



Director's Report
April, 2016
Elizabeth Migliore

Administrative

Orleans Water Quality Advisory Panel: I attended the Orleans Water Quality Advisory Panel meeting on Wednesday, April 20, at town hall. The next meeting will be held on June 22. For all the meeting materials, go to <http://www.town.orleans.ma.us/water-quality-advisory-panel/pages/workshop-materials>.

Mass Land Conservation Conference: I attend the state-wide Mass Land Conservation Conference in Worcester on April 2. The keynote speaker was conservation scientist Dr. M. Sanjayan, and the conference included three different sessions with a variety of topics on land acquisition, land management, and outreach. The workshop presentation material can be found here: <http://massland.org/2016ConfMaterials>.

Compact Board Meeting: I attended the Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trust's board meeting on April 7. This meeting included presentations by Three Bays Preservation, the County Cooperative extension, and a staff report. The board voted approval for a letter to be sent to the state giving the Compact's support for the expansion of the State Land Tax Credit program from \$2 million to \$5 million in funding.

Keystone Program Training: On April 15-17, I participated in an intense 30 hour training program through Harvard Forest and UMass called the Keystone Program. The Keystone Project invests education and reference materials in important, keystone people making a large impact at their local level. The training covers subjects such as forest ecology and management, wildlife management, land protection, and community outreach. In exchange for the training and take-home resources, graduates of the program, called Cooperators, agree to return to their communities and volunteer at least 30-hours of their time towards projects that promote forest and wildlife conservation. For more information about the Keystone Project, visit: <http://masskeystone.net/>.

We are currently looking for a summer land steward intern to help with our property management! For more information visit <http://orleansconservationtrust.org/internship-opportunity/>.

Land Management

Our trails continue to be regularly monitored for downed trees and other issues. Pile burning of dead trees and woody material occurred at Namequoit Bog with the AmeriCorps Cape Cod Fire Crew on April 6. This includes pile burning to remove dead woody debris. We have been coordinating with the town Tree Department to remove hazard branches from dying trees on our properties that occur at the edge of town-managed roads. We are beginning our regular brushcutting of trails, which will continue into the fall.



Burning piles at Namequoit Bog with the assistance of the AmeriCorps Cape Cod Fire Crew.

Land Acquisition

The Orleans Conservation Trust is exploring the feasibility of fundraising and applying for grants to acquire two undeveloped parcels on Olivers Way in East Orleans. OCT has been given until December 2016 to raise the funds for this purchase, and is currently waiting to hear back about a proposal to the landowner.

Strategic Planning

The strategic planning committee has completed interviews of other land trusts in order to gain insight about the strategic planning process, and to consider new perspectives to bring back to more effectively run OCT. A facilitator has been selected for the process, Hal Minis of Brewster Conservation Trust. The committee sent out letters to the membership at the end of January outlining the process, as well as conducting a member survey. This survey was also posted in our website and set out in an email blast, with 189 members responding. Interviews have been conducted with key town leaders in order to complete a community scan for insight on conservation needs and collaborations. Key themes will be pulled out of these surveys and interviews, to guide the Trustees' development of the plan. The board met for a strategic planning workshop in April, and will meet again in May. The final document will be shared on our website at the annual meeting on August 29.

Finance/Investment Committee

Our spending continues to remain within our 2016 budget.

Fundraising Committee

The fundraising committee has been meeting regularly to begin planning for this year's fundraising events. Events are being scheduled this summer, including a Blue Claw boat tour of OCT properties, and a cocktail party. The fundraising committee is looking to establish a long-term fundraising plan to complement the strategic plan. The committee is looking to recruit additional members from the community who have prior experience with fundraising or event planning. The spring appeal has been sent to our printer and will be mailed out in early May.

Communications/Marketing

Pamphlet: AmeriCorps Cape Cod placement Leah Mould has been working on updating the OCT brochure, which was last edited in 2010. This pamphlet contains general information about the organization in an effort to recruit new members.

Newsletter: Our spring newsletter has been finalized and sent to the printer. The Communications Committee is currently recruiting members interested in assisting with our newsletters and other materials sent out to the community. The newsletter can be viewed on our website at <http://orleansconservationtrust.org/newsletter/>.

Educational Meetings/ Programs

Community Conservation: On April 29, OCT partnered with the Town and AmeriCorps Cape Cod members for a planting project at Orleans Elementary School. Native plants were selected for the value to pollinators such as butterflies and bees. Fifth graders participated in a lesson plan led by AmeriCorps Cape Cod Individual Placement Leah Mould, then went outside to help with the planting behind the elementary school. This was part of a larger Arbor Day project led by the town, that included improvements at the school playground and the planting of several trees. Check out the feature article in our recent newsletter to learn more!



Recent Walks:

Twinings Pond Bird Walk: On April 29, President Bob Prescott led a bird walk at Twining’s Pond Conservation Area. Ten members participated in this walk.



Recent Lectures:

Our lecture *The Lowdown on Terrapins* was cancelled due to weather. We will hold this presentation during our fall lecture series – date TBA.

Upcoming Walks:

- **Putnam Farm Conservation Area**
Saturday, May 7, 2016 from 9:00 am – 10:00 am
Meet at 50 Bridge Road, Orleans

Upcoming Fall Lectures: Our fall lecture series will be held at the Orleans Yacht Club from 6:30 pm -7:30 pm on the following dates:

- Tuesday, September 13
- Tuesday, October 11
- Tuesday, November 1