



Director's Report  
July, 2016  
Elizabeth Migliore

### **Administrative**

**Orleans Water Quality Advisory Panel:** I attended the Orleans Water Quality Advisory Panel meeting on July 13. The next meeting will be held on August 17, and will include discussion on town meeting warrant articles. For all the meeting materials, go to <http://www.town.orleans.ma.us/water-quality-advisory-panel/pages/workshop-materials>.

**Compact Annual Meeting:** On July 14, I attended the annual meeting for the Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts. This was held in conjunction with the Falmouth 300 Committee's annual meeting. Mark Robinson was recognized for 30 years of work leading the Compact, which has assisted land trusts throughout the Cape in preserving land. This year's Ansel B. Chaplin Award for a champion of open space was presented to Peter Johnson, for his work with Brewster Conservation Trust. Peter and his wife Ellie have also been long-time supporters of OCT, including donating a conservation restriction on their Orleans property.

**AmeriCorps Cape Cod Individual Placement:** We have been notified that we will receive an AmeriCorps Cape Cod individual placement again for 2016-2017, starting October 26. This member will assist OCT one day a week with land management and educational outreach projects, particularly focused around volunteer coordination.

### **New Headquarters**

OCT has been pursuing the purchase of a house at 203 S. Orleans Rd. to provide a new headquarters. We hope to close sometime in August, and move in September. Our current space above Santander Bank is inadequate to meet growing staff and storage space needs. For more information, read our blog at: <http://orleansconservationtrust.org/a-new-home-for-the-trust/>.

### **Land Management**

**Mowing/trail maintenance:** Our summer intern has been regularly mowing our paths and maintaining our trails. Removal of small stands of invasive Japanese Knotweed occurred on three different sites.

**Namequoit Bog:** Billingsgate Land Management mowed back overgrown briars in the back of Namequoit Bog, and removed several dead trees. Further work is planned at the end of the summer, including the removal of invasive phragmites. An osprey nest has been built on a snag in the bog!



*An osprey nest atop a snag at Namequoit Bog; a recently mowed portion of overgrown briar in the bog.*

### **Land Acquisition**

OCT was approached by a member to purchase a developable lot for sale on Captain Curtais Way. This half acre property abuts the 24 acre Ice House and Reuben's Pond Conservation Area, contains a potential vernal pool, and could allow for a new neighborhood trail entrance to that extensive trail system. The generous donor agreed to give OCT the entire purchase price of the property in order to move quickly to take the property off the market. This parcel transferred to OCT on July 15. Read more on our website here: <http://orleansconservationtrust.org/recent-land-acquisitions/>.

OCT has begun fundraising to acquire two developable parcels on Nauset Heights Road and Olivers Way in East Orleans. These parcels will connect to existing OCT conservation land donated by the Cullen family, including Mill Pond waterfront. We have been given until April 2017 to raise the funds for this purchase. We will be holding an informational session in the Nauset Heights neighborhood on August 2.

### **Strategic Planning**

The strategic plan has been finalized and unanimously approved by the board! View the final document on our website at <http://orleansconservationtrust.org/home/strategic-planning/>. A summary of this plan and the process undertaken to complete it will be given at the annual meeting on August 29.

### **Finance/Investment Committee**

Our spending continues to remain within our 2016 budget. The flow of money in from membership dues is comparable to last year.

### **Fundraising Committee**

The fundraising committee has been meeting regularly to plan this year's fundraising events. Events scheduled this summer include a Blue Claw boat tour of OCT properties. A fundraising campaign has been launched to raise money for two parcels on Olivers Way in the Nauset Heights neighborhood.

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:** We are in the process of updating our OCT informational brochure, and hope to have these available by the end of the year.

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:**

*Christian Property Conservation Area:* On Thursday, July 21, thirteen community members participated in an educational walk at the town-owned Christian Property. Rich Edlred led this fascinating botany walk, that includes rare Atlantic White Cedar swamp habitat.



*Overlook of Atlantic White Cedar swamp*

#### **Upcoming Walks:**

- **Kayak to Litte Sipson's Island**  
Monday, August 1, 2016 from 10:00am – 12:30 pm  
Meet at town landing at the end of Quanset Road, South Orleans  
Pre-registration required

**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

#### **Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, August 29, 2016 at 5:00 PM at the Orleans Yacht Club, with a cash bar and hors d'oeuvres following meeting. The meeting will updates from the President, Director, and various board members, including recent land acquisitions and our new strategic plan; a guest speaker (TBD); and voting for the slate of new Trustees as well as the next Nominating Committee.