



Director's Report: May 15, 2014
Kris Ramsay

Administrative

Declaration of Trust: In early May, 2014 members of the Trust received the Special Meeting postcard. After the May 8, 2014 Board meeting I worked to post the draft Declaration of Trust materials on the website, sent out a Constant Contact e-mail to the members, and created a number of copies of the materials so a hard copy could be made available upon request. I have confirmed that those who signed the original members' petition received the Special Meeting notice and associated materials.

Oral History Endeavor: On May 1, 2014, Stephanie Gaskill and I interviewed Bobbie Thomsen, ironically on Charlie's (her late husband's) birthday, to Bobbie's delight! The meeting was a little over an hour long and we were able to tape the entire interview using a camera and a voice recorder. Now that we have interviews with Bruce MacKenzie and Bobbie, we are going to work to transcribe each interview into a word document. We are still investigating the best ways to edit and modify the actual tapes so they can be used on the website.

OCT Trail Guides: On May 12th, 2014 the community voted their support of our Community Preservation Act grant application for trail guides, which we estimated to cost \$15,000. I will now move ahead and with MapWorks to start the design phase of the guide itself. It would be my hope to have these trail guides available to the public by the fall of 2014.

Land Acquisition

"Executive Session"

Land Management

Namequoit Bog: This past month I finalized and submitted the Notice of Intent and Management Plan for the State and the Conservation Commission. On April 14th I presented the Plan to the Town's Conservation Commission and the Commission voted their support of the proposal. As required, the NOI and Town Order of Conditions have been recorded at the Barnstable County Registry of Deeds. A group of 12 AmeriCorps Cape Cod members is scheduled to work on site on May 31.

Blue Bird Box Installation & Monitoring: In early April I installed 2 additional blue bird nest boxes at White's Lane (to add to the 8 currently on site), 6 boxes on the Mauch Gift, 4 boxes at the Young/Flint Gift, and 2 boxes at the Moerschener Gift. These boxes are being monitored on a weekly basis by a small group of volunteers, who send their weekly reports to me for recording purposes. Thus far we have active nests on each property and some of the boxes even have the eggs of chickadees.

Twinings Pond Duck Box: In the first week of April, Allyson Stein and I installed a Wood Duck box within the western portion of Twinings Pond. In early May Bob Prescott identified male and female Wood Ducks in close proximity to the box. In the coming month we will be able to check the box to see if it was used for nesting.

White's Lane Terrapin Garden Maintenance and Training: Bob Prescott and I have scheduled a terrapin monitoring training program for June 4 at 1:00pm. In the past we have done the training at Snow Library; however, this year we thought it would be beneficial to conduct the training on-site so volunteers know where the gardens are located. At that same time we are planning the prep the gardens for the nesting season.

Osprey Pole Installation: On April 24 OCT partnered with MA Audubon and AmeriCorps to install an osprey pole within Little Namskaket Marsh, which is owned by the Town and under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission.



Fundraising Committee

Cape Cod 5 Educational Program Grant Proposal: In January of this year I submitted a grant to the Cape Cod 5 Foundation, requesting \$3,500 to help offset costs associated with our 2014 educational lectures. During the first week of May I was informed that while we were not awarded the full amount, we have been awarded \$1,500!

Member Thank You Letters: In the first week of April I ran a list of all gifts over \$300 from this past year and all new donors over \$100. The total list added up to just over 100 donors. Since that time all of the personalized letters have been assigned and sent out.

Membership Mailing: During the first week of May I finalized the membership list and send all the information to the printers. The printer is currently running the necessary mailing data checks and I am getting a bid to see what it would cost to include the list of trail walks on the back of the letter. I expect the membership letters to be printed and mailed out during the third week of May.

Planned Giving: Soon after the membership letters are being received I would like to schedule a meeting with the Fundraising Committee to discuss planned giving opportunities. While I don't expect each Trustee to understand the intricacies that go with the different giving opportunities (e.g., making a gift through a Life Insurance Policy, Retirement Fund, Life Estate, etc.), it would be helpful if everyone was aware of the options in case they ran into friends or family that have the means and/or interest in donating through one of these channels.

Marketing Committee

Spring 2014 Newsletter: The newsletter is being received and to date I have heard nothing but positive feedback from our members and supporters. In the coming week we will want to disperse copies of the newsletter to a number of public locations, such as the Chamber of Commerce, OCP Building, real estate rental offices, etc.

Nominating Committee

Committee Meetings: The Nominating Committee last met on May 7, with the next meeting scheduled for May 13th. I have acted as a line of communication between the nominees and the committee members. I have packaged the nominee materials and provided those to the committee. Those nominees who have not provided the required questionnaire have been reminded multiple times to get that document delivered.

Educational Meetings/ Programs

Up-coming Walk: On Saturday, May 17 from 8:00-11:00am the Trust will be leading a walk to Pochet Island. This will be a casual 3 + hour walk, often through loose sand, to and around Pochet Island. Along with hearing about how and when the island was preserved, participants will learn about the native tree and animal species that can be found on the island and what recent restoration work took place.

Recent Lecture: On Monday, May 5 at 7:00pm, the Trust hosted the fifth and final presentation associated with our *2014 Winter & Spring Lecture Series* at the Orleans Yacht Club. John King, explorer, photographer, author and Chatham conservationist entertained the 50 attendees with his presentation entitled “Close Encounters of the Ocean Kind.”

Recent Walks: On Saturday, May 3rd from 9:00-11:00am Bob Prescott led a walk through the Three Ponds Conservation Area (Twinings Pond, Meadow Bog, and Sarah’s Pond). A group of 10 or so community members joined the hike.

