



Director's Report
June 30, 2015
Elizabeth Migliore

Administrative

Director Transition: I took over as Director from Kris Ramsay as of May 11th. Since that time, I have been busy getting to know all of the properties and people involved with OCT. Kris made the process as smooth as possible, yet there is sure to be a transitional period. Please feel free to drop by the office to introduce yourself!

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). 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. Mailing will be sent out in early 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 was mowed in early June 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. Additional trails are having vegetation trimmed back as needed. The Trust recently purchased a mower from True Value in Orleans at a significant discount, making our frequent mowing much easier!

An AmeriCorps Cape Cod workday was held on June 24th at Eskin's/Grassy Knoll Conservation Area in order to complete invasives removal and maintain the property as meadow habitat. The group also removed downed trees blocking the trail at Mill Pond Conservation Area. There were 4 members participating, led under our AmeriCorps placement Frank DeLeo.

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. We are working on invitations to be mailed out in early July.

Educational Meetings/ Programs

Recent Walks:

On June 22, Orleans Conservation Trust (OCT) President Bob Prescott led a leisurely walk at OCT’s Whites Lane Conservation Area. Twelve members attended the walk on a beautiful Saturday afternoon. The property, located on Henson’s Cove and The River, which connects Meetinghouse Pond to Little Pleasant Bay, was acquired by the Trust through four different gifts, made between 1982 and 1996. The largest single gift, donated in 1989 by George and Louise White, contained more than 8 acres of land and 1,000 feet of frontage on The River just south of the River Road Town Landing. In 2009, OCT received a \$100,000 state grant to restore the property to a field habitat, creating ideal habitat for a number of species, including threatened diamond-backed terrapin, which use the property for nesting. Bob explained that the diamond-backed terrapin subpopulation in this stretch of Pleasant Bay is one of the most endangered in the state. The property’s “turtle gardens” create easily accessible nesting habitat for the turtles, as they come out of the salt marsh to lay their eggs in the late spring and summer. Volunteers working with MassAudubon regularly patrol the property looking for any signs of these nesting terrapins so that nests can be enclosed, protecting eggs from predation. In 2014, 60 terrapin hatchlings were documented at the site, in addition to a smaller number of box turtle hatchlings.



Walkers view some of the many birds seen on the walk. Turtle garden in the foreground.



Bob educates on the importance of various plants found on the property.

Upcoming Walks:

- ***Christian Property Conservation Area***
Thursday, July 16, 2015 at 9:00- 10:00 am
Leader – Liz Migliore, OCT Director
Meet at 80 Portanimiticut Road, South Orleans

- ***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

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.