



Director's Report
Kris Ramsay
January 17, 2013

Administrative

Conservation Summit: On Saturday, February 2, 2013 at 8:30am I will be attending The Compact's Southeastern MA Land Trust Convocation in Bourne. Topics of discussions will range from Habitat Restorations to Special Event Fundraising. This is a half-day conference that I would suggest Trustees attend if available. Several Trustees have participated in prior years and have commented very favorably on the conference content as well as the networking opportunity.

Land Acquisition

Land Acquisition Planning: At the suggestion of the land strategy planning group I set up a way to evaluate and prioritize future potential land acquisitions based on location, acreage, connectivity, recognized rare or endangered species habitat, etc. The committee met on December 13, 2012 to further evaluate and discuss a number of these parcels in detail. We are working our way down the list and will continue to do so in the coming months. We are also working with the Chair of the Town's Open Space Committee and Conservation Commission Administrator to update the open space map.

***Twinings II Land Acquisition "Window on the Pond":** The Town closed on the purchase of the Conservation Restriction and Title was transferred to OCT on December 20, 2012. While a final analysis of the financials relating to the purchase is being put together, it appears we may have fallen short by just over \$3,000 from meeting our campaign goal. I have applied for a grant of \$3,200 to the Friends of Pleasant Bay to address this shortfall. We should know the result of this grant request within the coming week(s). We are wrapping up the steps required within the State Conservation Land Tax Credit Program to ensure the Flecks can claim an additional \$50k tax credit.

***Winslow Potential Gift:** Both the Conservation Restriction to OCT and Title to The Compact were recorded on December 18, 2012. Now we need to sign the Assignment of Conservation Restriction to The Compact in order for The Compact to transfer title to OCT. The document will be available for Trustee signatures at the Board meeting.

Land Management

Green Week Update: Meg and Sebastian (Town of Orleans IP) have been planning for a "Green Week" (name not finalized), which will run from April 15th-19th. This week will involve outdoor land management activities, public presentations, and two educational workdays within the Nauset Middle School. On January 9, 2013 Meg presented an overview of the program to the Nauset Middle Schools Principal and Science Department Chairs. They had a positive reaction to the proposal and will contact Meg to see how they can incorporate some of the proposed ideas into their curriculum. Meg and Sebastian are also working to finalize a budget and identify grant funding sources.

AmeriCorps: On Wednesday December 12, 2012 Meg and I worked with the AmeriCorps National Seashore group at the Ewald Gift in East Orleans (pictures to come). The focus of the project was to mow back the existing field habitat, remove invasive species, and open up the area along the historic stone wall.

Namequoit Bog: Over the last month I have worked to gather historical information, take site photos, develop a baseline report and start drafting a long term management plan. I believe we need significant guidance when it comes to this plan, so I have contacted the following individuals for guidance, many of whom will be conducting site visits in the coming week(s).

- Don Liptack- USDA Federal Natural Resource Service
- Jeremy Bell- Restoration Specialist, MA Department Fish & Game Division of Ecological Restoration
- Joanne Muramoto- APCC, Staff of Coastal Resources Committee
- Tim Simmons- State Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program Ecological Restoration Specialist
- Dave Crary- National Seashore Burn Director
- Chris Miller- Brewster Natural Resources Administrator
- Sara Quintal, Restoration Ecologist, Buzzards Bay
- David Chalker- Bartlett Tree Service Representative

It is my hope that with their input, we can start to look long term and identify potential funding sources.

Fundraising/ PR/ Branding

*Newsletter: The newsletter has gotten nothing but great reviews and it is fair to say we have one of the most appealing Land Trust newsletters on Cape. Not only has the newsletter brought in new donors, but it has also encouraged prior OCT donors to renew their memberships or make year-end appeal donations. As of 1-11-2013 we had 32 new members respond directly to the mailing.

*Year- End Appeal: The year-end appeal was sent out during the second week of December and the donor responses have been steady since that time.

Specific Donor Response (as of January 11- more donations came in since)

- **Requesting More than \$100**
 - Donor response = 22%
 - Donated requested amount = 58%
 - Donated more than requested amount = 25%
- **Requested \$100**
 - Donor response = 14%
 - Donated requested amount = 45%
 - Donated more than requested amount = 8%
- **Requested \$25**
 - Donor response = .5%
 - Donated requested amount = 91%
 - Donated more than requested amount = 47%

TOTAL (average)

- Donor Response = 12%
- (Percentage is based on specific year-end mailing list. Some donors gave before the mailing was sent out and removed from large year-end mailing. Others major donors were sent a specific appeal separate from the year-end bulk mailing)
- Donated requested amount = 65%
- Donated more than requested amount = 26%

Website Overhaul: Sharon, Paul and I started working with Paul Allen of New Bedford Internet to overhaul the website. Paul has provided a draft design, which the three of us were impressed with. We have a few small design changes to make and once those are complete we can start plugging in the narrative for the drop down bars and maps.

Educational Meetings/ Programs

Up-coming Talk: OCT will host its first “Third Tuesday” Winter Lecture Series talk on January 15, 2013 at the Orleans Yacht Club. The presentation is entitled *Voyeuristic Citizen Science: The Cape Cod Osprey Project*. The

presentation will feature Mark Faherty, Science Coordinator at MA Audubon Wellfleet Bay. Mark's presentation will focus on the history of the Osprey as a conservation success story. Attendees will follow a satellite-tagged young Cape Cod Osprey on her amazing journey from Eastham to Brazil.



Past Walk: On Saturday, January 12, 2013 I led a walk around our Three Pond Conservation Area. We had a great turnout, with nearly 40 community members attending the walk.

