



Director's Report
February, 2016
Elizabeth Migliore

Administrative

Orleans Water Quality Advisory Panel: I attended the Orleans Water Quality Advisory Panel meeting on Wednesday, February 17, at town hall, in addition to the Cadmus Pleasant Bay Water Quality Data presentation on February 9. The next meeting will be held on March 16. For all the meeting materials, go to <http://www.town.orleans.ma.us/water-quality-advisory-panel/pages/workshop-materials>.

Land Management

Our trails continue to be regularly monitored for downed trees and other issues. During AmeriCorps Week on March 9, we will be installing water bars at Twinings Pond Conservation Area in order to correct erosion issues on our trails. Additionally, I am scheduling maintenance work at Namequoit Bog with Billingsgate Land Management and AmeriCorps. This includes pile burning to remove dead woody debris.

On February 18, I conducted pile burns of invasives and dead woody debris at Moerschner Gift on Cheney Road, with the assistance of Leah and Trustee Steve Koehler.



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. Interviews have been scheduled 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 will be meeting for strategic planning workshops in April and May.

Finance/Investment Committee

The 2016 budget has been finalized and approved unanimously by the board. The A-2 appendix of the Finance and Investment Policy and Procedure document has been amended to include an endowment policy, as opposed to having a separate endowment policy on record.

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.

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: Planning has begun for the Spring newsletter. The Communications Committee is currently recruiting members interested in assisting with our newsletters and other materials sent out to the community.

Educational Meetings/ Programs

Recent Walks:

Three Ponds Walk Recap: On Saturday, February 20, twenty-one hikers participated in a walk around three ponds in South Orleans: Twinings Pond, Meadow Bog, and Sarah's Pond. This walk was co-led by Director Liz Migliore and Trustee Mon Cochran. Mon elaborated on the history involving the 58 acre property his family donated, describing childhood ice skating parties and the evolution of the ecosystem from cranberry bogs and white cedar swamps to the current oak/pine habitat. During the walk mute swans were spotted at Meadow Bog, and a woodpecker could be heard repeatedly drumming on the pines. Mon also discussed Sarah's pond containing eels, and sightings of otters during the winter. This two hour walk included a variety of habitat and scenic overlooks.





Recent Lectures:

Prescribed Fire on Cape Cod: What, Why, Where & How

On Monday, February 1st, 28 community members listened to a lecture on prescribed burning by Kate Sullivan titled: Prescribed Fire on Cape Cod: What, Why, Where & How. Prescribed burning is defined as intentionally igniting a fire to manipulate vegetation, in order to meet certain goals.

Currently, prescribed burns are used to meet a number of goals. One is decreasing the fuel hazard of the current forests. As litter and understory increases, wild fires have more fuel available to consume, leading to hotter and larger fires. As development continues on and around the Cape, the loss of property continues to rise. Furthermore, fires create more ecological diversity by restarting succession, the natural change in habitat species composition. A fire restarts the ecological timeline of species, from pioneer field species, to shrubland and on to forests. Shrub dominated habitats are the most rapidly declining habitats in the United States. Decreased diversity in habitats means the fauna, birds, small mammals, and bugs that depend on those plants are less able to continue in our changing world. Prescribed burns are used to restore many types of habitats: scrub oak shrubland, sandplain heathland, sandplain grassland. Thankfully, on the Cape reducing fuel hazards and restoring habitats go hand in hand. At the National Seashore there are many sites where prescribed burns are being used to meet their ecological and management goals.

Director Liz Migliore wrapped up the presentation by mentioning the prescribed burn that occurred at White's Lane Conservation Area this past year.

Upcoming Walks:

- **Baker's Pond Conservation Area**
Tuesday, March 15, 2016 from 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm
Meet at 80 Baker's Pond Road, Orleans

Upcoming Fall Lectures: (held at Orleans Yacht Club from 6:45pm -7:45pm; doors open at 6:15 pm – cash bar)

- **Are We Losing the Outer Beach?**
Monday, March 7 at 6:45 pm
Speaker – Greg Berman, Woods Hole Sea Grant and Cape Cod Cooperative Extension
Learn about erosion on the Outer Beach, including a quick glacial history, how the beach formed and how it's affected by coastal processes, the current state of erosion, and the future of the beach.