



Director's Report: October 16, 2014
Kris Ramsay

Administrative

National Land Trust Rally: I attended the National Land Trust Rally in Rhode Island on September 19 and 20. On the first day of the rally I attended a private dinner hosted by representatives from the MA Land Trust Coalition. This was a great opportunity to meet with land trust staff from across the state to share ideas. To visit the Land Trust Alliances Rally Review webpage go to <http://www.landtrustalliance.org/training/rally/rally-2014-providence>. On this webpage you can download workshop materials and PowerPoint presentations, read recaps from conference attendees, and much more.

The seminars I attended were:

- Engaging the Next Generation of Conservation (<http://tlc.lta.org/library/documents/37746>)
- When Things Go Wrong: How to Communicate in a Crisis (<http://tlc.lta.org/library/documents/37745>)
- Positioning: Beyond Strategic Planning (<http://tlc.lta.org/library/documents/37718>)
- Connecting Land Conservation with Cultural Pluralism: A Case Study in Full-Spectrum Community (<http://tlc.lta.org/library/documents/37785>)
- Embracing External Stakeholder Expectations: New Possibilities for Community Conservation (<http://tlc.lta.org/library/documents/37716>)
- Money vs. Conservation Values: Ethical Issues in Uses, Appraisals and Public Purpose under a Conservation Easement (<http://tlc.lta.org/library/documents/37721>)

I found all these seminars to be educational and informative. I would encourage trustees to browse through the list of seminars and review the materials provided by each speaker to see how we might be able to incorporate some of their suggestions/ideas into our own objectives.

Friends of Baker's Pond Annual Meeting: On Saturday, September 27, I gave a presentation to the Friends of Baker's Pond, in conjunction with their 2014 Annual Meeting. My presentation focused on the history of the Trust, recent land acquisitions, and our increasing need to focus on land management activities.

Barnstable County Beekeepers Association: On Tuesday, October 14,¹ I will be giving a presentation to members of the Barnstable County Beekeepers Association. Much like my presentation to the Baker's Pond group, this will focus on the history of the Trust, with examples of ways in which we preserve land recent land management projects. I look forward to talking with their members about ways in which we might be able to collaborate—for example, possibly hosting bee boxes on OCT land holdings. I am consulting with other land trusts on the Cape to see if anyone already has a similar program in place, what the legal ramifications (if any) might be, and what other issues we might need to consider.

Declaration of Trust: Since our August 2014 Annual Meeting, I have not received any further comments/suggestions relating to the revised draft Declaration of Trust. As a group we will need to develop a timeline, outlining when we plan to present the final draft to the members, including any membership meetings we would like to host meanwhile.

Finalize Existing Draft Policies: To date, the only draft policy the Trust has developed that has not yet been approved is the Nominating, Vetting, and Election of Trustees Policy. The Board can consider finalizing and approving this policy in the coming month(s).

Orleans Water Quality Advisory Panel Meetings: On September 24 and October 8 I attended meetings of the Orleans Water Quality Advisory Panel. All the materials associated with these meetings can be found on the Town website at http://www.town.orleans.ma.us/Pages/OrleansMA_WQAP/index . On this webpage you can find agendas, minutes, workshop materials, even a videotape of the meetings themselves. Since the last Board meeting I have also been in communication with Stacie Smith, Senior Mediator from the Consensus Building Institute, who is moderating each of these meetings. Stacie has informed me that:

- It is not too late for OCT to join as either a stakeholder or a liaison, if so desired.
 - *Note-* The Board of Selectmen is officially appointing the stakeholder representatives (based on recommendations from the stakeholder groups), so we would likely need to be put it on the BoS meeting agenda to be approved. The BoS does not officially appoint liaisons.
- If the Board chose a liaison or stakeholder to represent the Trust, and that individual was not available to attend a meeting, we are not required to designate an alternate.

AmeriCorps 2014/2014 Individual Placement: On September 29th, I met Frank DeLeo, OCT’s AmeriCorps Individual Placement for 2014/2015. Frank is a 22-year-old native of Fairfield, CT. Frank attended the College of the Holy Cross, where he graduated with college honors, a psychology major, and an environmental studies concentration; he hopes to become an environmental lawyer. Frank also studied abroad and conducted research in the Australian rainforest for a semester through the School for Field Studies. Frank will work with the Trust on the Wednesday and Thursday of each week, and begins his work for the Trust on Wednesday, October 15.

Land Acquisition

“Executive Session”

Land Management

Release the Turtles: On October 3, OCT and Mass Audubon Wellfleet Bay hosted the second Diamondback Terrapin release this year at the White’s Lane Conservation Area. About a dozen people attended the hatchling release. At that same time the group opened nest # 705, which had been incubating for 81 days. was All were happy to find that the nest produced 14 mature hatchlings, which were processed on site and also released. While on site, volunteers Diane Reynolds and Pam Schultz found yetanother wild nest with a live but lethargic hatchling, which was sent to Mass Audubon Wellfleet Bay’s wet lab for evaluation. This year we’ve had 3 protected nests and 14 wild/depredated nests at the site, a record number!



Peter & Ruth Fleck Bench Installation: On October 4, a granite bench in memory of Peter and Ruth Fleck was installed overlooking Twinings Pond in South Orleans. The costs associated with this bench design and installation were paid for by the Platten family.



Boland Pond Project: On October 1, I met with Sandy Bayne and Marvin (Sam) Corlette, Trustees of the Orleans Pond Coalition. The discussion centered around ways in which OCT might be able to support both the OPC and Town's Marine and Freshwater Quality Task Force in their goal of cleaning up the water quality within Boland Pond, which directly abuts OCT land. During our discussion, I said that we could most likely help them with potential grant opportunities, disseminate educational information relating to the pond water quality and action to clean it up, and possibly look into installing a rain garden on our property, within the 50-foot buffer of the wetland itself.

Paw Wah Point Osprey Pole Installation: At the August 2014 Board meeting the Trustees voted their approval of the installation of an osprey pole at the Paw Wah Point Conservation Area, in Memory of Jodie Montoya, longtime OCT supporter. We estimated a total cost of \$1,000, and to date we have received 14 gifts totaling \$1,975 toward the costs associated with the purchase of the pole and other materials. I have spoken to Jodie's husband Steve Montoya, who said he would think about how any residual money might be used for future land acquisitions, management efforts, educational programs, or other related purposes.

White's Lane Controlled Burn: Since 2011 I have been investigating the possibility of conducting a controlled burn at the White's Lane Conservation Area. A controlled burn would help knock back woody growth and invasive plant species from the field habitat and diversify the vegetative community. Over this past month I have spoken numerous times to John Panio, who oversees controlled burns state-wide. He has reviewed a number of documents associated with the conservation area, including our 2009 Landowner Incentive Program grant. John is recommending we now develop a burn plan. This plan would need to be approved by the State and the Town Fire Department before it could be implemented. I expect we will be able to complete this burn plan by the end of the year.

Educational Meetings/ Programs

Upcoming Walk: On Saturday, November 1, Bob Prescott and I will co-lead a lengthy, 4+ hour walk from the Nauset Beach parking lot to Pochet Island. The walk will be approximately 5 miles round trip, often through loose sand and changing topography. In our PR notices, we have encouraged hikers to pack a lunch and plenty of water, and bring an extra pair of socks in case their feet get wet while reaching the island from Nauset Beach. The walk will be from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm.

Upcoming Lecture: On Tuesday, October 21, OCT will host a lecture titled *Ticks: One Bite Can Change Your Life*. Larry Dapsis of the Barnstable County Cooperative Extension will review the basic life cycle and ecology of black-legged ticks, as well as incidence rates and distribution of tick-borne illnesses. He will also describe a database of tick-bite infection rates that is under development.