

INDIAN PIPE (MONOTROPA UNIFLORA) TAKEN JULY 25TH, 2018.

Larose Biodiversity Project

SOW # 2017-JW-01-02

January 18, 2019

Quarterly Update

by Naomi Langlois-Anderson

Spring is Coming

Spring is just around the corner! Before you know it, the birds will be back, frogs will start trilling and trees will be budding. This will signal the start of monitoring in Larose Forest. Amphibians will emerge from their burrows to begin their search for a mate, hopefully using the newly dug pit & mound ponds. Last fall, the small ponds were outfitted with branches and sticks. As the snow melts and the small ponds fill-up, the submerged branches will provide a medium for the frogs and salamanders to lay their eggs on. As the ground warms and the vegetation begins budding, we will be busy watching the newly planted trees, shrubs and plants to see what survived last summer's drought and the yo-yo

winter temperatures. Exciting times! The anticipation of seeing the trilliums bloom is growing every day.



Witch Hazel, Hamamelis virginiana
flowers in the fall.

Creating Biodiversity

Species selection, for the purpose of increasing vegetation biodiversity, must consider several factors. At the site level, we assessed the soil properties and moisture regime and factored in the nearby wetland and the canopy extent. In Larose Forest, the fact that it was a sand desert one hundred years ago, means that the soils were extremely degraded. Being forested has helped to build up the soils; however, the sand and clay levels are very shallowly covered by the leaf litter and humus layers. Yet, trees are adaptable and given the right conditions can flourish. A detailed log of the species, along



with the survival rate, will be collected throughout the spring, summer and fall of 2019. All findings will be described in the December 2019 final report.



Green frog (*Rana Calamitans*)
photo captured July 9, 2018.

Take Our kids to Work Day

On November 14th, 2018, SNC hosted two high school students from Tagwi Secondary School, in Avonmore, ON. The students were brought to Larose Forest to assist with the native grass seed dispersal. Twenty-five kilos of native grasses consisting of a blend of shade-tolerant varieties were purchased from Wildflower Farm, in Coldwater, ON. The students hand-broadcasted the seeds around each of the ponds constructed for the pit & mound re-creation.



Tagwi students Corinne Anderson and Hallie Cutler sowing grass seed.

Monitoring

The post-monitoring is an important part of the project and it deals with checking if the project had the desired outcome and how the performance can be improved for future projects. Frog, salamander, and vegetation inventories will be analysed as part of the biometrics. In natural environments such as Larose Forest, one must contend with a range of seasonal conditions: insects, weather, and accessibility levels (mud, large puddles, fallen trees, etc.). Timing monitoring activities can greatly improve the success, as well as being properly prepared with field gear and monitoring equipment. Vernal pool measurements, their usage by amphibians and the longevity of water retained will be closely examined.



Seaway students take part in Eco Day at Bob Graham CA.

School Outreach

On October 17th, 2018, SNC hosted Seaway Valley High School students from Iroquois, ON, for an Eco Day, as part of a Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) course. The SHSM was in the environmental stream and included an orienteering practicum, invasive species removal and tree planting. The students learned about forestry practices, managing forested properties and issues related to invasive plants. The course was delivered at Bob Graham Conservation Area, where OPG funded a vernal pond creation in 2015. Invasive buckthorn was pulled by hand, with larger shrubs being cut and glyphosphate dabbed onto the cut stump. Afterwards, the students planted native trees and plants around the vernal pond.

Questions About This Project?

Feel free to contact us at
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