca

Cost: Free. All welcome.

5th Annual Charlotte Isles Cleanup. This year's event will be to the *Letang Islands Nature Preserve*. Help us clean the beaches of waterborne debris, and have a great time!

When: Saturday, August 12th, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Where: Meet at the wharf at Blacks Harbour

Details: 457-2398 (Caroline) or staff@ntnb.org

Cost: Free. Refreshments will be provided.

SEPTEMBER

Guided Kayak Trip to Letang Islands Nature Preserve.

Join Archaeologist Brent Suttie and leaders from Eastern Outdoors. We'll explore the eight-island archipelago in kayaks, stopping on one for lunch and some botanizing. All equipment will be provided.

When: Saturday, September 9, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Where: Put-in near Letang, NB

Details: Call Eastern Outdoors at 634-1530 or info@easternoutdoors.com

Cost: \$45 per person + tax members ; \$55 non-members (includes kayak, guide and pfd) (Regular rate is \$79)

GPS and Geocaching for the Novice. Leaders Bryan Price, Mike Wolfe and Bernie Connors will provide the background to GPS, how to use a hand-held receiver, and the basics of geocaching. We'll then set out to find some caches in a local preserve with the help of seasoned geocachers.

When: Saturday, September 23, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Where: Fredericton, location TBD

Details: 457-2398 or ntnb@nbnet.nb.ca

Cost: \$45 members; \$55 non-members (registration includes chance to win canoe excursion with **Gibson Creek Canoeing** and tax receipt for \$20).

Nature Trust Annual General Meeting

When: Saturday, September 30, 2006

Where: Fredericton

Details: 457-2398 or ntnb@nbnet.nb.ca

Cost: Free. All welcome

OCTOBER

Our Disappearing Tree Species (rescheduled from May). Tree experts Judy Loo, Tannis Beardmore and Donnie McPhee explain what's happening in the New Brunswick woods. Bur oak, beech, and butternut are all but disappearing from the forest. Find out why, and what's being done at this workshop featuring classroom and field sessions and a trip to the Canadian Forest Service nursery and a local Bur Oak stand.

When: Saturday, October 7, 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Where: Hugh John Fleming Centre, Fredericton,

Details: 457-2398 or ntnb@nbnet.nb.ca

Cost: \$30 (charitable tax receipt for \$20)

Ghosted Image: Wooden skiffs, Dark Harbour (J. Simpson)

Please Join The Nature Trust

I wish to support the Nature Trust of New Brunswick/Je désire devenir membre de la Fondation pour la protection des sites

naturels du Nouveau-Brunswick. Please circle one:	Student / Étudiant(e) - \$10	Individual / Individu - \$25
Family or Group / Famille ou Groupe - \$35	Supporting / Soutien - \$75	
Sponsoring / Parrain - \$150	Donor / Don - \$250	Benefactor / Bienfaiteur - \$500
Corporate / Entreprise - \$1,000+	Life / Membre à vie - \$5,000	

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Address / Adresse: _____

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The Nature Trust Of New Brunswick, Inc / La Fondation pour la protection des sites naturels du Nouveau-Brunswick, Inc
P.O. Box 603, Station A., Fredericton, NB., E3B 5A6 Office: 404 Queen St. 3rd Floor, Fredericton

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