

Brian Bates



After receiving his BS from the University of Colorado, Boulder, Brian has worked in the education field for over 32 years and has been a science teacher at the Lighthouse Charter School for 23 years. He has served on numerous boards at the school including trustee, grounds, maintenance as well as the foundation.

As a former board member of the Orleans Pond Coalition and with a house that was featured on the garden tour, Brian is a strong advocate of environmental science. He leads by example when it comes to educating others about the human impact on Earth while practicing sound environmental choices.

Brian is an active skier, golfer, plays paddle tennis, and plays and teaches tennis. Brian has lived in South Orleans with his wife and three children for 23 years.

Drusy Henson



Drusy graduated from Wellesley College with a degree in English and Geology and continued her studies in geology at Harvard University.

Her family came to Orleans over 100 years ago, and she has been a part or full-time resident for over 60 years (her first job was at Fancy's Farm Stand - now Nauset Farms).

Drusy spent her entire career in the tech industry, holding positions such as Director of Business Analysis at Deltek Inc, Senior Manager of User Experience and Documentation at Iron Mountain Digital, and Senior Principal User Researcher at Oracle Corp.

She serves as Vice Chair of the Orleans Conservation Commission, and as the Commission's liaison to the Putnam Farm property. She lives in East Orleans with her wife and two beloved rescue dogs.

Peter Van Oot



Pete is the cofounder and principal of a strategic consulting firm that focuses on leadership and board governance, and maintains a law practice in governance and conservation law. Pete previously served as a director and as corporate, strategic, and governance counsel at Downs Rachlin Martin PLLC in Vermont and New Hampshire for three decades before retiring in 2018. Pete has taught environmental law, lectured on governance and leadership, and co-created successful nonprofit leadership summits.

In addition to his professional work, Pete has served on numerous for-profit and nonprofit boards and commissions; in 2011 he was named Volunteer of the Year in the eleven Northeast states by the Northeast Vermont Development Association.

He and his wife, Alice, live in Orleans just off Namskaket Marsh and Creek, an OCT conserved property.

Deirdre White



Deirdre grew up among the apple orchards and dairy farms of the Hudson Valley in Dutchess County, N.Y. and vacationed in Wellfleet for many years. In her teens, she learned firsthand about environmental protection with the near death of the Hudson River and subsequent, ongoing, cleanup.

Deirdre left the Hudson Valley to complete her B.A. at Smith College and an M.B.A. at the Simmons Graduate School of Management. She worked in banking and real estate development in New York City from 1981 until 1999, when she left to attend Princeton Theological Seminary and graduated with an MDiv in 2002.

She has served on several non-profit boards including Family Promise North Shore/Boston and the Cape Ann YMCA, and is a Trustee of the Snow Library. Deirdre is a Master Gardener, an OCT Trail Steward, with her husband, for the Mill Pond Valley Trail, and a “growing” member of Pollinator Pathways Cape Cod and the Sea Call Farm community.

A landscape photographer, she enjoys wandering on the beach, in the woods, and on the waters of the Cape, which she is delighted to call home.