



Director's Report
April, 2017
Elizabeth Migliore

Administrative

Orleans Water Quality Advisory Panel: For all the meeting materials, go to <http://www.town.orleans.ma.us/water-quality-advisory-panel/pages/workshop-materials>.

I attended the Freshwater Ponds Working Group on April 11, which has been charged with prioritizing freshwater ponds for remediation efforts as part of the water quality initiative. OCT plans to continue working closely with this group, particularly as Uncle Harvey's Pond has been selected as the top priority, and OCT owns a large parcel on this pond's waterfront.

OCT has hired a Land Manager! This is a split position with Eastham Conservation Foundation. Andrew Bagnara will start on May 15, assisting with conservation restriction monitoring, regular land maintenance including clearing trails and removing invasives, creating/implementing land management plans, and helping to build our volunteer land steward program.

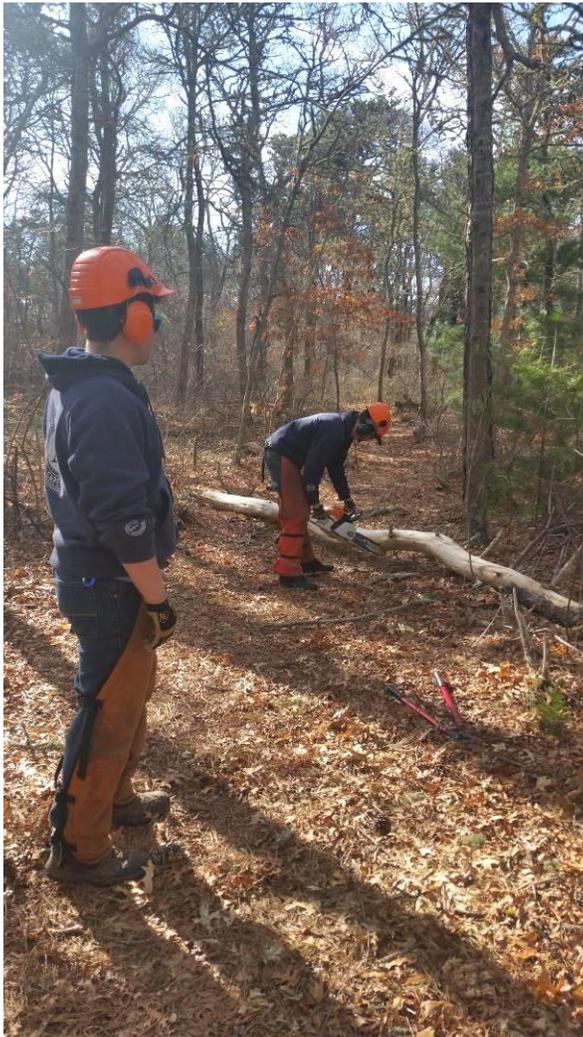
New Headquarters

We're continuing to work on setting up our new office space, including meeting ADA and fire code compliance. Our ADA ramp is expected to be completed by the end of April. A volunteer workday will be held at the office on May 10 from 9am – 12pm to remove invasives from the yard and paint the split rail fence by the road. We're holding an open house on May 27 from 1-4 pm!

Land Management

The land management committee has been working hard to prioritize property for land management in 2017. AmeriCorps placement Derek has been busy monitoring properties, keeping up with hazardous tree removal, and completing land management plans for our largest properties.

On April 14, AmeriCorps Cape Cod members spent the morning creating a trail extension from the Ice House Pond trail system through the new Captain Curtis property. This new entrance allows for easier access by neighbors. In the afternoon, the members assisted Mass Audubon Wellfleet Bay Director Bob Prescott in cleaning up the turtle gardens as White's Lane Conservation Area. Weeding and raking these sandy nesting sites encourages the terrapins to use this spot to lay eggs, which are then protected and monitored by Mass Audubon in order to increase the endangered terrapin survival rates.



Removal of downed tree on Ice House Pond trail.



New trail entrance on Capt. Curtis Way.



Terrapin nesting site cleanup with Bob Prescott.

Land Acquisition

OCT has raised enough funds to purchase two developable parcels on Nauset Heights Road and Olivers Way in East Orleans, with the anticipated \$75,000 state conservation tax credit in 2018! These parcels will connect to existing OCT conservation land donated by the Cullen family, including Mill Pond waterfront. We have been given an extension to January 2018 for this purchase, to accommodate the tax credit. We will continue to accept contributions designated towards the closing costs of this transaction, and ongoing land management of the parcels. For more information view the blog posting at <http://orleansconservationtrust.org/land-acquisition-opportunity-in-east-orleans/>.

The board has approved pursuing a fundraising campaign for a 1.40 acre lot on Tom's Hollow Lane. A purchase agreement has been signed for \$250,000, with OCT granted 3 months to fundraise. This property includes a vernal pool, and is across a dirt lane from OCT's 58 acre Cochran Gift. We are currently close to our fundraising goal, with a final push needed to get all needed funds by May 19.

OCT has also signed a purchase agreement for a parcel connecting to White's Lane Conservation Area, and is launching a fundraising effort for this 1.7 acre property.

Finance/Investment Committee

We did have \$3.5K in donations in the month, but little else in income. Year to date, we are at income of \$24.6K, which is below both our budget level and last year at this point. We are counting on our spring appeal to bring us back to even. Expenses in the month were typical. Our year to date expenses are below budget and just a little ahead of last year. We also enjoyed \$6.2K in dividends and \$48.6K in investment gains, a really nice quarter from Vanguard and much better than last year. We should stress the need to increase our unrestricted donations going forward.

Fundraising Committee

The fundraising committee has been meeting regularly to plan next year's fundraising events. A June donor appreciation cocktail party and large fall fundraising event are being planned. The committee is also exploring an art silent auction in collaboration with local artists.

The committee is looking to recruit additional members from the community who have prior experience with fundraising or event planning.

Communications/Marketing

The Communications Committee is currently recruiting members interested in assisting with our newsletters and other materials sent out to the community.

We have completed work on our spring newsletter, which has been mailed out to members. The committee is currently redoing the OCT membership brochure, which is several years old and contains outdated contact information. We expect that to be printed by the end of May.

Educational Meetings/ Programs

Recent Walks:

Our Mill Pond Valley Conservation Area walk on April 4 was cancelled due to the heavy rain and wind.

Our bird walk at Twinings Pond Conservation Area was cancelled due to the rain.

Recent Lectures:

Barbara Brennessell presented *Restoring River Herring* on April 6. This fascinating discussion included

the life history and migration patterns of herring, as well as the plan for the Wellfleet Herring River restoration project.

Upcoming Walks:

Baker's Pond Conservation Area

Tuesday, May 9 from 3:00 – 4:30 pm

Meet at 80 Baker's Pond Road, Orleans

A 1.75 mile walk on adjoining conservation lands in Orleans and Brewster. Bakers Pond is a classic coastal plain kettle pond with a wide sandy shoreline, which is inundated seasonally when the water table is high. This wide beach supports a substantial and unique plant community including the rare Spatulate-leaved sun-dew and Plymouth gentian.

Upcoming Winter/Spring Lectures: Our fall lecture series is held at the Orleans Yacht Club from 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm on the first Thursday of the month, in January-May.

Coastal Waterbirds of the Cape

Mark Faherty, Mass Audubon Wellfleet Bay

Thursday, May 4, 2017

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm (Doors open at 6:30 pm cash bar)

Orleans Yacht Club, 39 Cove Road, Orleans