



Director's Report
January, 2016
Elizabeth Migliore

Administrative

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

Part-time Office Assistant: I am happy to announce that we have hired long-time volunteer Pam Schultz as a part-time office assistant. Pam began working for OCT on January 4, assisting with administrative work including the spring and year-end appeals, updating the membership database, documentation and organization of files, grant research, and regular communications with the membership.

Land Management

Our trails continue to be regularly monitored for downed trees and other issues. I am in the process of scheduling AmeriCorps workdays to install 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 January 27, AmeriCorps Cape Cod members spent the morning helping to maintain the White's Lane property. Members cleared an old trail that was becoming overgrown, removed invasives, weeded and raked the terrapin turtle nesting sites, and spread native milkweed seeds where a prescribed burn had occurred back in November.



AmeriCorps Cape Cod members raking out the terrapin turtle nesting sites to prep them for the spring.



AmeriCorps Cape Cod members spreading native milkweed seed.

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. Land Trusts included in this survey are Barnstable Land Trust, Brewster Conservation Trust, Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust, Essex County Greenbelt, Falmouth 300 Committee, Harwich Conservation Trust, and Wildlands Trust. A facilitator has been selected for the process, Hal Minis of Brewster Conservation Trust. The committee has sent out letters to the membership at the end of January outlining the process, as well as conducting a member survey. Interviews are also being scheduled with key town leaders in order to complete a community scan for insight on conservation needs and collaborations.

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 next year's fundraising events. The end-of year appeal resulted in above-average donation levels when compared to the previous four years.

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.

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:

Hosea's Swamp Recap:

On the morning of January 28, nineteen hikers participated in an educational walk at Hosea's Swamp. While the wet conditions due to recent snow melts prevented completing the trail loop, participants still had stunning views of this Atlantic White Cedar swamp. I informed participants about the hydrology of the swamp, requirements for Atlantic White Cedars to grow, and other species that live on this habitat. Additionally, I shared information from the Native Lands Conservancy on the importance of this habitat to natives. Participants learned why it is imperative not only to protect rare Atlantic White Cedar habitat, but also the surrounding land that drains into this swamp.



Upcoming Walks:

- **Three Ponds Walk**
Saturday, February 20, 2016 from 9:00 am – 11:00 am
Meet at 135 Quanset Road, South Orleans (Twinings Pond Trailhead)

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

- **Burning in the National Seashore**
Monday, February 1 at 6:45 pm
Speaker – Kate Sullivan, Natural Resource Management Specialist with Northeast Forest and Fire Management LLC
Learn about fire management on the Cape, including fuel reduction and prescribed burning carried out to maintain healthy ecosystems and reduce the risk of wildfire.