



Director's Report
July 31, 2015
Elizabeth Migliore

Administrative

Dorothy Rowe Boyle Internship: Our summer intern Stephen O'Grady, the first Dorothy Rowe Boyle Intern, began with the Trust on May 28, and will continue through August. Stephen works directly with staff to advance the mission of OCT through a variety of land management and stewardship activities. He assists with land management needs and requests, reporting directly to the OCT Director. He is also involved with property inspections and maintenance, long and short-term land management planning, land management grant research, property boundary investigating, educational outreach, and volunteer engagement. We are thankful for his help!

Annual Meeting and Nominees Voting: The Annual Meeting will be held on August 27th at 5:00 pm (doors open at 4:30 PM). The guest speaker will be Dr. Tristan Horner of WHOI, who will give a 30 minute presentation on climate change. A cash bar and hors d'oeuvre will be available. During the meeting, voting for trustee nominations and next year's nominating committee will be held. Our slate of candidates has been selected by the board. A mailing was sent out in mid-July to allow for absentee ballots and online voting. Nominee bios are posted online for review at <http://orleansconservationtrust.org/annual-meeting/>.

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>.

Land Management

White's Lane has continued to be mowed throughout July to create better Terrapin Turtle nesting habitat and allow easy access to monitor bluebird boxes. Volunteers from MassAudubon are monitoring nesting sites on a daily schedule. So far six turtles have been spotted, and there are three confirmed nests.

The walking paths on Flint/Young and Mauch Gift are frequently being maintained, in order to allow easy access to bluebird boxes. The walking paths at Namequoit Bog were also brushcut back this month, in order to maintain access and allow easy monitoring of the water levels in the ditches. Additional trails are having vegetation trimmed back as needed, and are being monitored for fallen or hazardous trees.

AmeriCorps placement Frank DeLeo and summer intern Stephen O'Grady have been busy fixing or replacing OCT signs in various properties, which were damaged during this brutal winter. Sign are also being added in new locations- keep an eye out!

AmeriCorps placement Frank DeLeo had his final day with OCT on July 23rd. He was a great help this year with our land management work and planning the successful Orleans Green Week. Thankfully we have been notified we will have another AmeriCorps placement next year, to begin October 6th.

Fundraising Committee

The fundraising committee is planning two donor events this year. On September 8th there will be a Blue Claw boat tour touring Little Sipson Island and Hopkins Island, with a picnic lunch stop on the beach at Eelman's Point. On October 4th, cocktails and a dinner will be held at the Narrows. Invitations have been mailed out.

Educational Meetings/ Programs

Recent Walks:

On Thursday, July 16, OCT's new Director Liz Migliore led an educational walk of the Town's Christian Property Conservation Area. Ten members attended this leisurely morning walk. The Town's 16 acre Christian Property is located off Portanimicut Road, down a dirt driveway with a parking area at the trailhead. This small complex spans the distance between Namequoit and Portanimicut Roads, where residential development has been steadily filling in over recent years.

The Town of Orleans acquired the 7.85-acre parcel in 1999 for \$345,000 for conservation purposes, with \$148,200 of the purchase price coming from a State Self-Help Grant. The Christian Property was a priority for two reasons: its close proximity to Pleasant Bay, in conjunction with the Town's efforts to preserve the Bay's waters; the other being the Atlantic White Cedar Swamp located within the property, a globally rare habitat. In June of 2000, the Town acquired, by eminent domain, the abutting 8.9 acre white cedar swamp to provide a wildlife corridor and natural habitat area for conservation and passive recreational purposes. This land also abuts OCT's 4 acre Seikel Gift, which was given to the OCT in 1991 and can be accessed from Namequoit Road.



Upcoming Walks:

- o ***Kayak Trip to Little Sipson Island***
Monday, August 17, 2015 from 10:00- 12:30 pm

Leader - Bob Prescott, OCT President and Executive Director of MA Audubon Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary

Meet at the Town Landing at the end of Quanset Road, South Orleans

○ ***Namequoit Bog Conservation Area***

Thursday, September 10, 2015 from 10:00 am-11:30 am

Leader – Liz Migliore, OCT Director

Meet at the Town’s Paw Wah Point Conservation Area parking lot, located at the end of Namequoit Road just past Paw Wah Pond on your right.

Upcoming Fall Lectures:

○ ***Natives Are Nice! Using Native Plants in Landscape Design***

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Speaker – Barbara Conolly

Owner, Gardens by Barbara Conolly

In this program for both homeowners and professionals, Barbara will share her landscaping expertise; the focus is on using native species while accomplishing design goals.

○ ***What’s Happening to the Trees?***

Thursday, October 15, 2015

Speaker – Ken Gooch

Director of Forest Health, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation

Ken will share his insights about the health of our forests, and some of the threats and protection strategies being used across the state.

○ ***Sea-Run Fish of Cape Cod***

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Speaker – Brad Chase

Senior Marine Fisheries Biologist, Mass. Dept. of Fish & Game, Division of Marine Fisheries

Marine fisheries biologist Brad Chase will discuss the diadromous fish of Cape Cod—these are fish that have evolved to migrate between freshwater and marine habitats for a survival advantage. Brad will give an overview of historic and present fish-run conditions, and highlight what’s going on in Orleans.