

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2015-2016



## Living Watersheds Workshop Results

On September 12, 2015 FSR provided a template package outlining our history and programs. The workshop encouraged participants to think of the big picture - the holistic watershed - and to form Friends of river groups on the Napanee, Skootamatta, and Moira watersheds. A summary and a powerpoint show of the Workshop were prepared for use at other events.

As a result of the Living Watersheds Workshop,

- a Friends group has been initiated for the Napanee River
- A Shoreline Planting (initiated by Denice Wilkins) is planned at the Stillpoint House of Prayer in Springtown, on the Madawaska River currently with 9 acres of lawn on the water. Watersheds Canada got a grant for them and the whole shoreline will be planted on Oct. 21 and 22, 2016.

## Bus Tour, April 23, 2016

FSR, the Ontario Woodlot Association (Limestone Chapter), and the Frontenac Stewardship Foundation sponsored a bus tour of forests, wetlands and lakes in Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Counties. The bus toured into Central and North Frontenac, then headed into the upper Salmon River watershed, and then back to Verona. Commentary from experts was provided on surface geology, glacial features, ecological relationships, forest types, lakes and wetlands, as well as woodlot management. Participants enjoyed the tour and most said as a result, they would look at landscapes with more understanding.

## Shoreline Seedlings Program

Free shoreline seedlings were again provided to FSR members by Quinte Conservation; 150 seedlings were planted by our members in April.

## Loyalist Solar Project in Stone Mills Township

BluEarth Renewables has completed most of the Environmental Assessments that will be submitted to MNR for review. The project area in Newburgh area is split between the Napanee and Salmon River watersheds. Members of FSR attended information sessions that focused on Shrike habitat and alvar protection, and on transmission line options, including habitat and river crossings. Construction of the project is pending results of the EAs.

## Stone Mills Shoreline By-law

The Shoreline Protection by-law was not adopted by the Township after negative responses from residents and confusion among landowners as to which areas would be affected. FSR could

create a Stone Mills Shoreline Protection/ Education Package to give to current landowners and new landowners moving into shoreline properties regarding stewardship of shoreline properties.

### **Monarch Butterfly Program**

FSR provided a \$1,000 donation to the Lennox and Addington Stewardship Council, which allowed 25 Monarch Breeding Kits to be provided to elementary schools in L&A County. The Stewardship Council worked with schools to plant pollinator gardens. In total, 13 schools participated in both the Breeding Kits program and pollinator garden planting and a further 9 schools participated in the Monarch program alone. The Breeding Kits program allowed primary students to watch the growth stages from caterpillar to adult, and learn all about the Monarch butterflies.

### **ATVs in the Salmon River**

The Salmon River is being used as part of an ATV trail in Stone Mills Township. The Township has installed a barrier at the end of Jones Street to discourage further crossing at that location. However, similar activity occurs upstream, on private property. An article was published in the local media and in our FSR newsletter.

### **July 9, 2016: Family Nature Day in Erinsville**

Quinte Conservation and FSR again hosted a Family Nature Day at Beaver Lake, which was attended by about 100 children. The theme was Wild About Wildlife. It provided the opportunity for families to learn about their natural surroundings.

### **Sept 20, 2016: Alvar Grasslands Workshop**

FSR is part of the Napanee Plains Initiative who hosted a program about the value of alvars/ grasslands and about programs available to landowners to preserve these habitats.

### **October 1, 2016 Forest Field Day**

The Ontario Woodlot Association with Friends of Salmon River and the L&A Stewardship Council hosted a morning of forest activity at the Kennedy Field Station just north of Tamworth on the Salmon River. Activities included a morning walking tour with foresters and biologists that included a mini-bio blitz (where all species are recorded).

### **Ideas Discussed for Future Events**

Joint event with area lake associations - the Kennebec Lake Association, Horseshoe and Crotch Lakes Association, and the Big Clear Lake Association  
An Invasive Species Workshop with Ontario Woodlot Association and L&A Stewardship Council.