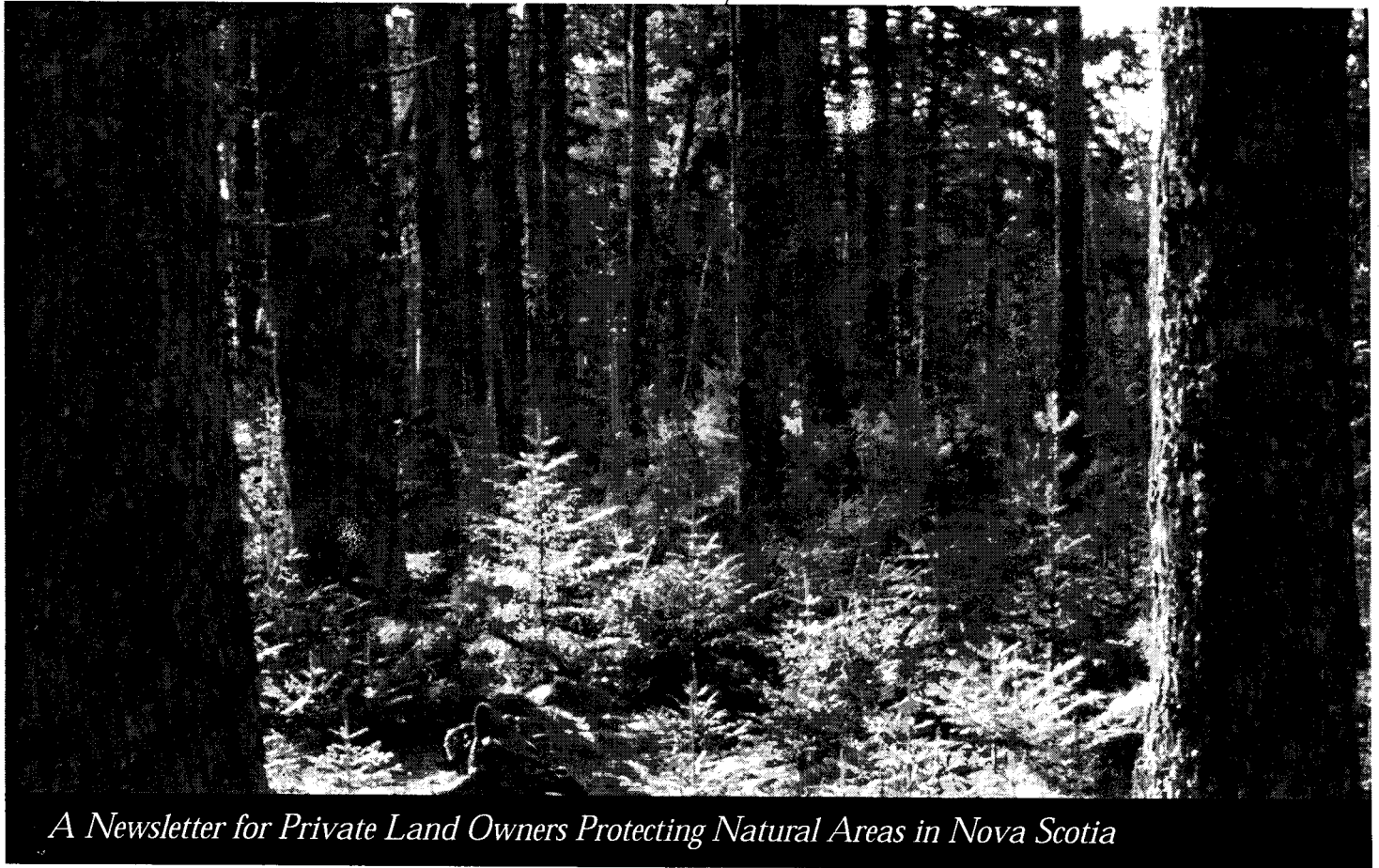


Land Stewards

Number 3, July 2000



A Newsletter for Private Land Owners Protecting Natural Areas in Nova Scotia

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NOVA SCOTIA NATURE TRUST

Lands and Legacies Update

The second year of the Nova Scotia Nature Trust's five-year province-wide "Lands & Legacies" project wrapped up this Spring. We've had a busy year! Fourteen new sites were identified, including two Piping Plover beaches, seven old forest sites, and five coastal plain flora sites.

Twenty-six landowners of two provincially significant Piping Plover nesting beaches on Cape Sable Island, Nova Scotia, were contacted by the Nova Scotia Nature Trust. The majority of these landowners were visited, and made aware of the plight of this nationally endangered shorebird. Landowner response was very positive, with six landowners entering into Stewardship Agreements with the Trust, and two receiving Plover Steward Awards.



Douglas and Eva Stoddart receiving a Stewardship Award

Thirty-eight landowners in seven regions with outstanding forests were visited, including French River and Indian River in northern Cape Breton; Island Point, on the Bras D'or Lakes, Wentzell, Dauphinees Mill and Houghton Lakes, Lunenburg County; and Big Indian Lake, Halifax County. We spent a good deal of time in the woods with landowners, and we have more visits to do yet. Many expressed concern for Nova Scotia's forests and wildlife habi-

tat, and are doing their own part to be good stewards of the land.

We had great hopes of contacting more landowners of significant old forests. Unfortunately, clearcutting is happening at such a phenomenal rate across the province that many of our prospective sites had been cut within the past 10 years. With the disappearance of old growth forests, we are witnessing the loss of a vital part of the province's natural heritage, from healthy salmon rivers, to habitat for flying squirrels, owls, wood ducks, and many many others.

Five new sites with coastal plain plants were selected for landowner outreach work last summer. In total, thirty-seven landowners were contacted. This included Baccaro Bog, with the endangered Thread-leaved Sundew; Barrington Lake, with a rare Spikerush and many uncommon Bladderworts; and Pretty Mary,

Mudflat and Mill Lakes, with the nationally threatened Sweet Pepperbush. We spent a great afternoon canoeing on Barrington Lake with Lillian Perry, and another afternoon learning about local lore from the Luxtons on Mill Lake. Many thanks to Jack Duggan and to Barbara and Gordon Cantley for helping spread the word about the Sweet Pepperbush and for keeping an eye on the plants.

We were very pleased with the reception we were given by landowners, and by the good sense of stewardship adopted by many. Thank you!



Lillian Perry and Minga O'Brien, Barrington Lake, July 1999.

Introduction to the Nova Scotia Nature Trust

The Nova Scotia Nature Trust works with private landowners to protect significant natural areas throughout the province. The Nature Trust was incorporated in 1994 as a non-government charitable organization, and a designated conservation organization under the provincial Conservation Easements Act of 1992. To achieve our goal of protecting natural areas in Nova Scotia, the Nature Trust pursues land ownership, conservation easements, and cooperative agreements with landowners.

Though still a young organization, the Nova Scotia Nature Trust has already made important progress. We have acquired several properties through generous donations from landowners. These protected areas range from woodlands and islands to coastal and lakeshore properties. They preserve unique and significant natural features including old forests, wetlands and rare plant communities.

Upcoming Walks

Ellenwood Lake Provincial Park – Join the Nova Scotia Wild Flora Society with enthusiastic naturalist Carl Munden for a guided walk of this lovely area to identify the interesting and rare coastal plain plants in the park. **Saturday, August 5 @ 1 PM.** Inquire at the gatehouse for the meeting place.

Pleasant River/Shingle Lake – Please join noted botanist Nick Hill for a walk in the Pleasant River area to see several rare coastal plain plants, including Long's Bulrush, Goldencrest, and Swamp Milkweed. Cosponsored by the Blomidon Field Naturalists and the NS Nature Trust. **Saturday, August 5 @ 10 AM.** Meet at the church at the corner of the New Elm Rd. and Highway 208.

Wilson Lake Reserve – Local naturalist Carol Jacquard will be leading a walk along the shores of Wilson Lake to help interested landowners identify the rare and beautiful coastal plain plants that may be growing on their shoreline. Cosponsored by the NS Wild Flora Society and the NS Nature Trust. **Sunday,**

August 6 @ 10 AM. Meet at the carpool parking lot at Exit 33 off Hwy 103.

Tusket River Nature Reserve – Biologist Dave MacKinnon of the Department of Environment's Protected Areas Division will lead a short walk for all ages to the Tusket River Nature Reserve. Come learn about the rare and endangered coastal plain plants left behind after the last ice age. **Saturday, August 12 @ 1 PM.** Meet at the Ultramar station, Exit 33 (Tusket) off Hwy 103.

Birds of Cape Sable – Join local naturalist Murray Newell to see the shorebirds along Southside and between The Hawk and Cape Light. Here's your opportunity to distinguish plovers from sandpipers and rails from herons! **Sunday, August 20 @ 7:30 AM.** Meet at Tim Hortons, Barrington Passage.

Panuke Lake Old Growth – Come join biologist Dave MacKinnon and the Nova Scotia Nature Trust for a guided walk through the lush old growth spruce forests of the Panuke Lake Nature Reserve. **Sunday, August 27 @ 1 PM.** Meet outside the Sobeys in Tantallon (Exit 5 off Hwy 103).

New Donations

Several new donations of land to the Nova Scotia Nature Trust have occurred over the past year. These include:

- Two hundred acres of woodlands on Aylesford Mountain, donated by Mildred Clem. This property has some older forests, mixed forests, as well as a ravine and a brook.
- An 11-acre property situated on one of the last undeveloped headlands on the

south shore and a highly scenic area enjoyed by many Nova Scotians. This property was given jointly to the NS Nature Trust and the Kingsburg Coastal Conservancy.

- A spectacularly scenic 40-acre property on Aspy Bay, Cape Breton. The property includes a rugged headland, a barrier beach and pond, as well as woodlands.

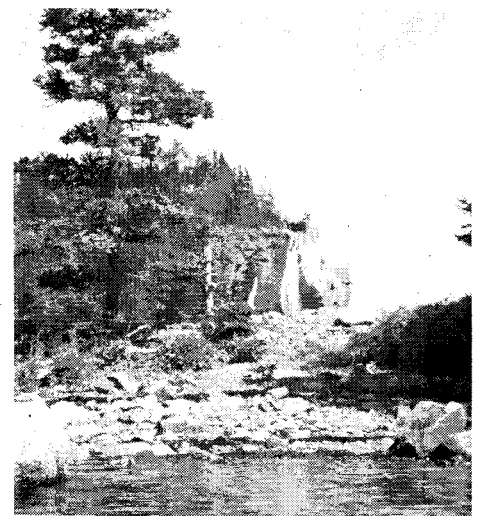


Gaff Point, Lunenburg County



Yellow Head, Aspy Bay

New Easements in Progress



- Martin Rudy Haase, founder of "Friends of Nature", is donating a conservation easement for four islands at the mouth of Ship Harbour: Ship Rock Island, Upper Tickle Island, Lower Tickle Island, and Moose Island. The islands total approximately 40 acres in size, are covered by spruce/fir forests, and will remain undeveloped.

