



# Le point vert

The Ruitter Valley Land Trust

Spring 2010

Volume 3 - Number 1



In the course of the year, students from Mansonville and Eastman schools participated in a training program on the protection of wildlife and habitats as part of RVLT's environmental education program. Accompanied by Environmental Educator, Isabelle Grégoire, the children had a chance to visit a diversity of habitats in either Pottou, Bolton-East or Eastman. The program concluded with an environmental expo organized by the students. The enthusiasm was palpable and the exchange

between the students of the two Mansonville schools was a delight to see. This is the kind of initiative that encourages our children to get involved in the conservation of habitats and ecosystems in their community.

## New on the trails

The old Snowshoe Hare trail has been changed since the new Missisquoi-North trail (which runs through the Fullerton sector of the RVLT holdings) connects the Coyote and Hawk trails,. Please consult the map. <http://www.valleeruitter.org/pics/TrailMap2.pdf>.

The project which aims to connect the Réserve naturelle des Montagnes-vertes (and by extension les Sentiers de l'Estrie) to the heart of the village via RVLT's trail network is coming along nicely! Thanks in part to the cooperation of the Municipality of Pottou. Stay tuned for progress reports!

A huge thank-you to Frank Ruiz for his commitment and passion to getting the trails opened, and to the landowners who have allowed trail access on their properties.



© M-C Planet



© K.A. King

Because we open our land to the public we have to take extra care to respect the balance between human and wildlife needs. From mid-April till the end of June is baby time in the woods. Signs and barriers are posted near vulnerable areas. Please do not enter these areas during that period. We also ask that you stay on the trails so that the life outside them can flourish undisturbed!

## Repairing Our Trail Infrastructure

Our trails and bridges are starting to show wear and tear, and several need urgent attention. We will do what we can within the limits of our budget and, depending on the success of our fundraising, a number of maintenance and restoration projects are planned for the upcoming year. A top priority is creating barriers to stop motorized vehicles. Anyone who wants to give a hand with this and other maintenance projects please contact [guydanslbois@gmail.com](mailto:guydanslbois@gmail.com) and let him know what you can do to help.

## One more step for the protection of natural habitats!

Since last December, an additional 6 hectares of natural habitats is protected in perpetuity thanks to a generous donation from Mr. Jon Breslaw. The property, adjacent to Lake Sopala in the Township of Potton, includes a wetland as well as several streams and mature forest communities. A number of species at risk have also been recorded by Appalachian Corridor biologists, among which are the Two-leaved Toothwort and Ostrich Fern, both designated Vulnerable in Quebec. To find out more about RVL's conservation actions and benefits related to Environment Canada's Eco-Gift Program, visit: <http://www.valleeruiteur.org/eng/conservation.html>

G.Lizotte (ACA), S. Plantenga (FFVR), J. Breslaw, G. Langevin (FFVR) et C. Cram.

or <http://www.ec.gc.ca/pde-egp/>

## What's cooking ?

Again this year, the training session with Botanist Louise Gratton was a great success. Subject to appropriate funding, the program will be back next year, including an intensive session on ferns. Thank you Louise for sharing your wonderful knowledge and passion of the plant kingdom!

A series of outdoors, cultural and educational activities are planned in Potton in the next few months. Consult our calendar:

<http://www.valleeruiteur.org/eng/calendrier.html>

We're talking about us in « Marche et randonnée ». Read the article :

<http://www.valleeruiteur.org/fran/marche-randonnee-automne2009.pdf>



M.C. Planet

## Renewing your membership : a winning proposal !

Renew your membership and/or refer a new member by 21 June 2010 and **get a chance to win the eco-guides of the Ruiteur Valley series**. To participate, simply fill in and return your Membership Renewal Coupon along with your payment. Thanks for your support, which is essential for achieving our goals.

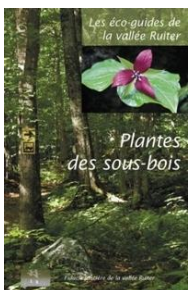
## Eco-guides of the Ruiteur Valley



### Tracking Mammals

An introduction to wildlife monitoring techniques for the novice or experienced observer. A description of the habitat and special characteristics of each species is included. It is illustrated with colour photos and drawings of animal tracks and also includes a "Track Identification Form".

### Woodland Plants



Short monographs of some of the most remarkable plants found in the Ruiteur Valley woodlands that can accompany trail users along the way. Each specimen is illustrated by colour photos and contains useful information that will facilitate flora identification

On sale for \$10 at the Potton, Sutton and Magog Tourist Bureau or at the Potton and Sutton Public Libraries. Also available at Au Naturel in Sutton, Pépinière Abbotsford or by e-mail at [info@valleeruiteur.org](mailto:info@valleeruiteur.org).

These initiatives were made possible thanks to the support of our partners:



Municipality of the Township of Potton