



Director's Report: September 18, 2014  
Kris Ramsay

### Administrative

Election of Trustees: Following the Annual Meeting, Sandra Ladd and I documented the in-person ballots and imported the final voting information into the Trust's database. With this information we can review the number of Life Members who voted, the response rate of primary resident votes vs. seasonal residents, etc.

Namskaket Marsh: On September 5<sup>th</sup>, Judy Scanlon, Lynn Bruneau, and I attended a Namskaket Marsh Ecological Assessment Workshop at Town Hall (handouts and notes from the meeting can be provided upon request). While attendees were able to participate in the discussion to some degree, the panel members that were specifically asked to participate in the meeting were:

<u>Panel Members</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
• Mike Domenica	Town Consultant, with Water Resources Associates
• Dr. Brian Howes	UMass - Dartmouth - School for Marine Science and Technology
• Dr. Peter Weiskel	U.S. Geological Survey
• Dr. Jesse Schwalbaum	Watershed Hydrogeologic Inc. (MS in Geology, UMass Dartmouth)
• Dr. Mark Bertness	Brown University (Professor of Biology; PhD in Evolutionary Ecology)
• Tara Nye	APCC (Staff Biologist; MS Zoology, UNH)
• Wendi Goldsmith	CEO, Bioengineering Group (MS, Plant and Soil Science, Yale)

Some of the Agenda items were:

1. **What do we know?**
  - a. Summary of key studies to date
  - b. Overall health of and impairments to the system
2. **What don't we know?**
  - a. Uncertainty and risks to the system
  - b. What do we need to know to protect the system?
3. **How do we fill the gaps?**
  - a. Priorities
  - b. Discussion of research & information needs

As the meeting came to a close the following recommendations were being tossed around for further consideration and Board of Selectmen review:

- Update/ repeat the vegetation mapping within Namskaket Marsh;
- Compare the new culvert hydraulic capacities vs. former tidal information (i.e., Gather up-to-date information on the marsh's surface water hydrology);
- Look into mitigating "point source" pollution involving Town & State roads;
- Consider further investigating sub-surface geology and groundwater hydrology;
- Review historic clay layer boring logs in detail to determine where the existing wells are and where some wells could go;
- Conduct a sanitary shoreline survey within Namskaket, and
- Update the modeling data associated with the Tri-Town plume and develop new maps based on new information.
  - For more information pertaining to Namskaket Marsh go to [http://www.town.orleans.ma.us/Pages/OrleansMA\\_cwmp/namskaket/namskaketassess](http://www.town.orleans.ma.us/Pages/OrleansMA_cwmp/namskaket/namskaketassess)

- To listen to Mike Domenica's report to the Board of Selectmen following up on this meeting go to [http://www.town.orleans.ma.us/Pages/OrleansMA\\_Station/players/telvueplayer](http://www.town.orleans.ma.us/Pages/OrleansMA_Station/players/telvueplayer)
  - Click Board of Selectmen- September 10, 2014 Meeting
  - Fast Forward to 133 minutes into the meeting

National Land Trust Rally: With the Board's vote of approval I have signed up to attend the National Land Trust Rally in Rhode Island on September 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. For full details click <http://www.landtrustalliance.org/training/rally>. Thanks to Mark Robinson's invitation, on Friday night I will be attending a dinner (cost \$28) that will be hosted by representatives from the MA Land Trust Coalition. After the Rally I will report back to the Board as to what seminars I attended, what I learned, and how we might be able to take advantage of this information as an organization.

Orleans Yacht Club/ Winter Lecture Series: On September 8<sup>th</sup> Paul Blakeley and I attended the Orleans Yacht Club Board Meeting and gave a very brief presentation requesting the use of their facilities for our Winter/Spring 2015 Lecture Series. We have since heard back that the yacht club approved our application. As of right now the presentations we have lined up are:

- **Snowy Owl Project**  
Speaker- Norman Smith, Director of Mass Audubon's Blue Hills Trailside Museum  
Date- Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015
- **Digging Into Our Past**  
Speaker- Bonnie Snow, Orleans Author and Historian  
Date- Monday, February 2, 2015
- **Political, Ecological, and Educational Issues Associated with studying Eastern Coyotes/Coywolves in Eastern Massachusetts**  
Speaker- Dr. Jonathan Way, Author of Suburban Howls, My Yellowstone Experience, and Coywolf  
Date- Monday, March 2, 2015
- **Measuring the Flow of River Sands**  
Speaker- Dr. Graham Geist, Coastal Geologist and Co-Founder of the Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies  
Date- Monday, April 6th, 2015
- **Bees Story**  
Speaker- John Beach, President, Cape Cod Bee Club  
Date- Monday, May 4th, 2015

### Land Acquisition

"Executive Session"

### Land Management

Release the Turtles: On September 9<sup>th</sup> OCT and MA Audubon Wellfleet Bay hosted its fourth Diamondback Terrapin release at the White's Lane Conservation Area, drawing 15 volunteers and community members alike. Before releasing the terrapins Bob Prescott discussed how the restoration of the site came to fruition, why it was an ideal site for diamondback terrapins, what efforts are being made to restore the terrapin populations across the Cape,

etc. For the full recap go to <http://orleansconservationtrust.org/release-the-terrapins-2014/>



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. To date I have received 11 gifts totaling \$875 to go towards offsetting the costs associated with the purchase of the pole and other materials. We estimated a total cost of \$1,000.

White's Lane Controlled Burn: Since 2011 I have investigated 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. Dave Crary, Fire Management Officer at the Cape Cod National Seashore, and Tim Simmons of the State's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program have supported our proposal. This past week I spoke to John Panio, who oversees controlled burns State-wide. He is reviewing a number of documents associated with the conservation area, including our 2009 Landowner Incentive Program grant, and will be back in touch with us to determine what steps need to be taken next.

### **Educational Meetings/ Programs**

Up-coming Walk: On Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> I led a walk through the Mill Pond Valley Conservation Area off Champlain Road in Orleans.

Up-coming Lecture: On Tuesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> we will be hosting a lecture entitled *Cape Cod Commercial Fisherman's Alliance*. Raymond Kane, Education Coordinator for the Alliance will discuss the sustainability of fish populations in the oceans and the livelihood of the local fishermen on Cape Cod.

Recent Walks: On Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup> I led a walk through the Town's Kenrick Woods Conservation Area off Namequoit Road in South Orleans. This was a unique walk through large stands of white pine and the very rare American chestnut trees. For the full recap go to <http://orleansconservationtrust.org/kenrick-woods-walk-recap-9-6-2014/>

