



Director's Report  
August 15, 2013  
Kris Ramsay

### **Administrative**

**Compact/ HCT Annual Meeting:** On Monday, August 5<sup>th</sup> Lynn, Sharon, Patty and I attended The Compact's and HCT's Annual Meeting at the Wequassett Resort in East Harwich. I had some very good conversations with Orleans community members, including Catharine Ryan. During the business meeting Mike Lach introduced their 49-acre land preservation project in East Harwich. A Ryan Family Foundation was awarded Harwich's Conservationist of the Year Award for making a significant gift towards the project, and for their on-going support of other key acquisitions over the years. Rich Johnston spoke as the President of The Compact. Rich outlined a current court case in which the non-profit New England Forest Foundation (NEFF), with land holdings in western MA (as well as throughout New England) was found to have to pay property taxes on a property in Holly, MA because it was determined that the property was not sufficiently open to the public. NEFF is now taking the case to the State's Appellate Court. If they lose the case, it could set a precedent for non-profit land conservation groups to have to pay property taxes on land. It is cases like this that provide a sound basis for the planned updating of our Declaration of Trust – beginning with the "Purpose" section.

**Annual Meeting:** In the next two weeks I will be finalizing the slide show for the business meeting. I have been in touch with guest speaker Dick Ryder to nail down his presentation details. Invitations were sent out to all donors of \$25 or more since July 1, 2012.

**Summer 2013 Internships:** Ben Lyttle and Steve O'Grady continue to be a valuable asset to the Trust. This past month they both finalized the narrative associated with our invasive species guide. That information is being loaded onto our website. With that project complete, Ben is now focusing on a land management plan for the Ice House-Reuben's Pond Conservation Area. Steve has been working on the Trump's Baseline Documentation Plan. This baseline will be included as an attachment to the Conservation Restriction.

**AmeriCorps Work IP Position:** Meg's last day was on August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013. I attended her graduation on August 1, 2013 at the CCCC. We will find out who our new AmeriCorps IP is towards the beginning of September.

**Watershed-Level Wastewater Planning Meetings:** The Cape Cod Commission has released its updated Watershed Working Group Meeting information. Note that the watershed groups have been reconfigured (eg, Pleasant Bay is now a standalone group; Namskaket Marsh has been combined with Nauset Marsh and Town Cove) and start dates pushed back. Attached are the specific dates relating to these meetings around the Cape.

### **Land Acquisition**

**"Executive Session"**

### **Land Management**

**AmeriCorps Workday:** On Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup> I worked with 12 AmeriCorps members at the Twinings Pond Conservation Area. Our focus continues to be the removal of invasive species, particularly around Quanset Road where they are more prevalent and damaging.



CR Inspections: This past month the interns and I have continued to conduct a number of CR inspections. During each inspection the interns took photos to update the baseline photo maps. We have not had any CR violations to date. I only have a handful more to complete for the year.

Namequoit Bog: I continue to take detailed notes of the changes taking place in the bog, what plant species are coming back, how quickly the water flows in and out of the bog, etc. Jeremy Bell of the State Dept. of Fish and Wildlife and his assistant have installed three hydrometers within the bog and on the Paw Wah Pond side of the road. For the next month these hydrometers will document how much freshwater flows out vs. the amount of salt water trying to enter the bog. The information will be very important to have when it comes to long range planning. Once we have our results, the State will be able to make recommendations as to what the property should be managed for (freshwater vs. salt).

White's Lane: The Terrapins should be hatching any time. For the next 90 days we will have a volunteer inspecting the property each morning and at night.

Trail Maintenance: The interns and I continue to have to mow back trails and clear around memorial benches and stones.

#### **Fundraising/ PR/ Branding**

Summer Cocktail Parties: We are working to nail down a cocktail party for the second or third week in September. This party will be hosted by Jeanne and Dick Berdik, residents of 150 Quanset Road in South Orleans. Once the date is set, the invitations will be sent out.

Spring 2013 Membership Mailing: The membership mailing letter was sent in the beginning of July and we continue to receiving a steady flow of responses.

Fall 2013 Newsletter: The Fundraising/Branding Committee and I have already started to lay out the fall 2013 Newsletter. It is our hope to have this newsletter out towards the middle of October.

Website: As mentioned above, I am working to add an invasive species section to our website under "Save Land". These pages will continue to be a work in progress.

#### **Educational Meetings/ Programs**

2014 Winter Lecture Series: A large, broad list of potential winter lecturers has been compiled. I am working my way down the list to see who is available and interested.

Recent Educational Walks: This past month we led a walk at the Town of Orleans Peck Property. 10-12 community members attended the walk. Ivan Humphrey, a recent large donor, attended the walk. Soon after the walk he sent a follow-up e-mail expressing his appreciation for the organization and the educational programs made available.

Upcoming Walks: Our next walk is scheduled for Thursday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00-10:00am at the Town's Kenrick Woods Conservation Area. I am hoping to get Rich Eldred to lead the walk.