

Natural Landscapes

The Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Nature Trust

Volume 7, Number 1, Spring 2001

ROBERT BATEMAN: *Passionate about Nature*

by Greg Lukeman

Special guest for the 4th Annual Nature Trust Silent Auction and Dinner in October will be one of Canada's foremost artists and naturalists, Robert Bateman, a man who is passionate about nature. This is supremely evident in his art and life. His paintings grace museums in private collections the world over including the collections of HRH Prince Philip, the late Princess Grace of Monaco, and Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands. Three books of his art, "The Art of Robert Bateman," "The World of Robert Bateman," and "Robert Bateman: An Artist in Nature" have made publishing history, selling more than three quarters of a million copies. He has been the subject of several films. He even has a school named after him!

Bateman has come into an increasingly vocal role as an environmentalist. Hot off the presses in his debut in natural philosophy is his book, **Thinking Like a Mountain**. Bateman writes, "Aldo Leopold coined the phrase 'thinking like a mountain' more than fifty years ago, and it resonates more loudly with each passing year as the need to make choices about what is best for our children and grandchildren grows more and more pressing. When will we change our way of thinking so that we make our plans and take our decisions from the point of view of the planet, instead of the point of view of instant gratification?"



Artist and Conservationist, Robert Bateman

I don't pretend to have the answers. But I do believe the solutions to our problems are all around us, if only we observe closely and listen carefully. These solutions won't come easily, or cheaply, or without some pain, but upon their successful application depends the survival of all species, including our own."

Bateman's fascination with nature dates from his boyhood in Toronto, where he began his lifelong education as a naturalist by studying and sketching the species he saw in the ravine behind his house. His artwork began with a representational style, moving firstly through impressionism and cubism, then to abstract expressionism. But in his early 30's he went back to realism as a more suitable way to express what is already a work of art, the natural world. In his own words, "I moved into my present style because of my reverence for the particularity of every square inch of the biosphere. I couldn't show biological specificity in general globs of paint." It is this style that has attracted an enormous following and has made him one of the

most celebrated artists depicting the world of nature.

Born in Toronto, with a degree in geography from the University of Toronto, Bateman taught high school for 20 years, including two years in Nigeria. He travelled around the world in a Land Rover in 1957/58, increasing his appreciation of cultural and natural heritage. Since leaving teaching in order to paint full-time, he has travelled to many remote natural areas with his artist, conservationist wife Brigit.

Bateman's art reflects his commitment to ecology and preservation. Since the early 1960's, he has been an active member of naturalist and conservation organizations, now on a global scale. He has become a spokesman for many environmental and preservation issues. He has used his artwork and limited edition prints in fundraising efforts that have provided millions of dollars for these worthy causes. He says, "I can't conceive of anything being more varied and rich and handsome than the planet Earth. And its crowning beauty is the natural world. I want to soak it up, to understand it as well as I can, and to absorb it. And then I'd like to put it together and express it in my painting. This is the way I want to dedicate my life."

The Nature Trust Auction and Dinner will be held on October 20th, 2001 in Halifax at the Lord Nelson Hotel. Like last year, this is sure to be a sold out event, so call the Nature Trust office to reserve your ticket early. Tickets are sold individually at \$70 per person.

We look forward to sharing in his passion.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat. Apr. 14th The *Daily News* will feature the Nature Trust on the Community Sponsor Page
April 16-24th Wildlife Week
Wed., Ap. 18: Illustrated Talk, NSM, 7:30 p.m. on "The Hidden Species of Coastal Marshes"
Fri., April 20th Nova Scotia Nature Trust AGM, 7:15 p.m. at NSM, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax featuring a slide presentation by the Nature Trust Properties Committee illustrating achievements of the past year

Sun., Ap. 22nd Earth Day
Wed., Ap. 25 Illustrated talk, NSM, 7:30 p.m. on Terns with Andrew Boyne and Ted D'Eon
Wed., May 2 Illustrated talk, NSM, 7:30 p.m. on the Piping Plover with Diane Amirault
May 6 -12th Forestry Week
June 3-9th Environment Week
Tues., June 5th World Environment Day
Sat., Oct. 20th Nature Trust 4th Annual Dinner & Silent Auction

AN ACT TO PROTECT SPECIES AT RISK IN CANADA



For humans the beach is a great getaway, a place to sun, swim, picnic and have bonfires. For the endangered species shorebird, the Piping Plover, it's home. In many cases the home of the Piping Plover is being destroyed, sometimes willfully, sometimes carelessly. Whatever the reason, the result is the same: an endangered bird stays away from a damaged natural habitat.

The Act to Protect Species at Risk in Canada (SARA) is currently before parliament. The Act has passed second reading and is now before the Standing Committee on Environment for review.

The Act is intended to complement the roles of provinces and organizations who practice stewardship. SARA will involve landowners, land users, Aboriginal peoples and citizens in the recovery process and for conservation measures.

Once passed the SARA will help protect the Piping Plover. You can help by watching for signs posted as Plover areas and staying away from those areas, by keeping dogs on leashes, and by removing garbage. Avoid using vehicles such as ATVs on beaches near a Plover area. If you think you see a Plover or a nest, stay away. Report the location to the Canadian Wildlife Service.

NATURE TRUST GARNERS PRAISE FROM MEDIA

by Eric Hundert

The Nature Trust's work in raising awareness of the value and importance of rare coastal plain flora that occurs primarily along lakeshores in Yarmouth and Shelburne Counties received positive coverage in the *Chronicle Herald* on both February 21 and 26. In a front page story on February 21 the popular provincial paper highlighted the special protection required for such rare plants as Pale Green Orchids, Plymouth Gentian, Pink Coreopsis, Water Pennywort and Joe-pye Weed. A few days later the paper included an editorial again reflecting the value of these rare plants to Nova Scotia's natural heritage and the importance of raising public appreciation and understanding of how to protect their habitat. The stories recognised the work of Nature Trust project officers in identifying previously unknown sites where these plants grow, for contacting landowners and for raising awareness about the need for protection of lakeshore habitat.

The editorial closed with this paragraph: "The Nature Trust deserves our thanks for its work in expanding our knowledge of these rare plants. Now care should be taken to ensure the protection and preservation of a real treasure."

We couldn't have said it better ourselves. And congratulations to the *Chronicle Herald* for giving conservation a voice in the news.

FORESTS FOR THE FUTURE

by Sean LeMoine

One phase of the *Forests for the Future* project has come to an end with some great results. Through this project, the Trust sought to identify and protect large blocks of the province's remnant stands of near old growth and unique forests. Unfortunately, of the initial 41 sites identified, approximately 25% had been compromised by recent logging (since the mid 1990s). In all, twenty-six sites were researched and of those sites, the landowners of eleven sites were contacted.

Over the course of the project, the NSNT was able to secure commitments from two landowners for conservation easements, and a stewardship agreement from one landowner.

For the next phase of *Forests for the Future*, the Nature Trust is planning to initiate contact with the landowners of the 15 remaining sites, identify and contact landowners of small isolated sites of true old growth and unique forests (which represent less than 1% of the province's forest cover), and develop partnerships with interested corporate landowners in developing forest conservation proposals for areas of old growth forests on their land.

With the site identification stage of the project completed, additional staff, and perseverance, this year can only be as successful as the last.

Gift Ideas in Support of the Nova Scotia Nature Trust

Alice Reed Greeting Cards 6 for \$10.00

Six cards in full, beautiful colour depict three Nature Trust properties: McKinnon's Brook, Cape Breton; Yellow Head, Cape Breton; and the Brothers Islands, Bay of Fundy.

Cards are blank inside and suitable for all occasions.

Add \$1.50 for shipping and handling.
Price includes tax.

Nova Scotia Nature Trust Mugs \$6.50 each

A great travel mug made from recycled telephones with Nature Trust logo.

Add \$4.00 for shipping and handling.

Send Orders to: Box 2202
Halifax, NS B3J 3C4

ph. 902-425-5263
fax. 902-429-5263

UPDATES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual General Meeting

All are welcome to attend the upcoming AGM of the Nova Scotia Nature Trust taking place on Friday, April 20th at the Museum of Natural History starting at 7:15 p.m. in the auditorium. A presentation and slide show by the Nature Trust Properties Committee will illustrate achievements over the past year.

Descriptive Brochures

Three brochures are now available in both languages that describe programs in the Nature Trust's coastal plain flora stewardship project. These are: coastal plain signage, coastal plain plant monitoring, and coastal plain flora stewards. Copies will be distributed in areas where the rare plant species grow.

Anyone who would like copies, please call the office.

Nature Trust Display

The Nature Trust has a bold new display illustrating the scope of work undertaken by the Trust. It is very light weight and available for community events where new members might be recruited and information disbursed about projects of the Nature Trust and properties being protected. If you know of events where this display could be utilized, please let us know.

FUNDING

Funding for Coastal Plain Stewardship

The Nova Scotia Nature Trust has received additional funding from **Wildlife Habitat Canada** for *Coastal Plain Flora Conservation: An Integrated Approach to Habitat Planning and Conservation for Nationally Imperilled Coastal Plain Flora in Nova Scotia*. This project will conduct habitat assessment and monitoring, needs assessment, and the development of habitat objectives and conservation plans. **World Wildlife Fund Canada** on behalf of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Endangered Species Recovery Fund, has also awarded the Nature Trust a grant for Coastal Plain Flora Conservation. This year landowners on 4 more nationally significant lakes will be contacted.

Computer Equipment

The Imperial Oil Charitable Foundation has granted \$1,000 from the Volunteer Involvement Program (VIP) for the purchase of new equipment. An employee of Imperial Oil, Ron Miller of Stewiacke who is a Nature Trust member sponsored the grant application. Two new computers have now been installed at the Nature Trust office thanks to Ron!

STAFFING MEMO

New Staff

The Nature Trust welcomes three new staff: Meredith Flannery, Kim McGee-Holman and Sean LeMoine. They have been making significant contributions since last fall. Meredith brings her scientific expertise and project management skills. Just prior to joining the Nature Trust, she coordinated the Nova Scotia component of the national Go for Green Trail PAQ initiative. Meredith's work focuses on the coastal plain flora project.

Sean, a fish and wildlife technician with a degree in environmental biology, worked previously as supervisor of the Hullett Provincial Wildlife Area in Clinton, Ontario. He is

presently updating baseline maps and is responsible for a host of tasks presently being completed.

Kim McGee-Holman is part-time bookkeeper. She is moving full steam ahead with efficient practices and procedures for the office.

Departing Staff

Two staff members have left their Nature Trust positions. Minga O'Brien who provided valuable expertise to the organization decided in December of last year to move on to other challenges. Her unique vision and dedication were appreciated by all who worked with her.

Julian West worked a short time for the Nature Trust before being offered a plum position at the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. His work while with the Nature Trust was notably appreciated and of outstanding quality.

Sandy Creighton leaves as Interim Executive Director in April after a seven month term placement until Bonnie's return from her maternity leave.

Everyone at the Nature Trust wishes the best of luck to Sandy, Minga and Julian!

Welcome Back Bonnie

In April Bonnie will be back at the Nature Trust in her position as Program Manager/Executive Director.

VOLUNTEER NOTES

Volunteers have made significant contributions in the last couple of months at the Nature Trust. Special thanks go to Eric Hundert who edited this issue of *Natural Landscapes*. A big thanks also to Greg Lukeman who has been busily reconstructing the Nature Trust's new website that displays a map showing all the protected properties and provides details about each.

The Fundraising Committee is again working to make a success of the 2001 Bateman Dinner and silent auction. Members of the committee are: Joanne McCormick, Greg Lukeman, Mary McLaren, Richard Nickerson, Rob McCleave and Mike Coolen.

The Nature Trust Working Group formerly known as the Annapolis Valley group has changed its name. It is now the Kings County Working Group. The change in name reflects a reduction in scope to further the goals of the Nature Trust.

ANNOUNCING

**Nature Trust
Website
Domain & Reconstruction**

Check it out at:
WWW.NSNT.CA

JOB OPPORTUNITY

The NSNT seeks an *Office Coordinator/Program Assistant* to provide support for a range of the organization's operations from administration to public relations. (Must be on Employment Insurance or have established a claim that has ended at some point within the last 3 yrs., or have been on a maternity/parental claim that started within the last 5 yrs.) For more detail, see www.nsnt.ca.

Requirements: Post-secondary degree or work/volunteer experience in several of the following areas: public relations, office management and administration, word processing, database management, research, graphic design, fundraising, promotional or educational writing, editing, and volunteer coordination. Excellent organizational skills are mandatory. Demonstrated interpersonal and communication skills, and an ability to work as a team member and independently are critical. Experience and demonstrated interest in conservation and the charitable sector an asset. Submit letter and resume by April 12th to Box 2202, Halifax B3J 3C4 or by fax to 902-429-5263. No phone calls, please.

NSNT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTICE

All are welcome to attend the upcoming AGM of the Nova Scotia Nature Trust taking place on Friday, April 20th at the Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer St., Halifax starting at 7:15 p.m. in the auditorium.

A presentation and slide show by the Nature Trust Properties Committee will be featured illustrating achievements at the Nature Trust over the past year.

Nova Scotia Nature Trust Board of Directors

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Natural Landscapes, the newsletter of the Nova Scotia Nature Trust, is published periodically. It aims to keep members updated on Nature Trust projects, issues in private land conservation, and special events, and to provide a forum for readers to discuss relevant topics.

Natural Landscapes depends on the input of readers for content. All are invited to submit articles, notes, letters, commentaries, or important notices. Please send submissions on IBM compatible 3.5" diskettes or paper to:

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Thanks to the current funders of our conservation projects:

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JOIN THE NOVA SCOTIA NATURE TRUST NOW!

Membership in the Nova Scotia Nature Trust is open to any person or corporation interested in the protection of Nova Scotia's natural beauty and native biological diversity. Members receive the newsletter, *Natural Landscapes*, are entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting, and may participate in the various committees of the Trust. Members also have the satisfaction of knowing that they are making an important contribution to the protection of Nova Scotia's outstanding natural areas.

Name _____ Organization (if applicable) _____

Street Address _____ City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

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Membership:

\$15 Student \$25 Individual \$40 Family \$50 NGO \$100 Supporter / Corporate \$500 Friend of the Nature Trust
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I would like to make a donation \$ _____ *The Nature Trust also welcomes gifts of securities, trade lands, memorial gifts and bequests*

Please send a tax receipt for income tax purposes (Charitable # 889627691RR0001)

VISA# _____

I would like to volunteer

I would like to receive information on options for protecting my land

I would like more information on including the Nature Trust in my estate planning

Please make cheque or money order payable to:

Expiry date _____

Signature _____

Nova Scotia Nature Trust, P.O. Box 2202, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3C4

