



Director's Report
September 30, 2015
Elizabeth Migliore

Administrative

Annual Meeting and Election: The Annual Meeting was held on August 27th at 5:00 pm. The guest speaker was Dr. Jeremy Owens of WHOI, who gave a 30 minute presentation on climate change. During the meeting, voting for trustee nominations and next year's nominating committee was held. Our slate of candidates has officially been voted in under the procedures of the updated Declaration of Trust, with a meeting quorum of 56 members, a Trustee slate vote of 341-Yes, 5-No, and a Nominating Committee slate vote of 340-Yes, 6-No. Bios for the new Trustees and Nominating Committee members are posted online for review at <http://orleansconservationtrust.org/annual-meeting/>. Members also heard a recap of this past year from the President and Director, a financial report, and an overview of the pre-strategic planning process the Board has been undergoing. The meeting also included an acknowledgement of Trustee Beth Minear, who has retired after serving on the Board for 15 years.

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

Two of the three predator protected terrapin turtle nests at White's Lane hatched, producing 28 turtle hatchlings. These terrapins spent a few days being monitored at Mass Audubon's Wellfleet Sanctuary, then were released back at White's Lane on Tuesday, September 15. Cape Cod Times covered the event, and a photo gallery can be viewed here: <http://www.capecodtimes.com/photogallery/CC/20150915/MEDIA01/915009999/PH/1>.





The walking paths on Flint/Young and Mauch Gift continue to be maintained. Additional trails are having vegetation trimmed back as needed, and are being monitored for fallen or hazardous trees.

We have been notified we will have another AmeriCorps Cape Cod member placement this year, Leah Mould, to begin October 6th. Our regularly scheduled fall mowing of properties will begin soon after that, and we are planning group workdays to manage our properties.

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 regular to plan this year's fundraising events and begin planning for next year. The fundraising committee held a donor event on September 8th, with a Blue Claw boat tour touring Little Sipson Island and Hopkins Island, and a picnic lunch stop on the beach at Eelman's Point. Trustees Bob Prescott and Mon Cochran led this tour. On October 4th, cocktails and a dinner will be held at the Narrows on Pleasant Bay. Invitations have been mailed out.

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 identified a number of potential individuals to write stories for this issue, and I have started to lay out the walks and educational programs for the coming year. We hope to have the newsletter completed and mailed out by Thanksgiving.

Educational Meetings/ Program

Recent Walks:

Namequoit Bog: Due to thunderstorms moving into the area, the walk at Namequoit Bog had to be shortened to a quick tour around the property. Seven members showed up to attend despite the inclement weather. We hope to reschedule a full walk in the spring.

Pochet Island: On Sunday, September 20, Orleans Conservation Trust co-led a walk to Pochet Island with Tim Payson as part of the Orleans Pond Coalition's Celebrate Our Waters Weekend. Both former Director Kris Ramsay and current Director Elizabeth Migliore led 35 participants through the ORV road leading to Pochet Island. En route they explained about Conservation Restrictions on adjacent land, and new adaptive ORV regulations to help the Town protect piping plovers, terns, and terrapin turtles while not closing the routes as frequently. Then at the bridge leading onto the island, they turned over the talk to

Tim Payson, whose family owns the land. Tim brought the tour group through an old, traditional Cape-style house, and out to an overlook on the southern tip of the island. Participants learned about the extensive management efforts the family undertakes to control invasives on the island and maintain portions as open field habitat. Sightings during the walk included a Great Blue Heron and a large osprey nest on a dead tree. The Payson family dog accompanied participants through much of the hike. While this was a strenuous 4 hours walk mostly over sand, it was well worth the effort with beautiful overviews of Nauset Beach and Pochet Inlet, and providing a glimpse at a remote part of Orleans seemingly preserved in time.



Recent Lectures:

The fall lecture series resumed on September 17 with the presentation *Natives Are Nice! Using Native Plants in Landscape Design* by Barbara Conolly, owner of Gardens by Barbara Conolly. In this program for both homeowners and professionals, Barbara shared her landscaping expertise; the focus was on using native species while accomplishing design goals. The lecture included 41 attendees. The next two lectures will be held at the Orleans Yacht Club on the third Thursday of the month, at 6:30 pm.

Upcoming Walks:

- ***Kenrick Woods Conservation Area***
Tuesday, October 13, 2015 from 9:00 – 10:30 am
Leader- Karl Goldkamp, OCT Trustee
Meet at 35 Namequoit Road, South Orleans.

- ***Mill Pond Valley Conservation Area***
Saturday, October 31, 2015 from 9:00 – 10:30 am
Leader – Director Liz Migliore
Meet at 13 Champlain Road, Orleans

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

- ***What's Happening to the Trees?***
Thursday, October 15, 2015 at 6:30 pm
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 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.