



Le point vert

The Ruitter Valley Land Trust

Summer 2011

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RVLT's tribute to the International Year of Forests

The United Nations General Assembly declared 2011 "International Year of Forests". To honour this unique event, the Ruitter Valley Land Trust has produced a series of four beautiful botanical posters. The scenes from the Ruitter Valley remind us how our forests, which are home to 80% of the planet's biodiversity and store tons of carbon dioxide each year, are essential to our well-being: Forests act as the planet's lungs! In addition to providing shelter and food for wildlife, they play an essential role for the health of our ecosystems.



Our posters are available at the Pottton Tourist Bureau, at Au Naturel in Sutton and Brome Lake Books in Knowlton for \$10 (big format) and \$5 (small format). Post cards are also available for \$1.

There are also a few copies left of the Eco-Guides of the Ruitter Valley. Among other things, we learn that the Jack-in-the-pulpit can live up to 200 years and change sex from one year to the other; or that food from man-made buffets may be dangerous to deer, because it's stomach is adapted for digestion and absorption of energy from small branches.

Conservation of natural areas

Did you know that a town with biodiversity-rich habitats contributes to the health and quality of life of its community? In addition, closeness to natural areas can add 15% to 20% to property values.



Such facts illustrate what an important role the biological diversity plays in our day-to-day activities! In that respect, RVLT continues to pursue its primary mission: the protection of non-fragmented forests, which are essential for wildlife. To find out more about our conservation actions you can visit « Our Programs » section of our website: www.ruittervalley.org.

Environmental Education in local schools

Once again this year, our "Faune sans frontières for Youth" Program was a great success in the Mansonville, Eastman and Knowlton schools. Since 2002, over 400 students from 6 primary schools in the region have been initiated to learning about the conservation of natural areas. That's in addition to the many teachers and parents who have accompanied the children on their field trips and members of the community who have visited the environmental expos organized annually by the students.

Canada-US Transborder Educational Program

RVLT also innovated by implementing a Canada-US Transborder Educational Program in three primary schools in Knowlton and Jay, Vermont. The project was carried out in cooperation with Vermont's « Staying Connected », a 30-town initiative designed to safeguard key wildlife habitats for creatures big and small. As part of this joint program, a total of 80 children from Knowlton Academy, Saint-Edouard International and Jay/Westfield Elementary schools were initiated in animal tracking and wildlife corridor conservation. This initiative concluded with the creation of a very interesting blog, where Quebec and Vermont students and their teachers shared their experience: <http://schoolonhike.blogspot.com/>. Congratulations to Isabelle Grégoire, Environmental Educator, for her impressive work!



On the trails

Bearing in mind the importance of safeguarding the integrity of the natural environment and providing safe infrastructures for hikers, x-country skiers and snowshoers, a great number of improvements were made on our trails in the past year: maintenance of bridges and gutters, improvements to the Deer and Bear trails, additional trail signs, installation of barriers to prevent motorized vehicles from accessing our trails, etc. We are delighted to see that we have reached our goal. A new information kiosk also awaits visitors at the Ruitier Brook Parking lot. Cheers to Éric, Guy, Gadoue and to our committed volunteers!



This last winter season had a record snowfall; one of the best winters in the Ruitier Valley in the past 40 years. Thank you to Frank Ruiz and the Katimavik team who patrolled our trails on a regular basis and to all users for respecting the "Leave No Trace" Etiquette. Your comments are always welcome.

Next Annual General Meeting

Our next annual meeting will be held early this fall. More details will be available shortly. We take this opportunity to welcome France Lapointe who joined our board at our last general meeting in December.

Contest: « Renewing My Membership! »

Renew your membership or make a tax deductible donation by **31st July 2011** and **get a chance to win the complete series of our 4 botanical posters!** To participate, simply fill in and return your Membership Renewal Coupon along with your payment if you have not already done so. We need your support in order to continue our activities. Thank you and have a wonderful summer season!

The above activities were made possible thanks to support from our members and financial partners:

