



Director's Report  
May, 2016  
Elizabeth Migliore

### **Administrative**

Orleans Water Quality Advisory Panel: I attended the Orleans Water Quality Advisory Panel meeting on Wednesday, April 20, at town hall. The next meeting will be held on June 15. 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 May 12 in Sandwich. This meeting included a presentation by the Sandwich Conservation Trust, a Nominating Committee report, a presentation on stewardship and outreach coordination by Matt Cannon, and a staff report.

Compact Senior Staff Get-Together: The senior staff of the land trusts which make up the Compact met on Friday, May 20 for an annual get-together. This meeting included discussions of various topics land trust on the Cape have been experiencing.

Atlantic White Cedar Swamp Symposium: On May 25, I attended the Atlantic White Cedar Symposium in Plymouth. This was part of a three day seminar that highlights current research on AWC's and restoration projects, including field trips to restoration sites in southeastern Massachusetts. AWC swamp habitat is globally rare, occurring in only a narrow band on the eastern coast of the US. OCT owns several parcels of AWC habitat, totaling nearly 40 acres.

Summer Intern: We have hired a summer Dorothy Rowe Boyle Land Stewardship intern! Sam Chapman, a recent graduate of Whitman College, will begin this position on June 6, and continue through August. We look forward to the assistance!

### **Land Management**

Our trails continue to be regularly monitored for downed trees and other issues. On May 6, AmeriCorps Cape Cod members completed an invasives removal workday at Mauch Gift. On May 9, AmeriCorps Cape Cod members removed invasives from the Great Oak Road property and White's Lane Conservation Area. They also weeded and raked the turtle gardens at White's Lane. Regular brushcutting and mowing of properties has begun and will continue into the fall.



*AmeriCorps Cape Cod members at Mauch Gift and White's Lane Conservation Area.*

*Beach Cleanup:* On May 7, AmeriCorps Cape Cod placement Leah Mould organized a beach cleanup with OCT, Friends of Pleasant Bay, Orleans Pond Coalitions, the town, and Barnstable County AmeriCorps Cape Cod. This cleanup included several town landings and OCT property across Orleans, totaling nearly 7 acres of cleaned beach! Lunch was generously donated from Friends' Marketplace.



*Some of the participants in the May 7 beach cleanup effort.*

### **Land Acquisition**

The Orleans Conservation Trust has been approached by the Ragsdale family about a gift of two parcels of Atlantic White Cedar swamp near Cedar Pond, totaling 2.38 acres. Mark Robinson of the Compact recommended it to OCT as a great opportunity since it is an outright gift of valuable habitat. Management should be minor for these parcels. These parcels also abut existing open space, and have been identified by the Town as having Strategic Potential for Open Space. After walking the property, the Board voted to accept this gift. The land is expected to transfer to OCT in June 2016.

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 met for a strategic planning workshop in April, and again on May 24. 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. The flow of money in from membership dues is currently lagging behind previous years, but is expected to increase with the mailing of our spring appeal.

### **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. The spring appeal has been sent to our printer, and will be mailed out to members at the end of the month.

### **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:** Our spring newsletter has been finalized and sent to the printer. 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:**

*Putnam Farm Conservation Area:* On Saturday, May 7, I led a walk at the town owned Putnam Farm Conservation Area. This quick walk around an early successional field habitat included a brief history of the land and Jeremiah's Gutter, which can be viewed from the property. The property includes a working farm that is used for educational purposes with the Nauset school system. There are also two man-made wetlands on the property which provide valuable habitat for waterfowl and amphibians. This property is open to the public, and can be access behind the courthouse or from the bikepath.



#### **Recent Lectures:**

*Migrating Monarchs:* OCT hosted a lecture May 2nd with Paul Rifkin, Kathy Koplik, and Vince Puleo, of the Monarch Project of Cape Cod. The lecture started off with a short video essay by Paul Rifkin that

documented his trip to the breeding grounds of monarchs in Mexico. The number of butterflies fluttering around were staggering. Next, Kathy and Vince showed a short informational video explaining the life cycle and migration of monarchs, along with the importance of milkweed as a habitat for many species along with monarchs. Monarchs live and breed in the upper United States for the summer months, then make their way down to Mexico for the winter. The population lives there for many months, then slowly makes its way back north to breed and continue their journey. Kathy and Vince then explained their propagation practices, growing monarchs from eggs to give to schools for educational purposes and to increase their populations. According to recent data, monarch populations are slowly beginning to rebound, but may have been harmed by storms in their wintering sites in Mexico. At the end of the lecture, they shared seeds of milkweed and wildflower mixes of Cape Cod natives.

Upcoming Walks:

- **White's Lane Conservation Area**  
Saturday, June 11, 2016 from 3:00 – 4:00pm  
Meet at 33 White's Lane, Orleans (off Monument Rd. & Henson Rd.)

Upcoming Fall Lectures: Our fall lecture series will be held at the Orleans Yacht Club from 6:30 pm -7:30 pm on the following dates:

- Tuesday, September 13
- Tuesday, October 11
- Tuesday, November 1