



Director's Report
October, 2015
Elizabeth Migliore

Administrative

Cape-wide Cleanup Meeting: On October 23, I attended a meeting of conservation and town leaders at the Harwich Community Center to discuss the possibility of organizing a Cape-wide trash cleanup effort. This initial meeting was mainly idea-swapping and networking, with a followup meeting scheduled in January to discuss more concrete planning. I am exploring the possibility of tying in this event with our Green Week in April.

The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts Annual Meeting: On October 1, I attended the Compact's annual meeting in Dennisport. The Compact provides non-profit regional support to land trusts on the Cape, and has assisted OCT with conservation restrictions and land purchases.

Board Retreat: On October 8th, the Board of Trustees held a retreat that included the Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices session. Out of this exercise, the board developed a list of recommendations in order to develop better management practices and assure compliance with all land trust regulations.

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

Land Management

Our AmeriCorps Cape Cod member placement Leah Mould began her service with OCT on October 6th. For two days a week, Leah will assist the Trust with land management such as mowing and trail maintenance, updating our land management reports and property folders, and helping to plan volunteer events and educational programs. We have already mowed several properties, and scheduled AmeriCorps workdays through November. These workdays will focus on invasives removal at Twining's Pond, Moerschener Gift, Ewald Gift, and Mill Pond Valley Conservation Area.



AmeriCorps placement Leah Mould assisting with fall mowing at Mauch Gift.

Meadow Management Workshop: On October 9, I attended a Mass Audubon Meadow Management Workshop at Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary in Barnstable. This training provided insight on managing grassland habitat for bird species and pollinators.

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.

Fundraising Committee

The fundraising committee has been meeting regularly to plan this year's fundraising events and begin planning for next year. On October 4th, an appreciation dinner was held for major donors at the Narrows in Pleasant Bay. The committee is beginning work on the end-of year appeal mailing.

Communications/Marketing

Newsletter: I have been meeting with Diana Landau (chair of Marketing and Communication Committee) to discuss and refine the general layout and content of the fall 2015 newsletter. We have finalized a number of stories for this issue, and laid out the walks and educational programs for the coming year. We hope to have the newsletter completed and mailed out by Thanksgiving.

Educational Meetings/ Programs

Recent Walks:

Paw Wah Monomoyic Walk: On Sunday, October 4th, a walk was held at Paw Wah Point as part of the Explore the Native Lands of Monomoyick Territory Three Walk Series, led by 12th generation Cape Codder Todd Kelley and native Nipmuck/Wampanoag Marcus Hendricks. This walk was held as a collaboration with Harwich Conservation Trust and the Native Land Conservancy. Participants learned how the land at Paw Wah Point became known as Portanimicut just after the Nauset Purchase of 1643. Discussion included the historic and social significance of Portanimicut as it emerged as the last native community stronghold east of the Bass River. Intertwined in this story is the life of Pompmo and the "Legend of Paw Wah's Pond", through which, participants learned the First People's perspective on relationship and responsibility to community, the land itself, and all creatures that live upon it.



Mill Pond Valley Conservation Area Walk: On the morning of Saturday, October 31, Director Liz Migliore led a group of 12 participants in an educational walk of Mill Pond Valley Conservation Area. This 1 mile trail systems loops through a portion of the 12 acre property from Champlain Road to Duck Pond and Little Mill Pond. Just a few of the unique features found on site are the historic stone walls, a vernal pool, and a coastal plain pond that is a hot spot for observing migrating water fowl, including

Wood Ducks. Hikers also learned about the history of the land donation through the family of OCT founder Orin Tovrov, and recent efforts to control invasive species on the property.

Recent Lectures:

What's Happening to the Trees?: On Thursday, October 15th the Orleans Conservation Trust (OCT) held its second to last lecture for the year at the Orleans Yacht Club. Ken Gooch, Forest Health Program Director for the state of Massachusetts, fielded many questions during his hour long lecture pertaining to the current problems forests are facing, especially pertaining to invasive species that have been found in the state. Species discussed include the Asian Longhorned Beetle, Winter Moth, Cynipid Gall Wasp, and Woolly Adelgid. The overall outlook of forest health might be grim, but many people are working on the best way to protect trees not yet infested and best management practices for bugs already found in the area. Furthermore, introduced predator species are well thought out and researched before release in order to decrease potential negative outcomes. One way to help is keeping cut wood local in order to stop the movement of these pests from place to place.

Upcoming Walks:

- **Woods Cove Conservation Area**
Tuesday, November 17, 2015 from 10:00-11:00 am
Leader- Liz Migliore, OCT Director
Meet at 366 Tonset Road, Orleans

Upcoming Fall Lectures: (held at Orleans Yacht Club from 6:30 pm-7:30 pm; doors open at 6:00 pm – cash bar)

- ***Sea-Run Fish of Cape Cod***
Thursday, November 19, 2015 at 6:30 pm
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.