



Director's Report  
March, 2016  
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### **Administrative**

**Orleans Water Quality Advisory Panel:** I attended the Orleans Water Quality Advisory Panel meeting on Wednesday, March 16, at town hall. The next meeting will be held on April 20. For all the meeting materials, go to <http://www.town.orleans.ma.us/water-quality-advisory-panel/pages/workshop-materials>.

**Compact Board Meeting:** I attended the Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trust's board meeting on April 7. This meeting included presentations by Three Bays Preservation, the County Cooperative extension, and a staff report. The board voted approval for a letter to be sent to the state giving the Compact's support for the expansion of the State Land Tax Credit program from \$2 million to \$5 million in funding.

We are currently looking for a summer land steward intern to help with our property management! For more information visit <http://orleansconservationtrust.org/internship-opportunity/>.

### **Land Management**

Our trails continue to be regularly monitored for downed trees and other issues. During AmeriCorps Week on March 9, we installed 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. We have been coordinating with the town Tree Department to remove hazard branches from dying trees on our properties that occur at the edge of town-managed roads; they recently removed hazardous dead trees from the edge of the Mauch Gift property.





### **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. This survey was also posted in our website and set out in an email blast, with 189 members responding. Interviews have been conducted 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. The final document will be shared on our website at the annual meeting on August 29.

### **Finance/Investment Committee**

Our spending continues to remain within our 2016 budget.

### **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 and drafting of articles 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:

*Baker's Pond Conservation Area:* On March 29, a sunny day, the rescheduled walk to Baker's Pond took place with blue sky and a light breeze. Over twenty people came to enjoy the land, which was acquired by the town of Orleans and sits next to land also kept in conservation by the town of Brewster. The pond itself is both large and deep, and is incredibly healthy, likely in part due to the high amount of conserved land around the pond's boundaries. Local residents added flavor to the walk, by telling interesting stories of historical residents. The land not only has common natives such as pitch pines and wintergreen, it also hosts globally rare species such as the spatulate-leaved sundew, a carnivorous plant, and the Plymouth gentian, a beautiful pink flower. The trails are often changing, so please be sure to follow marked trails, as you may accidentally find yourself on private property.



### Recent Lectures:

#### *Are We Losing the Outer Beach?*

On Monday, March 7, more than 70 community members attended a lecture at Orleans Yacht Club on Outer Beach Erosion by Greg Berman from Cape Cod Cooperative Extension. Greg Berman is a Coastal Processes Specialist, who explained the geologic and hydrologic reasons for the erosion and changing shape of the Outer Beach. His discussion touched upon future projections of erosion rates and the shape of the beach.

### Upcoming Walks:

- **Twinings Pond Conservation Area: Bird walk led by President Bob Prescott**  
Friday, April 29, 2016 from 8:30 am – 10:00 pm  
Meet at 135 Quanset Road, South Orleans

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

- **The Lowdown on Terrapins**  
Monday, April 4 at 6:45 pm  
Speaker – Bob Prescott and Barbara Brennessel, MassAudubon Wellfleet Bay Sanctuary  
The diamondback terrapin, a state-listed threatened species, is the only salt marsh turtle in the U.S., reaching its northern limit in Wellfleet. You'll learn about the natural history of terrapins, research efforts in Wellfleet, and the restoration work OCT has completed at White's Lane.