



# *the Bluestem Banner*

**Spring 2004**

**Tallgrass Ontario**

**Volume 5, No. 2**

*To achieve the identification, conservation, management and restoration of tallgrass prairie, savanna and related ecological communities in Ontario*

**Tallgrass Ontario thanks:**

The Ontario Trillium Foundation  
The George Cedric Metcalf Charitable Foundation  
The Donner Canadian Foundation  
Ministry of Natural Resources Ontario  
Environment Canada & Our members  
for their generous support

**Board of Directors 2004:**

Cathy Quinlan  
Todd Farrell  
Mark Emery  
Peter Carson  
Lee McLean  
Lindsay Rodger  
Paul Pratt  
Ken Nentwig  
John Haggeman  
Paul O'Hara  
Will Wilson

**Tallgrass Ontario  
Charitable Registration #  
88787 7819 RR0001**

**St Williams Crown Lands – savanna recovery in Ontario.**

Please turn to page 5 to learn about the “Crown Jewel” of Norfolk County. Below is photograph by Ron Gould of Perfoliate Bellwort, a species presumed lost from the Long Point region since 1938, and identified in the 2001 St Williams inventory.



### **Prairie Summer (and Fall) – events all around Ontario**

*For information about events marked with an asterisk(\*) please check [www.ontarionature.org](http://www.ontarionature.org)*

**Spring Wildflowers at Spring Garden – Prairie Flowers (May 26)** – explore Windsor’s newest city park. Windsor, Ontario. [www.ojibway.ca/activities](http://www.ojibway.ca/activities)

**Lakeside Garden & Prairie Restoration/Oak Savanna Tour. (May 30)**. Hosted by the North American Native Plant Society. Near Stoney Lake (bus leaves Toronto). [www.nanps.org](http://www.nanps.org)

**Wildflower Wander (May 29) and A Deep South Saunter (May 30)** – Pinery Provincial Park. Near Grand Bend. [www.pinerypark.on.ca](http://www.pinerypark.on.ca)

**Green Legacy: Canada’s Endangered Native Plants (June 4 – August 29)** – traveling exhibition produced by the Canadian Museum of Nature and the Royal Botanical Gardens. Woodstock Museum, Woodstock. Also **September 11<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>**, at the Western Fair in London. [www.rbg.ca/greenlegacy/](http://www.rbg.ca/greenlegacy/)

**\*Creek Appeal - Coldwater Stream Stewardship. (June 7, 2004)** – This coldwater stream flows through the center of the Brant Tallgrass Prairie and Oak Savanna. Near Paris.

**Parks Day: Savanna Festival (July 17)** – Explore this unique ecosystem at Pinery Provincial Park. Near Grand Bend. [www.pinerypark.on.ca](http://www.pinerypark.on.ca)

**\*A Wildflower Affair – Alderville Seed Collection. (July 18-20)**. Join Rick Beaver while collecting wildflower seeds on the remnants of a unique Rice Lake Plains prairie and and Black Oak savanna. Near Cobourg.

**\*Brush Away! – Oak Savanna Restoration. (September 25, 2004)**. Thinning saplings and clearing out brush help mimic the effects of wildfire that would historically keep the tree canopy open, allowing sunlight to regenerate the Black Oak Savanna’s understory. Near Port Franks.

**\*In the Wake of Visitors – Resource Management (October 8 – 10, 2004)**. Plant and transplant native grasses to help restore Pinery Provincial Park’s Oak Savanna. Near Grand Bend.

### **More Prairie Summer - Save Ontario Savannas IV**

Yes, Tallgrass Ontario is back on the road again, hunting down tallgrass and savanna remnants and corralling landowners!!

Under the leadership of **Dr Will Wilson** (Department of Geography, Lakehead University), and assisted by students **Chris Daniel** and **Julie Rosenthal** (University of Greenwich and Ryerson University) and **Steve Hill** (University of Toronto), the team will be visiting sites all over Ontario. In addition, **Fin MacDermid**, (Lakehead University) will be surveying sites around Quetico – a brand new area for our inventory and research project.

This year, too, several field naturalist groups will be helping with the mapping and species identification efforts, tracking down everything from *Agalinis* to *Zigadenus* (or the A to Z of vascular plants on the prairie!) Areas of concentration this summer are the counties of Prince Edward, Essex, Huron, Lambton and Elgin. The team plan to do some “mop up” in other areas like the Rice Lake Plains and Middlesex as well. If you are interested in GIS work, prairie and savanna restoration and species identification, or just feel helpful, contact [wwilson@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:wwilson@lakeheadu.ca). or [info@tallgrassontario.org](mailto:info@tallgrassontario.org).

We are grateful to the **Ministry of Natural Resources** (Ontario) for their continuing support of the SOS program. We thank the **Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk** for supporting SOS IV and the **Endangered Species Recovery Fund** for money to develop, test and publish educational materials for landowners and managers of prairie sites. The **George Cedric Metcalf Charitable Foundation** and the **Donner Canadian Foundation** have also provided generous support to Tallgrass Ontario and the Save Ontario Savannas program over the past years.

## A Prairie Morning – text and photos by Allen Woodliffe

Every so often, one has an experience while exploring the natural world that is truly memorable—a defining moment, one might say. Recently, I was privileged to explore a large tallgrass prairie remnant at Walpole Island in a new way. It was a site I had visited dozens of times before, in different seasons. Always it had been a special treat, to wander through a sizeable remnant of what used to be relatively commonplace on the southwestern Ontario landscape.

Little did I know that this particular day was going to be extra special. I had been pursuing Henslow's Sparrow, an endangered bird species that occasionally had been recorded breeding at this site in years gone by. Earlier this season I had found one in appropriate nesting habitat here, but couldn't confirm breeding. Weather, scheduling and other events had prevented me from returning right away, so a full two weeks went by before I was able to revisit. I think there was a reason. Had I come back right away under the same circumstances that I had initially noted the bird, during the middle part of the day, late afternoon or even warm early morning, it would have still been a treat. But I would have likely missed out on this extraordinary experience. This particular day I had arranged to meet my Walpole Island First Nation colleague at about daybreak. The previous weather had frequently been hot and humid, yet a brief cooling trend had just arrived. Over night skies were absolutely clear, the temperature almost unseasonably cool and any breeze was non-existent. A heavy, early morning mist hung over much of the surrounding landscape. This all resulted in a truly stunning spectacle and I was mesmerized by it.

We arrived at the prairie edge and began a slow trek to the spot where I had previously seen the Henslow's Sparrow, about 300 metres or so from the edge of the prairie. Most people who have been privileged to explore a prairie do so during the middle or later part of the day. That in itself is certainly awesome, and an important experience to at least partly understand the sometimes incredible, stifling heat that inhabitants of the tallgrass prairie must tolerate.

I confess that I have explored it frequently enough to occasionally even become nonchalant to its breathtaking beauty.



At this hour, those hot, stifling conditions were not present and it was like seeing the prairie for the very first time. Almost immediately I experienced a case of sensory overload. Because of the structure of the prairie vegetation, the surface area of this dense vegetation must equate to one or more square kilometres per hectare. Being a creature who relies mostly on the visual, it was that sense that was first overwhelmed. Every square centimetre of prairie vegetation was completely covered with droplets of condensed water.

Billions—probably trillions—of tiny water droplets glistened, gloriously backlit by the orange glow of the sun reaching its way through the heavy mist. Numerous strands of spider silk criss-crossed the saturated plants, each strand stretching under the weight of the milky beads of water, and hundreds of spider webs were illuminated as pearl strings. Heavy with dew, the delicate panic grass, Indian grass, cord grass, big bluestem and little bluestem, each 1 to 2 metres high, strained under the weight of its watery sheath. Thousands of spikes of blazing-star, spectacular when in full flower under any conditions, stood out even more so, each delicate floret encased in a fine film of liquid. So too encased was the Missouri ironweed, prairie loosestrife, Ohio goldenrod, stiff goldenrod, culver's-root, prairie milkweed, swamp thistle, purple gerardia, and everything else whether it was flowering or not. (Please turn to page 4)

(continued from page 3) Next, my auditory senses became overwhelmed by the stillness. Not a human sound, not a breath of wind, just absolute stillness, broken only by the occasional scold of a sedge wren or common yellowthroat. At first it was even too cool for much insect song or activity. A few dozen monarch butterflies clung tightly to the purple spikes of blazing-star, waiting to be warmed and their metabolism restored. Gradually, as the temperature increased, a hint of cricket and grasshopper song could be discerned.

Stillness is something that most humans don't tolerate well. We live in a world where we are constantly bombarded by human created noise—infomercials on the air waves, planes flying overhead, vehicles, the hum of computers, construction sounds, sounds of industry. Even human interactions can be noisy—talking,

laughing, even interrupting one another so as to be heard. When in doubt, talk, it seems. Very few can tolerate any great stretch of stillness. Yet it is in these times, I think, that we refine our thought process, that we are better able to understand the world around us. Standing perfectly still while surrounded by this natural splendour gave rise to thoughts and emotions that are difficult to explain, yet are now deeply entrenched in my being. Mere words are inadequate to convey the total experience.



The tactile senses were definitely a part of this experience along with sight and sound. In only a matter of minutes, I was as drenched as the vegetation I was wading through. I could compare it to walking through a horizontally flowing shower! Even my attempt to keep my feet dry with knee high rubber boots was in vain. My clothes were so saturated with the morning dew that the moisture literally poured down my pant legs, settling at the bottom of my boots. In a very short time I was as wet as if I had no boots at all.

For those of you who know me, it will come as no great surprise that I did have my camera with me. It was difficult to know where to start, what to focus on, what lens to use. Should I use my extra wide angle lens and create an image that appears farther away, yet provides a greater panorama? Should I use my short telephoto to concentrate on a much smaller part of the scene, and make it appear more compressed than it really was? Should I use something in between, that would provide a 'normal' view? Should I try all of those options, or none at all? The light and resulting visual feast was constantly changing. I knew that the mist would disappear relatively quickly with the strengthening sun. The moisture would evaporate, and the localized convection generated from the gradually warming sun would create gentle breezes at first, but stronger as the sun gained intensity. The camera would capture a certain aspect of this experience, but certainly not all of it, even if a picture is worth a thousand words. It would not capture the 360 degree, surround sound experience of being immersed in this extraordinary encounter. Yet I attempted to focus, compose and release the shutter anyway. Perhaps I would have been better to ignore the camera, knowing the futility of trying to create such an immense array of images on a few frames of plastic, and concentrate on the images that were being imprinted on my being.

Did we find the aforementioned Henslow's Sparrow? Not conclusively, although I may have heard its weak, insect-like song once. This furtive inhabitant of tallgrass prairie is often very difficult to detect even under the best of circumstances, but even more so at the end of its nesting season. On another occasion, I might have been disappointed. However on this one, I was far too grateful for having had a reason to be out in the prairie on such a glorious morning, as the recipient of such incredible, and indelible, memories.

*Photograph on page 3, Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid; and pictured above, Skinner's Agalinis. Photographs by Allen Woodliffe. Both plants are COSEWIC endangered and occur on this site.*

## St. Williams Crown Lands To Become A Provincial Conservation Reserve:

*Gearing up for another 'Giant Leap' towards savanna recovery in Ontario*

*By Ron Gould, Species at Risk Biologist, OMNR*

It's certainly an exciting and productive time to be working on Tallgrass and Oak Savanna recovery in Ontario. With the growing number of provincial parks and other organizations doing prescribed burns, the development of the Walpole Island Ecosystem Recovery Plan, dozens of new planting initiatives every year and the Save Our Savannas project, things could hardly be getting better since Canada's first endangered community recovery plan took shape. Another significant contribution to recovery is surfacing with the Ministry of Natural Resources commitment to protecting and managing St. Williams Crown Lands, often called the "Crown Jewel" of Norfolk County.

### *About the Process:*

After over a year of provincial planning and public consultation, an announcement regarding the new management direction of these public lands appears to be imminent at time of printing. It is expected that this spring the Minister of Natural Resources will designate the St. Williams Crown Lands as a Conservation Reserve, under local management by Aylmer District MNR. With MNR's mandate of natural heritage protection being a strong driver of this process, conservation and recovery initiatives are expected to be the main building blocks of the upcoming management plan. The draft plan will be available for public comment and MNR review in August of this year, with final approvals and implementation scheduled for spring of 2005.

So with the actual process well under way, both opportunities and challenges remain to on-the-ground protection and recovery of the savanna communities of St. Williams Crown Lands. The most important tool MNR is using to design and implement a solid management approach is the St. Williams Crown Forest Life Science Inventory report produced by Jane Bowles, Mary Gartshore and Bill Draper in 2001. Subsequent years of monitoring have also highlighted the important functions of these lands as well as the conflicting land uses that have negatively impacted sensitive species. St. Williams presents a timely opportunity to take a *significant spaces* approach for the protection of natural heritage values in a region where there are just too many species at risk to help out one by one.

### *Our Savanna Past*

St. Williams Crown Lands occupy 1308 hectares of the Norfolk sand plains near Long Point and still support a whopping 68 species of prairie and savanna indicators today. Although most now persist in a degraded state as a result of early agricultural efforts, nearly a century of conifer plantings and the absence of fire, there are still a significant number of species that remain to tell the story of St. Williams' oak savanna past. Presently, there are over 700 hectares of degraded savanna, oak woodland and sand barren communities persisting throughout Turkey Point, Manestar and Nursery Tracts of St. Williams Crown Lands. The wide distribution of conservative indicators such as Lupine, New Jersey Tea and Dwarf Chinquapin Oak help to show that about 70 percent of the St. Williams landscape was once oak savanna at some point in its history. Considering the size of St. Williams and the fact that it is public land, it presents a valuable opportunity to restore sufficient savanna habitat to make a difference toward community recovery on a national scale.

### *Exploring Recovery Potential and Challenges:*

With so many indicator species still persisting in the degraded savannas of St. Williams it is important we understand the best way to get the various *functions* back for this community at risk. The good news is that most of the original building blocks still seem to be there, and the ones that we've lost haven't been gone for too long. Luckily, not only do we have many individual species (*Please turn to page 6*)

(Continued from page 5) helping to tell us where to start, but we also have several nearby restoration examples such as Turkey Point Provincial Park, the Nature Conservancy's James Property and lots of local expertise.

There are currently over a dozen recovery teams that have a stake in how St. Williams is managed and restored, but we have lots to do to help bring some of these habitats back. Decades of trying to live under closing canopy of pine plantations and encroaching hardwoods has been particularly damaging to areas of former savanna. Again we can learn so much from others such as Pinery Provincial Park who have made real progress in getting savanna back from these plantations through pine removal and prescribed burning approaches. Burning in areas with a well established duff layer and other high fuel loads can be a tricky business indeed.



**Small populations of Bird's-foot Violet and Virginia Goat's Rue still persist in Turkey Point Tract. R. Gould, MNR**

Intensive use of motorized vehicles such as dirt bikes and ATVs are severely limiting the survival and recovery potential of many species in St. Williams Crown Lands. In recent years, the number of unauthorized vehicle trails created by users has nearly doubled the total length of trails in all Tracts. Excessive use of motorized vehicles presents many challenges to the protection and recovery of savanna species in St. Williams. Many rare and endangered savanna plants survive along the edges of old MNR roads where canopy gaps are maintained through the woodlands that now dominate the area. Even this last ditch strategy can become risky business for these species as trail use increases, roads widen over existing plants and flying sand regularly coats surrounding vegetation often resulting in delicate flowers being choked with dust.

Creation of unauthorized trails into sensitive interior habitats of St. Williams has also become a problem that must be overcome through new management techniques. Not only do these trails take up valuable real estate needed for existing savanna flora, but erosion of significant dune ridges can flatten the undulating topography that has helped to support such a rich diversity of species in the past. Further fragmentation of savanna habitats and continued vehicle access leads to more interaction with sensitive fauna resulting in increased disruption and mortality. Instances of finding Hognose and Fox Snakes dead along trails and adjacent roads are a frequent occurrence throughout the summer, and potential effects on rare savanna and sand barren insects are largely unknown. More research is sorely needed, but a new management framework should be able to protect these environments and nurture a diversity of monitoring and recovery activities. *(Please turn to page 7)*

*Applying Endangered Species Protection (continued from page 6):*

St. Williams was once home to extirpated butterflies such as Karner Blue and Frosted Elfin, but in their hopefully temporary absence, these species can still be used to protect their savanna roots. Application of Ontario's Endangered Species Act, which affords protection for listed *species* and their *habitats*, is currently being implemented in key areas of St. Williams to prohibit unauthorized uses in these sensitive environments. The regulation of Spotted Wintergreen in 2002 and upcoming addition of Virginia Goat's Rue and Bird's-foot Violet to the Endangered Species Act are providing a valuable tool for interim protection of their savanna habitats. Endangered Species Habitat signage has been installed in many areas of St. Williams by MNR in 2003-04, and has been very successful in limiting conflicting uses in most areas. Enforcement within such a large and complex land area does come with its own challenges, but has become a priority for MNR throughout the management planning and implementation phases.



**“Species on the Edge”:** (Left, above) Goat's Rue shaded under dense pine and dusted with sand from motorized vehicles and (Right, above) Britton's Phlox flowering beside dirt bike trail that has eroded away much of the surrounding dune habitat. Both species are very rare, with less than five occurrences in Ontario.

#### *Moving in the Right Direction:*

In the midst of existing values, high recovery potential and an updated management plan, enthusiasm for a new direction in St. Williams has never been higher. We all know through our own restoration experiences however that these efforts also take time and funding to make real changes on the landscape. St. Williams Crown Lands are no different, and have some sizable challenges to overcome. Protection and management efficiencies can and must be derived from neighboring efforts to get things moving in the right direction for St. Williams before any more species are lost. *(Please turn to page 8)*

(Continued from page 7)

Although management planning can seem like a slow moving process to some, having a solid *adaptive management* strategy looks like the best bet considering all of the challenges. Having a few faster-acting management tools at our disposal in the interim is also important for key issues. Recent techniques and interim strategies are showing some promise and will be expanded through the development of the longer-term plan.

With the upcoming designation of these valuable properties as a Conservation Reserve, we hope the funding potential for work on the site through the provincial government, recovery teams and a variety of related partnerships is on the rise. Regardless it would be hard to find a stronger case more in need of support than the array of significant species and communities that make up St. Williams Crown Lands. Thanks to all those who have contributed to species at risk in St. Williams over the many years, it is your hard work and commitment that will ensure this "Crown Jewel" shines even brighter in the years to come.



**Reasons for Hope:** (Left) Endangered Species signage has become a useful tool in limiting excessive disturbance in regulated areas. (Right) Not all users share the same enthusiasm for management of these values. R. Gould, MNR

**Prairie Passage 2003** – by the Rural Lambton Stewardship Network

The Rural Lambton Stewardship Network, (RLSN) is working with the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) and St. Clair Township to establish roadside prairies and wildlife shrub corridors along Highway 40 from Wallaceburg to Sarnia. This Prairie Passage will work as a living snow fence/buffer strip while creating a regionally significant wildlife corridor for butterflies, birds and small animals.



(Seed drilling on Highway 40, photo courtesy of RLSN)

This project is modeled after two highly successful programs from the United States - the “Prairie Passage Program” and the “Roads for Wildlife Program” - that demonstrate the important role that roadsides can play in both Natural Heritage and Wildlife Management. In 2003, 22 acres of prairie and 26,000 wildlife shrubs were planted. In 2004 RLSN will plant an additional 50 acres of prairie. The first phase of this project will include the establishment of over 150 acres of prairie over this 30 km stretch of highway.

**St. Clair/Sydenham River Stewardship Initiatives**

The St. Clair/Sydenham River Stewardship Initiatives are multi-partner grassroots driven, habitat enhancement and non-point source programs which the RLSN coordinates. Grants and assistants are available for landowners to carry out a number of eligible projects.

The table below provides a brief overview of hectares that have been rehabilitated in the last six years through the **St. Clair Stewardship Initiative**. In the year 2003/2004 the **St. Clair Stewardship Initiative** created/enhanced 40.5 hectares of habitat within the Area of Concern making a total of 231.66 hectares since 1998/1999.

(Please turn to page 10)

| Year         | Hectares rehabilitated in Area 1A | Hectares Rehabilitated in Area 1B | Total Hectares Rehabilitated |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1998 – 1999  | 11.06                             | 5.04                              | 16.1                         |
| 1999 – 2000  | 11.11                             | 6.35                              | 17.46                        |
| 2000 – 2001  | 3.96                              | 26.7                              | 30.66                        |
| 2001 – 2002  | 40.87                             | 21.45                             | 62.32                        |
| 2002 – 2003  | 43.4                              | 21.22                             | 64.62                        |
| 2003 - 2004  | 29.4                              | 11.1                              | 40.5                         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>140.8 hectares</b>             | <b>92.86 hectares</b>             | <b>231.66 hectares</b>       |

The recent releases of wild strain Ring-Necked Pheasant in Alvinston area of Lambton County (the **Sydenham River Stewardship Initiative** area) have created a lot of interest in habitat creation/enhancement projects. RLSN has been approached by a number of landowners who want to carry out intensive habitat work on large sections (50 plus acres) of land to improve these properties for pheasant and other upland species. Interest in pheasants is a catalyst that encourages landowners to become active in habitat management on their lands or to assist their neighbours in their projects.

The review committees are maturing and developing a strong understanding of stewardship priorities and techniques at the landscape and project levels. The knowledge and enthusiasm of these volunteers is the key to the success of these initiatives! Interest in these initiatives continues to grow, surpassing current funding levels.

### **Terra Property**

RLSN, in partnership with Ducks Unlimited and St. Clair Region Conservation Authority is working with Terra Nitrogen Inc. to undertake an upland and wetland restoration project in the St. Clair River Area of Concern that includes wetlands, tree and tallgrass prairie plantings.

The Terra project will naturalize 20 hectares of active farmland owned by Terra Nitrogen and located along the St. Clair River. This property is part of the larger Bickford Oak Woods anchor area, and will help link this core wildlife area directly to the St. Clair River. Working in conjunction with several partners, the project will include the creation of four small wetland impoundments as well as tree, shrub, and tallgrass prairie plantings.

We are also investigating the potential of improving access for northern pike into the adjacent farm drain to quality spawning habitat upstream in this drain and into Clay Creek. The Terra Nitrogen Inc. restoration project is a shining example of cooperation and initiative of a local company and partners working together to improve their community. This project will be a model for success and help foster new partnerships between industry and stewardship groups in the future.

### **Rural Lambton Stewardship Network**



Pictured above: Wendy Kubinec, Ron Ludolph Lindsay Anderson, Rob Annett, Rob Johnson, Darrell Randell, Paul Smith, Darren Bertrand SCRCA, Tisha DeMaeyer, Larry Cornelis, Randy Gorton, Dan Beiman, Dave Ferguson, Doug McGee, Rob Buchanan Dennis Bryson. Photo: RLSN

*In Print/Download*

**Tallgrass Ontario Fact Sheets – great support for your prairie projects.** Organizations like Lower Trent Conservation and the Friends of Sharon Creek are using Tallgrass Ontario's fact sheets to help explain and promote prairie in their areas. This Spring, both organizations used Fact Sheet # 2 – Fire and the Prairie - to support their communications efforts with burn site neighbours. Contact [info@tallgrassontario.org](mailto:info@tallgrassontario.org) for more information about our fact sheets.

Check out **The Cardinal** (April 2004), the newsletter of the McIlwraith Field Naturalists, for an article on **Southern Ontario's Tallgrass Prairie & Savanna** by Will Wilson. London based MFN has a website [www.mcilwraith.ca](http://www.mcilwraith.ca).

You can get a **Randy the Rattlesnake Activity Book** - filled with puzzles, games, crafts and drawings for children, from Ojibway Nature Centre ([www.ojibway.ca](http://www.ojibway.ca)). The book is designed to promote the stewardship and conservation of the **Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake**.

**Natural Heritage Information Centre – Science and Information Newsletter – Winter 2004.** The NHIC celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2003. This newsletter provides an excellent overview of their achievements and goals. [www.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/nhic/nhic.cfm](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/nhic/nhic.cfm).

Get the Society for Ecological Restoration – Ontario Chapter **2004-2005 Native Plant Resource Guide**. The fourth edition of the guide includes a comprehensive list of native plant material suppliers for Ontario. For more information contact [ser@sympatico.ca](mailto:ser@sympatico.ca) or by phone at (416) 686-4704.

**An Educator's Directory of Government & Foundation Resources for Environmental Education in the Tallgrass Prairie States**, a website created for classroom teachers and environmental educators by Louise Gruenberg, MAE, MSLIS is now available online at: [http://leep.lis.uiuc.edu/publish/gruenber/EnvEd/00.1\\_Home.html](http://leep.lis.uiuc.edu/publish/gruenber/EnvEd/00.1_Home.html).

**TGO Recommended** - below are some websites that our members recommend as excellent sources of information about native species as well as general information about prairie and savanna in North America. Send your suggestions to [info@tallgrassontario.org](mailto:info@tallgrassontario.org)

**www.nanps.org** North American Native Plant Society website, filled with events and useful information about native species, for both Canada and the United States.

**www.evergreen.ca/native plants** The Evergreen Native Plant Database is designed to help schools, community groups and home gardeners select the right plants for their particular landscapes.

**www.savannaoak.org.** Website of the Savanna Oak Foundation, Inc. (Wisconsin), it provides information about restoration techniques, plants lists and photos, and a range of information and advice about prairies and savannas.

**Planting the Seed (A Guide to Establishing Prairie and Meadow Communities in Southern Ontario)** The popular guide to prairie and meadow habitat establishment or enhancement is on-line at [www.on.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/docs/](http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/docs/) **OR** order a **hard copy FREE** - thanks to the generosity of Environment Canada by contacting Tallgrass Ontario at [info@tallgrassontario.org](mailto:info@tallgrassontario.org)

**Noted**

Gil Henderson, of the **Tim Horton's Children's Foundation** is planning a tallgrass prairie site at Onondaga Farm, near Cambridge. Gil is looking for advice and support for the project. Contact him at 519-448-1982.

**Barbara Heidenreich** is now the Natural Heritage Coordinator for the Ontario Heritage Foundation. She notes that her interest in Tallgrass Ontario is both professional and personal. A family property on Lake Simcoe (DeGrassi Point) has a prairie remnant designated as an ANSI that the family is in the process of restoring through periodic burns. Her farm north of Port Hope has several fallow fields that she hopes to restore to tallgrass.  
Barbara.Heidenreich@heritagefdn.on.ca

**Rich Drouin** is now the COA Coordinator - The Canada - Ontario Agreement respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem - for the Lake Erie Basin. You can contact him at 519 873-4712 or richard.drouin@mnr.gov.on.ca

**Tony Jovan** stepped down as a Director of Tallgrass Ontario in March, 2004. Tony is a long time supporter, and one of the founding members of Tallgrass Ontario. We'll miss him, but we're keeping him on the line as a continuing member of TRAC - Tallgrass Recovery Advisory Committee.

*This edition of the Bluestem Banner has been made possible by a donation in memory of Hala and Ivan Fedun*

**Wanted in Norfolk County!**

Please report any road-killed badgers, or any historical or recent badger sightings or any stuffed badgers or pelts (for genetic testing) to Bernie Solymar 519-586-3985



**You can contact Tallgrass Ontario at**  
**info@tallgrassontario.org**  
**www.tallgrassontario.org**  
**659 Exeter Road**  
**London, ON N6E 1L3**  
**519-873-4631**

Welcome to **Will Wilson** and **John Haggeman** who have joined the Board of Directors of Tallgrass Ontario.

Line drawings in the Bluestem Banner are by **Judie Shore**.

**Conferences and Meetings**

**The 19th North American Prairie Conference** will be held in Madison, WI, August 8-12, 2004. For more information, check out [www.napc2004.org](http://www.napc2004.org).

**SER2004 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Society for Ecological Restoration - Restoration on the Edge.** Victoria, B. C. August 24 - 26<sup>th</sup>, 2004. [www.ser.org](http://www.ser.org)

**31st Natural Areas Conference - Emerging Issues: Possibilities and Perils.** October 13-16, 2004 Holiday Inn Mart Plaza, Chicago, Illinois. Go to <http://64.92.126.53/03conference/2004conf.htm>

**Celebration of Niagara Parks Natural Resources**, April 7 - June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2004.  
[www.niagaraparks.com](http://www.niagaraparks.com)

**Ontario Land Trust Alliance - Gathering 2004** - October 22-24<sup>th</sup>, 2004, Chaffey's Locks. The Hamilton Field Naturalists will be hosting a **Regional Workshop** on June 12, 2004, in Brantford, Ontario. For more info contact [admin@ontariolandtrustalliance.org](mailto:admin@ontariolandtrustalliance.org)

**Thinking Big - Sustaining Landscapes in Carolinian Canada 1984 - 2004 - 2024** Oct 1 - 2, 2004 at Port Franks  
[www.carolinian.org](http://www.carolinian.org)

**North American Native Plant Society Annual General Meeting** - October 2, 2002. Markham. Contact [nanps@nanps.org](mailto:nanps@nanps.org) for info.