



Director's Report
May 16, 2013
Kris Ramsay

Administrative

***Summer 2013 Internship:** OCT summer interns Stephen O'Grady of Colby College and Ben Lyttle of Lesley University are wrapping up their school year and will start interning (part-time) with the Trust at the end of May. Along with the day-to-day land management obligations (trail clearing, property inspections, stewardship reports, etc.), both interns will help monitor and document our conservation restrictions (CR's) this summer. They will be taking photos of the CR's and updating and/or creating baseline photo documentation maps. They will scan older documents to help create an electronic archive so that we have back-up for our key documents.

***Green Week Success (4/22/13 through 4/26/13):**

The week was multi-faceted:

- Students from the Riverview School and the Cape Cod Regional Technical High School in Harwich helped AmeriCorps Cape Cod (ACC) members plant native shrubs on several Orleans Conservation Trust (OCT) properties,
- ACC members helped maintain two OCT trail systems by removing invasive species and installing wooden boardwalks,
- ACC members gave a presentation on the importance of native ecology to the entire 6th grade at Nauset Regional Middle School, and
- Nauset Regional Middle School students helped ACC members to finish planting in the front entranceway of their school.

In total, 723 native shrubs and trees were planted on local conservation and town lands, 300 students were involved in environmental and educational activities, and 300 white spruce seedlings were distributed to students and volunteers. For photos of the week-long celebration go to:

<http://orleansconservationtrust.org/green-week-recap/>

Land Acquisition

Executive Session

***Land Acquisition Planning:** I am working my way through the customized priority land acquisition letters. I have followed up a few times with the Town to see about updating the Town's Conservation, Recreation and Open Space Plan, but have yet to make much progress. I will continue to reiterate our interest in helping to update this document.

Land Management

***Namequoit Bog:** Keith Johnson of Billingsgate has finished Phase 1-A of the Namequoit Bog land management proposal. Keith worked for 4 full days in the bog and went above and beyond the initial scope of work. Keith was able to access portions of the bog that we did not expect he could due to the wet soil conditions a month ago. Len Rosen is very pleased with the work and has transferred the funds to cover that cost. We are now discussing thinning a number of the dead red maples, further allowing the sunlight to penetrate the understory and encouraging the native rushes and sedges to grow.

Blue Bird Box Program: Pam Schultz, Meg and I installed eight Blue Bird nest boxes at White's Lane. As of May 1st we have 3 nest boxes with established nests and a 4th box shows signs of a nest being built.

Pleasant Bay Narrows Trust Encroachment Issue: As a reminder, last month Ryder & Wilcox and Wilkinson Ecological Design sent us a letter admitting that work conducted at 26 Horseshoe Lane inadvertently encroached upon the Pleasant Bay Narrows Trust (PBNT) property at 30 Horseshoe Lane, which the Trust holds a Conservation Restriction over. OCT and the Town have approved their continuing to use the access point as long as they file a NOI with the Town to extend the fiber rolls and vegetation onto the access point when they are no longer using it. That NOI has been filed with the Town and should be approved at the end of May.

Fundraising/ PR/ Branding

*Board Alumni and Advisors Meeting: On Sunday, April 28th we hosted the reception, which was extremely successful. More than 50 present and past Trustees, land donors, and historical major supporters attended the gathering.



Newsletter: The final layout and design of the newsletter is near complete. We should be ready to send it in to print this week. The newsletter will include photos from the Alumni/Advisors "reception", and information regarding the Orleans Conservation Trust Endowment Fund, which was announced at the "reception".

Spring 2013 Membership Mailing: A membership mailing letter will be drafted in the coming week; the mailing list is complete. We plan to send the membership mailing out one week after the newsletter mailing.

Summer Cocktail Parties: The first cocktail party will be hosted by Ad Vos and is scheduled for Friday, June 21 from 5:00 – 7:30pm. A draft list of potential attendees has been put together and will be reviewed at the next Fundraising meeting.

Educational Meetings/ Programs

Recent Third Tuesday lecture: On April 16th we hosted a lecture entitled, "Great White Sharks, Our New Neighbors," as part of our Third Tuesday Winter Lecture Series. Guest speaker, Dr. Greg Skomal, Senior Marine Biologist for the State of MA Division of Fisheries and Project Supervisor of the MA Shark Research Program, spoke about the recent resurgence of Western Atlantic Great White Sharks off the coast of Orleans and beyond. We had more than 90 attendees.



Up-coming Third Tuesday Winter Lecture Talk: On Tuesday, May 21st we will host a lecture entitled “The Symbiotic relationship between Humpback Whales and Marine Birds.” In this program, Peter Trull will use vivid photographs and years of personal experience to explain the symbiotic relationship between whales and pelagic birds.

Up-coming Walks: Our next walk is scheduled for Thursday, May 16th from 9:00 – 10:15am at the Ice House/ Reuben’s Pond Conservation Area. I will be leading the walk.