



Director's Report
June 20, 2013
Kris Ramsay

Administrative

Summer 2013 Internship: Stephen O'Grady of Colby College and Ben Lyttle of Lesley University started their internship during the last week of May. While their final work schedules are still being worked out, each of them have remained committed to working two full days with the Trust. In just three weeks they have already conducted numerous property inspections, developed baseline photo maps, put together land stewardship reports, conducted invasive species research and removal, and undergone training to monitor bird houses & turtle gardens, and more.

***2013-2014 AmeriCorps IP Position:** This past month I received a letter informing us that we have been awarded an AmeriCorps IP position for this coming year. This individual will serve in a similar position as Meg and focus on land stewardship and educational outreach. The position will commence this coming October and the IP will be placed with OCT once a week, vs. twice a week. We will only have this individual once a week because the AmeriCorps positions are oversubscribed and they are trying to cover a wider portion of the Cape's community needs.

1st Annual Cape Coastal Conference: On June 13th, 2013 Sharon, Lynn and I attended the Waquoit Bay Reserves first Annual Cape Coastal Conference in Hyannis. The title of the program was "State of the Cape: Changing Waters & Shorelines." During the day and a half conference we heard presentations that focused on everything from stewardship of pond and estuaries, addressing management challenges and nutrient pollution, challenges associated with rising sea levels, and climate change modeling. The presentations were very informative and we were able to reconnect with state and local conservation experts in varying fields.

Recent Compact Meeting: On May 13th, 2013 Beth Minear and I attended the meeting of the Cape Compact. Mark Robinson requested that I give a brief presentation to the board members on our experience designing, installing, and maintaining OCT signs. Along with giving the presentation, I put together a short handout outlining some positives and negatives to the sign program. The board members appreciated having the information outlined on paper. Most the questions following the presentation dealt with ongoing maintenance.

Land Acquisition

Land Acquisition Planning: All of the customized letters have been sent to the owners of land acquisition priorities. I intend to make follow-up phone calls in the next month to make sure the letters have been received and to further discuss potential land preservation options.

Land Management

CR Inspections: This week I will begin follow-up phone calls to those property owners we hold CR's over and need to inspect. As discussed at prior board meetings, I will try to invite a Trustee to each site visit.

*Namequoit Bog: Billingsgate has been informed that they have completed phase #2, which consisted of thinning out some of the dead red maples, allowing the native rushes and sedges to grow in the understory. The final bill came in at \$1,760, nearly \$500 less than the estimate itself. Looking ahead I will be inquiring whether or not Jeremy Bell of Fish and Game will be able to install a water meter to see how much salt water is trying to enter the bog and we will try to get other experts from around the state and cape to walk the property. Expert advice will be important when trying to do long term planning.

White's Lane: On Friday, June 14th I identified our first terrapin turtle laying eggs within one of the designated nest sites. The nest has had a protective fence installed around it. That same day we also had seven chickadee hatchlings leave their nest for the first time and a new blue bird nest identified.

Kaitz Gift: On Thursday, June 6th I worked with the interns to cut and remove Russian autumn olive from the Kaitz Gift off Dylan Way in East Orleans.

Moore Gift(s): On Friday, June 14th the interns worked to remove yellow-iris from within Ice House Pond. This will be an ongoing project.

Trail Maintenance: This past month I have had to conduct a lot of trail maintenance on all of our trail systems across town. That also includes the Mauch Gift in East Orleans.

Fundraising/ PR/ Branding

Summer Cocktail Parties: Ad Vos' cocktail party details are all finalized. It looks as though we will have 30-35 guests, most from East Orleans. We are working to nail down the second cocktail party for the end of July, early August.

4th of July Parade: As we did last year, I am planning to again drive in the 4th of July parade. I am creating a new banner and we will load the truck and a trailer with native trees and shrubs. Unlike last year, we will not be giving away seedlings during and after the parade.

Newsletter: The newsletter has been sent out and received. We have already received some great compliments from members.

Spring 2013 Membership Mailing: A membership mailing letter will be sent out this week. This mailing went to roughly 450 current members and included a specific monetary ask, with the hope of encouraging donors to increase their donation amount.

Educational Meetings/ Programs

Last Spring Third Tuesday lecture: On May 22nd we hosted a lecture entitled, "The Symbiotic Relationship Between Humpback Whales and Marine Birds" as part of our Third Tuesday Winter Lecture Series. Guest speaker, Peter Trull, a teacher at the Lighthouse Charter School, gave a very enthusiastic talk. There were roughly 55-60 people that attended the talk.

Recent Educational Walks: This past month we led walks at the Mill Pond Valley Conservation Area (led by Bob Prescott) and Paw Wah Pond Conservation Area (led by Todd Kelley). Both walks were well attended.

Upcoming Walks: Our next walk is scheduled for Thursday, July 11th from 3:00 – 4:30pm at the Town's Christian Property.