



Director's Report
May 31, 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. Stephen will work directly with staff to advance the mission of OCT through a variety of land management and stewardship activities. He will be asked to assist with land management needs and requests, reporting directly to the OCT Director. He will also be 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!

Amendment of Declaration of Trust Revisions: The amendment to the Declaration of Trust has been passed by a unanimous board and 352 affirmative "yes" votes from the membership. A Special Members meeting was held on Sunday, April 26, at 5:00 pm at the Orleans Yacht Club, to answer any final questions relating to the amendment process and celebrate the successful revision of the document. The updated Declaration has since been recorded with the Barnstable County Registry of Deeds.

Town-wide Trail Guide: The trail guides have been printed and dispersed around town! A copy can be picked up at town hall.

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

I have been getting to know the properties by walking all of our trails, and completing trail maintenance as necessary. I am also maintaining the paths at White's Lane, Young/Flint Gift, and Mauch Gift through brushcutting of the fast-growing grass.

Educational Meetings/ Programs

Recent Walks: On Friday, May 8th, Kris led a walk at Baker's Pond Conservation Area. Acquired by the town in 1988 for conservation, open space, and recreation purposes, the property comprises two parcels totaling an area of 16.5 acres with Bakers Pond to the north. The Bakers Pond Conservation Area is part of a contiguous natural area from Nickerson State Park in Brewster across Route 6 to the watershed in Orleans. Bakers Pond is a classic coastal plain kettle pond with a wide sandy shoreline, which is inundated seasonally when the water table is high. This wide beach supports a substantial and unique plant community including the rare Spatulate-leaved sun-dew and Plymouth gentian.

On Saturday, May 30th, Rich Eldred led a botany walk at Meadow's Bog Pond Conservation Area. The Meadow Bog Pond Conservation Area is comprised of two acquisitions: a gift in 1993 by Rachia Heyelman of 1.8 acres and a joint purchase in 2006 by OCT and the Town of Orleans of 6.6 acres through the use of Community Preservation Act funds. This land serves as a crucial wildlife corridor, linking 115 acres of protected land, while simultaneously protecting the shores and water quality of two freshwater ponds: Sarah's and Meadow Bog Ponds. It is a hot spot for rare plants and animals, such as the sharp shinned hawk, Eastern box turtle, and Pink Lady Slippers.



Upcoming Walks:

- ***White's Lane Conservation Area***
Saturday, June 20, 2015 at 3:00-4:00 pm
Leader – Bob Prescott, OCT President and Executive Director of MA Audubon Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary
Meet at 33 White's Lane, Orleans (end of Henson's Way off Monument Road)

Recent Lectures: On Monday, May 4, from 7:00 – 8:00 pm at the Orleans Yacht Club (39 Cove Road), John Beach, President of the Barnstable County Beekeepers Association, discussed the important ecological role honeybees play in our society as well as hive management, honeybee pests and diseases, swarm control, plants and pollination, and how to extract honey from a hive.

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.

Communications/Marketing

Newsletter: Over the last two months Diana Landau (chair of Marketing and Communications Committee) and Kris have completed the newsletter articles and worked with Terry Machie (newsletter designer) to design the layout of the spring 2015 newsletter. The newsletter has been printed and dispersed around town!

Spring Appeal: The Spring Appeal has been mailed out.